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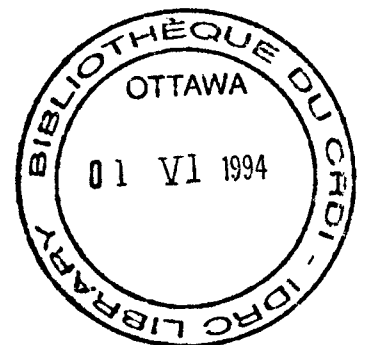
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A SURVEY OF THE YOUNG CANADIAN RESEARCHERS

Part I



INTRODUCTION

The fundamental question of the survey probed the extent to which participants in the YCRA program remain involved in international development, as an aspect of their career.

A tacit assumption of the value of the YCRA is that the award is important because it provides Canadian students with their first awareness of international development. The survey attempted to find out to what extent this was so.

Other questions in the survey were designed to provide a profile of the program, i.e. regional distribution, distribution by field of study, etc. and to throw some light on how the administration of the YCRA appear to candidates.

Given that the YCRA program, being only four years old, has a small set of award holders, conclusions reached as a result of this survey will be subject to debate. However, the survey yielded several insights into the design and operation of the program which indicate where changes might be considered.

METHOD

The questionnaire is attached as Annex I.

Although the number of YCRAs is not large, FAD used this survey as an opportunity to experiment with the software dBase III plus to organize and analyze the data gathered in the questionnaire. The experience indicates that this software used with the Centre's micro-computers can allow FAD, and perhaps other units within the Centre, to do this type of program evaluation without relying on outside consultants.

SIZE OF THE SAMPLE AND THE RATE OF RESPONSE

Questionnaires were sent to all 73 YCRAs awarded up to March 31, 1986.

The statistical analysis in Part 2 included awards made after March 31, 1986 and is, therefore, based on a total of 85 awards.

FAD received 26 (35.6%) responses. Fifteen (20.5%) were returned undelivered. This high rate of undelivered questionnaires is to be expected in a student population where frequent changes of address are not unusual. Because a number of YCRA participants are still studying, many may have considered themselves unable to complete sections of the questionnaire and, therefore, choose not to respond at all.

THE DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

All data and calculations in this section are based on the 26 returned questionnaires. Totals will be less than 26 when respondents did not respond or greater than 26 when multiple responses were permitted.

Responses to the questionnaire have been regrouped to organize the data to respond to several key questions concerning the YCRA program and awardees (YCRs).

WHAT ARE THE YCRAs DOING?

- . 16 (61.5%) are involved in international development as follows:
 - * - 13 (50.0%) are active in international development in a personal capacity;
 - 6 (23.1%) through employment;
 - 7 (26.9%) gave no response;
- . 16 (61.5%) are involved in research;
- . 2 (7.6%) are in journalism;
- . 1 (4.1%) in teaching;
- . 7 (26.9%) gave no response.

OBSERVATION

An encouraging number of awardees maintain a connection with international development and with research.

- * The response to this question is unreliable since respondents who indicated they were not involved in international development should not have responded to this question.

WHO ARE THE YCRAs?

- . 21 (80.8%) were born in Canada;
- . 3 (11.5%) were born in an LDC;
- . 2 (7.6%) were born in a developed country other than Canada.

OBSERVATION

The fear among some within the Centre, that many of the YCRA candidates were recent immigrants of LDC origin using the award to return home does not seem to be well founded.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE YCR?

- . 6 (23.1%) have their bachelors degree as their latest level of education;

(In this group are 3 medical students, 2 journalists and 1 from a CO-OP project (3-P-86-1031-01)).

- . 5 (19.2%) are in medical school;
- . 8 (30.8%) entered with a Masters qualification;
- . 7 entered with a Doctorate.

OBSERVATION

The number of award holders without the Masters or Doctoral qualifications is a consequence of FAD's opening the award:

- (a) to young professionals in the field of journalism and administration; and,
- (b) to medical students who use the award to support their overseas work under the elective permitted as part of their medical training. (This is discussed further in the section of this report dealing with the statistical analysis of the YCRA).

HOW DO YCRs LEARN ABOUT THE AWARD?

Sources from which the YCRs learned about the YCRA

Source	Response Rate	%
Graduate School	6	23.1
Department Head	3	11.5
Colleague	10	38.5
Supervisor	3	11.5
Publicity	2	7.6
CIDA	2	7.6

Methods used by YCRs to find the YCRA

Method	Response Rate	%
Exploration	12	46.2
Luck	6	23.1
Recommendation	8	30.8

OBSERVATIONS

Most candidates learn about the YCRA as a result of information circulating on the University campus.

The majority of potential candidates are either actively exploring for the kind of assistance the YCRA offers or are referred to it by others who know they might find the YCRA to be the sort of program they need.

The YCRA printed publicity is not an important source of introduction to the awards. However, 21 (80.7%) used the printed publicity to learn the details of the YCRA once they knew of its existence.

The YCRA publicity is not attracting an undifferentiated student population to international development. A self selected group of students (i.e. those already thinking of working on something to do with international development) seek out the opportunity provided by the YCRA (or have the connection made for them by those who know of their interest) .

The low rate of applicants suitable for the competition (see the section of this report which analyzes YCRA statistics) may not be a reflection of ineffective publicity but rather a reflection of the small number of Canadian graduate students actively looking for an opportunity to do their graduate work in a field related to international development.

TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE YCRA INFLUENCE THE YCR TO CONSIDER WORK IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

- 13 (50%) indicated that the YCRA was their first exposure to international development;
- 5 (19.2%) had had a previous connection with international development through CUSO, Canada World Youth, Canadian Crossroads, OXFAM.

OBSERVATIONS

The evidence on whether or not the YCRA attracts young Canadians who would not otherwise be attracted to international development is equivocal: it does as often as it does not.

Previous experience with development through one of the NGO's is not a significant characteristic of YCRs.

WHERE DID THE YCR DO THEIR FIELD WORK?

Distribution of locations for fieldwork by Centre Regional Offices (and by country within each region)

ASRO 4 (15.4%)	EARO 5 (19.2%)	LARO 9 (34.6%)	MERO 0	SARO 2 (7.7%)	WARO 6 (23.1%)
Papua N.-G./ Oceania	Zimbabwe/Kenya	Mexico		Bang/India	Niger
Fiji	Lesotho	Chile/Guat.		Nepal	Benin
Indonesia	Zimbabwe	Brazil Jam./TT			Cameroun (2)
PNG	Rwanda	Caribbean			Nigeria (2)
		Nicaragua			Côte
		Ecuador			d'Ivoire
		Mexico			
		Jamaica			

OBSERVATION

LARO is a preferred location for a YCRA assignment: MERO isn't.

Canadian universities may have more links with Latin America and the Caribbean than other developing regions.

WARO's second position as the region of choice may indicate the strength of the francophone Canadian university links to francophone West Africa.

WHY DO YCRs CHOOSE A PARTICULAR REGION/COUNTRY?

- . 14 (53.8%) said there was a university connection;
- . 2 (7.7%) had been influenced by a family connection;
- . 2 (7.7%) had been previously connected by past employment;
- . 1 (3.8%) had had a connection as a volunteer;
- . 7 (26.9%) had a connection through a research interest, travel, language.

OBSERVATIONS

The university connection is by far the greatest influence on the choice of country.

DOES THE LOCATION IN WHICH THE YCR DO THEIR FIELD WORK INFLUENCE THE CHOICE OF REGION IF THEY CONTINUE TO WORK IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

TABLE : Region of tenure compared to Region of current involvement

	ASRO	EARO	LARO	MERO	SARO	WARO	TOTAL
Place of Tenure	4 15.4%	5 19.2%	9 34.6%	-	2 7.7%	6 23.1%	26 100%
Place of Employment	2 7.7%	4 15.4%	6 23.1%	-	1 3.8%	3 11.5%	16* 60.5%

* 8 (30.8%) did not respond to the question on employment; 2 (7.7%) were employed in a developed country.

OBSERVATIONS

The region of employment corresponds closely to the region of the YCRs place of tenure. There is not an exact correspondence and the fact that EARO displaces WARO as the second most frequent choice for employment might be interesting to explore further. Does it indicate the pull towards East Africa because of greater opportunity through greater donor agency activity or the push away from West Africa due to the greater difficulties of working in the region?

WHAT ARE THE YCRs FIELDS OF INTEREST?

YCR's fields of Interest in terms of the Centre's Divisions

AFNS	HS	SS	IS	COMM	COOP	No Response
3(11.5%)	10 (38.5%)	9 (34.6%)	1 (3.8%)	1 (3.8%)	1 (3.8%)	1 (3.8%)

OBSERVATIONS

Health Science has had the largest share of the YCRAs. However, the majority of these YCRAs are the medical students mentioned previously, whose awards are made outside the competition.

Considering only the awards made through the competition, students in the Social Sciences are more likely to be awarded a YCRA.

There are no YCRs in administration.

DOES THE YCRA ASSIST THE YCRs CAREER DEVELOPMENT?

- . 16 (61.5%) claimed their current work was related to work done as a YCRA;
- . 17 (65.4%) indicated that the YCRA influenced their career choice;
- . 4 (15.4%) believed that the YCRA had provided immediate access to their chosen career;
- . 24 (92.3%) believed an involvement with IDRC contributed to their career development.

OBSERVATIONS

There appears to be a good connection between the opportunity provided by the YCRA and the career paths of the awardees.

DO YCRs FEEL THEY GAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE YCRA?

- . 24 (92.3%) indicated that they participated in the YCRA with a feeling of personal accomplishment;
- . 20 (76.1%) indicated that they had participated in the YCRA with a feeling of academic accomplishment;
- . 16 (61.5%) believed the award "enhanced" their self-worth;
- . 23 (88.5%) believed the award was highly suited to their educational and research needs.

OBSERVATIONS

The YCRA is more likely to provide a personally enriching experience than an academically enriching experience. However, academic enrichment appears to be a strong feature of the award.

Positive responses to this question in the survey were based on the YCRAs perception of the prestige of the award, the care taken to collect references, the professionalism of IDRC staff. One complaint drew attention to discrimination between first and third year medical students.

DO YCRAS HAVE ANY COMMENTS TO MAKE ON ASPECTS OF THE YCRA?

- . Support for doctoral studies, especially field costs is hard to find. SSHRC funding is modest and insufficient for such research in LDC areas.
- . It ... helped us see ... health conditions in poor countries and gives me a hint of what it would be like to work there. (sic)
- . It allowed me to conduct research in an area of interest that also benefitted developing countries.
- . It covered my actual research expenses/language training in the Third World.
- . The journalistic orientation, the combination of writing and study, and the time period were the aspects which suited my research.
- . It is specific to international research and provides funding without the obligation to meet a volunteer organizations needs in terms of the host country criteria.
- . The YCRA provided the facility for a much needed extension of fieldwork time for the dissertation.
- . Ethically, the grant is excellent for it does not demand anything of the recipient in terms of associated work for the agency.
- . The YCRA was flexible, allowing me to develop an educational program suited to my needs.
- . The YCRA allowed me to travel as a journalist and gain experience on an international level which I had been unable to do in my employment.
- . Because the YCRA was geared to International Development and Third World issues, it fit my research plans very well. In addition, the flexibility with which the award was administered allowed me to change my research as issues arose out of my work. It allowed me to hold the award for the period that was the most effective form. (sic)
- . The amount of the award has really allowed me to carry out a very detailed and more analytical project.
- . The availability of funding for an overseas project was most suitable to my circumstances. Research in LDCs seems so much more of a political endeavour; yet though there's so much more of a need for my type of research, I find there are so few avenues of support for such research.
- . The funding provided by the YCRA was useful.
- . Ça facilite La Recherche sur le Terrain - sur le plan monétaire pour obtenir certaines autorisations de recherche.

- ... my experience with IDRC's Fellowships and Awards Division was very positive. The staff was exceptionally cooperative, accessible and accomodating. Also, because IDRC has such a stellar reputation in development circles, YCRs have a lot of doors open to them.
- It was available and suited my needs.
- Without funding for the costs of the project (airfare, food, accomodation, etc.), I would have been totally unable to go.
- The YCRA was organized and executed in an extremely efficient, friendly and non-bureaucratic manner.
- The amount of the fellowship allowed me to undertake a very expensive methodology. The fact that I was financed by an IDRC fellowship also enhanced my status within the intellectual community in Quito.
- The YCRA was suitable to the length of research period as well as my interest in Mexico and Central America.
- The YCRA allowed me to research in a developing country and fit into an ongoing developing project.
- C'est elle qui m'a permis d'aller poursuivre mes études sur la malnutrition sur le terrain, ce qui a changé complètement mon approche ultérieure.

ARE YCRs AWARE OF OPPORTUNITIES SIMILAR TO THE YCRA?

- 10 (38.5%) knew of other awards which paralleled the YCRA - (Wenner-Gren, Sigma, Readers Digest scholarship, CIDA, Commonwealth Scholarship, Thompson Foundation, SSHRC MacKenzie King);
- 4 (15.3%) were aware of other countries with programs similar to the YCRA (USA, Quebec, Australia).

OBSERVATIONS

The YCRA is a unique awards program in Canada and perhaps one of only a few programs worldwide.

FEEDBACK ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF YCRA

- . 22 (84.6%) said there had been no delay in IDRC's following up their request for information;
- . 22 (84.6%) thought IDRC staff were easy to reach;
- . 20 (76.9%) thought they received accurate information;
- . 23 (88.5%) considered staff friendly and courteous;
- . 25 (96.2%) thought the number and length of the forms adequate;

There were suggestions that IDRC change its procedures to do away with the proof of LDC affiliation, letters of permission from the LDC contact, direct payment into Canadian banks, proof of a thesis proposal.

- . 3 (11.5%) believed that IDRC should have facilitated the LDC connection;
- . 3 (11.5%) wanted Centre assistance with formulating the research project;
- . 7 (26.9%) wanted greater Centre help with travel;
- . 10 (38.5%) wanted greater Centre assistance with logistics in the field.

OBSERVATIONS

There are no serious problems with the administration of the YCRA from the awardees perspective.

Most awardees seem to want to be self-sufficient in the management of the award.

YCRAs seem to encounter some difficulties with the logistics particularly those pertaining to travel and arrangements in the field. (These are aspects of the experience offered by the award that would be weakened by Centre involvement).

Follow up of Recipients of Young Canadian Researchers Awards (YCRA)

I Did the award have an impact on the Awardee's interest in International Development?

-
- 1) Are you involved in International Development? YES NO
☐ ☐
- 2) Which of your activities is your major involvement in international development?
- Employment ☐ Volunteer with Dev. Org. ☐ In a Personal capacity only ☐
- 3) Are you currently employed: in international development ☐
in another field ☐
- Specify _____
- 4) What are you currently doing?
- Research ☐ Teaching ☐ Administration ☐
- 5) In which region of the world did you undertake your award?
- East, Central and Southern Africa ☐ West and North Africa ☐
South America and the Caribbean ☐ South Asia ☐
South East Asia ☐
- Country _____
- 6) Why did you choose your region of study?
- University Connection ☐ Family Member ☐ Past Employment ☐ Voluntary Association ☐
- Other ☐ Specify _____
- 7) In which region of the world are you now working or most involved?
- East, Central and Southern Africa ☐ West and North Africa ☐
South America and the Caribbean ☐ South Asia ☐
South East Asia ☐ Middle East ☐

- 8) Is the subject of your research/teaching related to other activities connected with the field of study in your YCR award? YES NO
☐ ☐
- 9) What is your field of interest?
Agriculture ☐ Information Sciences ☐
Health Sciences ☐ Social Sciences ☐
Other ☐ Specify _____
- 10) Did the YCRA affect your career direction? ☐ ☐
- 11) Did you conclude your research activities with a sense of
(a) personal accomplishment ☐ ☐
(b) academic accomplishment ☐ ☐
- 12) Was the YCRA your first exposure to international development issues? ☐ ☐
- 13) Before you received your YCRA had you been involved with a non-governmental organization such as: WUSC/EUMC, CUSO, CCODP, CBIE, OXFAM, etc. ☐ ☐
Specify _____
- 14) Did the YCRA give you immediate access to the career of your choice? ☐ ☐
If not, do you anticipate that it will? ☐ ☐
- 15) Where were you born?
Canada ☐ Less Developed Country ☐ Developed Country ☐
- 16) What level of education have you now achieved?
Diploma/Cert. ☐ Bachelor ☐ Masters ☐ Doctorate ☐

II Assessing Award Administration

YES NO

17) How did you learn about the YCRA?

- a) Graduate school ☐ b) Department head ☐
c) Colleague ☐ d) Other ☐ Specify _____

18) Did you find it by way of: a) exploration/investigation ☐
b) luck ☐ c) recommendation ☐

19) What sort of printed publicity gave you your first information on the YCRA?

Letter ☐ Brochure ☐ Pamphlet ☐ Poster ☐ Newspaper ☐

20) Were there lengthy delays when you sought more information? ☐ ☐

21) Did you find that the procedure was too bureaucratic? ☐ ☐

22) Are there elements to the provisions of the award that you found missing, deficient? ☐ ☐

Specify _____

23) Did you encounter difficulties that IDRC could have helped you avoid or overcome in any of the following:

- a) locating a suitable LDC connection? ☐ ☐
b) formulating your research problem? ☐ ☐
c) travel and other arrangements? ☐ ☐
d) logistics in the field? ☐ ☐

24) Were the responsible IDRC officials: a) Easy to reach?

YES NO

☐ ☐

b) Accurate?

☐ ☐

c) Friendly?

☐ ☐

d) Courteous?

☐ ☐

e) Prompt?

☐ ☐

25) Did the procedures of the competition in any way enhance or infringe your self worth?

Enhance ☐ Infringe ☐

Explain your response.

26) What were your thoughts about the number and length of the forms?

Very excessive ☐ Excessive ☐ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☐

27) How much time did it take you to meet all of the requirements of the application procedure? _____ days.

28) Which specific aspects of the procedure would you do away with?

III The Award as an Opportunity

29) Did you find that the YCRA suited your specific educational/research needs? YES NO
☐ ☐

30) Do you know of any other fellowship or scholarship that would have facilitated the same undertaking? Which ones? ☐ ☐

Commonwealth ☐ AUCC ☐ CIDA ☐ CBIE ☐ WUSC ☐ Other ☐

Specify _____

31) What is it about the YCR that suited your particular circumstances?

32) Has the involvement with IDRC, as an institution, contributed to your career development? ☐ ☐

If not, why not?

33) Are you aware of similar training awards offered by other countries to citizens? Through which organizations? ☐ ☐

Country _____ Organization _____



Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. We have tried to keep it short and to the point but if you have any further comments you wish to express, please feel free to do so in the space provided below or on additional pages.

Present Address

We do not request that recipients identify themselves in filling out the questionnaire. However, if you wish to change your address for correspondence with IDRC please provide the details in the space below or send us your address information under separate cover.