



Kawartha World Issues Centre

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Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC) is a community based, non-profit, charitable global education and resource centre, serving the Peterborough and surrounding communities.

KWIC promotes dialogue and understanding of world issues to enable people to engage in positive social and environmental change.

2008-2009

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Interested in world issues?

Want to get **involved?**

Give us a call or drop by for a visit at our resource centre!

For information about KWIC and to access the Community Events Calendar for local event listings, visit www.kwic.info.

KWIC
P.O. Box 895
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ON K9J 7A2
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Celebrating 20 Years ~Annual Report 2009

Chair's Message to the A.G.M.

by Sonya Hardman

Dear KWIC members and friends,

It has been a year of both celebration and reflection for many of us involved with the work of KWIC. These are exciting times, and KWIC has achieved an important milestone in celebrating its 20th anniversary. There have been many discussions about how to best honour KWIC history and to celebrate the collective achievements of all those involved in shaping the organization over the years. From its early beginnings as a Learner Centre, KWIC has appealed to a broad spectrum of interests and sought to challenge our commonly held beliefs and assumptions about the way global development and "progress" should look. KWIC programs present important alternative perspectives on key issues that affect our world today – the environment, food security, poverty, equality, indigenous rights and justice (to name a few). It is hard to imagine who would promote such dialogue and inspire us to action if KWIC did not exist!

As I come to the end of my term on the KWIC Board, I feel privileged to have been a part of the endeavor. Three years ago I happened upon the KWIC AGM while visiting the Peterborough Library. A relative newcomer to the area, I was looking for a way to become more connected to my community. With a longstanding interest in global development and social justice issues, KWIC seemed a good fit with my personal worldview, so I wandered in and was greeted enthusiastically by a small-but-mighty woman at the door. For those who have met Julie Cosgrove, our KWIC Coordinator 'Extraordinaire', you will know what I am talking about! Her energy and enthusiasm is astounding, and many of the amazing opportunities for learning and dialogue would not happen without her thoughtful guidance and perseverance.

I have always been amazed by what KWIC accomplishes with so few resources. The scope of programs and initiatives is truly astounding, and over the years has provided countless opportunities for youth, students and the broader community to engage in meaningful discussion about issues that touch our lives in varied and significant ways. KWIC is like so many other non-profit organizations, which, through their important work, weave themselves into the fabric of a community and become so integral that one wonders how things ever functioned without them. There is much work still to be done. I would encourage each of you to become more involved, whether it be through volunteering, becoming a Board Member, joining a working group or making a charitable donation in support of KWIC programs. Many hands make light work – let our collective efforts carry KWIC through the next 20 years!