

**IMPACT AND INSTITUTIONAL
AFFILIATION STUDY OF THE
YOUNG CANADIAN
RESEARCHERS
AWARD PROGRAM**

Submitted to: The Director General,
Corporate Affairs and
Initiatives Division, IDRC

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for the Centre Training and
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February 8th, 1995

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	i
1.0 Introduction	1
	1
1.1 Survey Methodology	1
a) The Survey	1
b) Personal Interviews	2
c) Institutional Input	2
1.2 Limitations	2
2.0 Discussion & Analysis of Data	2
2.1 The YCRA Survey Data	3
a) Current activities of Former Awardees	3
b) Prior Visits to Developing Countries	4
c) Contribution to Professional Development	4
d) Responses Concerning Institutional Affiliation	4
e) Other aspects of The Researcher-Affiliate Relationship	8
f) In Summary	13
2.2 The Institutional Perspective	15
a) Summary	15
3.0 Improving the YCRA Program	16
a) Improved Institutional Affiliations	16
b) Better Linkages between Awardees and IDRC	16
c) Improved Networking Between Awardees	17
d) Training and Orientation for a Student Client	17
e) Connection to the Library	17
f) Obtaining the Final Report and Thesis	17
g) Accounting Measures	17
h) A Code of Ethics for Awardees	18
4.0 Recommendations	18
4.1 The Institutional Affiliation	18
4.2 Improving the Capacity Building aspects of the YCRA	18
4.3 An Annual Awardee Presentation Week	18
4.4 Improved Orientation Package	18

4.5 A Model Budget For Awardees	19
4.6 Encouraging Thesis Submissions	19
4.7 Code of Ethics for Awardees	19

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Consultancy Report 93-4506-04

1.0 INTRODUCTION

IDRC has consistently supported the work of Canadian researchers doing fieldwork in developing countries through its Young Canadian Researchers Award Program (YCRA). Since 1982, the YCRA program has supported over 300 Canadian graduate students undertaking research in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East on issues related to international development. This program supports research which corresponds to the Centre's research priorities, and helps contribute to the improvement of Canadian research capacity in sustainable and equitable development with grants of up to \$20,000 to Master's and PhD students.

One of the key requirements of the YCRA program is that researchers be affiliated with an institution in the country where they plan to conduct their fieldwork. It is believed that this affiliation helps to facilitate the researchers' fieldwork, provides a link to other indigenous researchers, and gives a practical outlet for the results of the research. After many years of requiring an affiliation in the awards program, there was a growing feeling that this requirement should be reviewed and evaluated with a view to strengthening the linkage between researcher and affiliate. It was time to evaluate the dynamics of these affiliations to understand the extent to which they were working.

To achieve this, a consultant was hired on a 4-month contract to design and implement an impact assessment of the institutional affiliation. In addition, the terms of the consultancy were broadened, in consultation with IDRC staff, to utilize the survey instruments more fully. It was felt that since the study would involve surveying a large number of past YCRA recipients, it would be wise to use the opportunity to collect data that would help IDRC understand the impact of the award on researchers' careers and professional development in general. Therefore, a number of survey questions were designed and included to determine what former awardees are doing now, and to what extent this can be attributed to the YCRA program.

1.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The following is a description of the tools and strategies used in the various stages of the study.

1.1a The Survey

A survey was designed, tested and mailed to past recipients of the YCRA from 1989-92 (Project numbers; 89-1001, 90-1010, 91-1025, 92-1201). The number of awardees from this period was 82, and the sample size to achieve a margin of error of $\pm 10\%$ was calculated to be 44 respondents. In fact, a **higher** than expected response rate was achieved. A total of 48 surveys were returned providing a margin of error of $\pm 9\%$.

The survey was designed with a mix of closed and open questions, though all questions provided an opportunity for respondents to elaborate more fully if needed. This was the most appropriate design given the type of information being sought. Some questions utilize a 5 point rating scale while others called for a simple yes or no response. A copy of the survey questionnaire can be found in **Appendix 1**.

1.1b Personal Interviews

Interviews with a number of past awardees, either by phone or in person, added to the questionnaire data. During the week of July 15-23, 1994, the consultant travelled to Vancouver and Calgary as part of the research process. The purpose of the visit was to meet personally with a number of current or former awardees to follow-up on the survey forms they had completed, and to discuss in more detail their experiences as they related to the requirements, impact and administration of the YCRA. The consultant met with four previous YCRA holders. The questions that guided these interviews can be found as **Appendix 2** of this report.

1.1c Institutional Input

In August 1994, the consultant had the opportunity to travel to Kenya to participate in an academic conference as part of a separate IDRC initiative. Fortunately, it was also possible to arrange meetings with faculty at the University of Nairobi who were able to provide information for this study from the "institutional perspective." Although it would have been preferable to gather more information from institutions, the scope and time-frame of the study did not allow for more than the one meeting in Kenya. Nonetheless, it is felt that useful lessons can be drawn from this encounter. The questions used in the institutional interviews can be found in **appendix 3**.

1.2 LIMITATIONS

The main limitation in this study is the over reliance on Canadian researchers to provide information about the real or perceived efficacy of the institutional affiliation. A more balanced approach would have included more affiliate institutions, but as noted previously, time and resources were limited. In addition, the fact that only recent former recipients of the YCRA were contacted may leave previous sentiments about the program and affiliation undocumented.

2.0 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The data will be discussed in two major groupings. First, data from the survey and interviews conducted with former recipients of the YCRA will be discussed, followed by a summary of data gathered in interviews with two professors from the University of Nairobi. The full discussion with the two Kenyan professors can be found in **Appendix 4**. All discussions related to both data sources have been grouped according to questions used in the interviews or questionnaire. This should allow the reader to better understand the context of a respondents' answer, and will also serve as a point of reference to the survey instruments used in the study.

2.1 THE YCRA SURVEY DATA

Most of the survey questions were of a qualitative nature. However, to simplify and compliment the anecdotal information presented, the answers to several survey questions have been aggregated and presented in graphs or tables.

2.1a Current Activities of Former Young Canadian Researchers

(Discussion related to questions 1-3)

Of the 48 respondents surveyed, an overwhelming majority indicated that they were currently involved in further academic work or research. For many, this meant moving from a Masters to a PhD program. Others were completing the writing stage of a PhD program. The high percentage of people still involved in academic work may be due in part to the decision to sample from the 89-92 group of YCRA recipients only. Had the survey gone further back, perhaps more people would have moved into employment or more extensive volunteer work. Twenty seven respondents indicated some type of employment, while only eight were involved in volunteer work. The types of organizations people cited as employers varied:

- * University professor
- * CIDA
- * Freelance work in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene
- * Multinational oil company
- * Curriculum consultant in a midwifery program
- * Consulting firm
- * UN World Food Program
- * Research Associate
- * An International Centre

In terms of volunteer work, some activities of former awardees included:

- * An environment NGO
- * Food bank
- * Zoological organization
- * A self-employment centre

Next, the survey asked respondents to indicate whether any of their current activities were related to international development. Forty-two respondents gave an affirmative response (Table #1). This is an encouraging figure given that the YCRA program is intended to expose Canadian graduate students to international development and development research in particular. It would seem that to this end, the program is successful. The comments from one recipient indicate the range of international development activities former awardees are involved in:

..." Both my MA and freelance work are aimed at international development activities ranging from basic research to policy development, to project monitoring, to coordinating/helping communities obtain support for projects. "

Finally, question #3 was designed to help understand to what extent a lasting connection is forged between a YCRA recipient and the country where their research took place. An impressive 96% of respondents are still involved with their country of research (Table #1). This contact varies from personal connections between new friends, to follow-up work from the initial research and even further planning and collaboration on new projects.

2.1b Prior Visits to a Developing Country

(Discussion related to questions 4).

A consistently high number of awardees surveyed had visited a developing country prior to holding their YCRA. Approximately 90% of respondents had previous overseas experience. This information is important in assessing the relative success in other areas of the YCRA program. Previous experience overseas most likely helps an awardee to be more effective in cross-cultural communication and logistical issues, as well as helping them to be more realistic in designing their research strategy.

Previous overseas experience may partially explain the very high percentage of former awardees still in contact with their host country. It may also be that if the majority of YCRA holders have previous international experience, then they are already predisposed to international work which is reflected in the continued high level of involvement in international development activities.

2.1c Contribution to Professional Development

(Discussion related to questions 5).

Respondents were asked to rate the contribution of the YCRA to their professional development on a 5 point scale. Figure #1 shows the response. Forty-two respondents (87.5%) said the award contributed highly to professional development. The remaining 6 respondents were not far behind, ranking the contribution of the award to professional development as moderate. Several of the written comments bring out the sentiments of awardees with respect to this question:

... " The YCRA provided me with the opportunity to 'test the waters' in the field of international development. Having had this opportunity I am anxious to continue in this field"

... " Firstly, it [the YCRA] was very good for my self-esteem. Having an organization such as IDRC recognize the worth of your work is great. Secondly, the recognition of the value of the award overseas is important. Thirdly, it greatly reduced my financial worries while overseas"

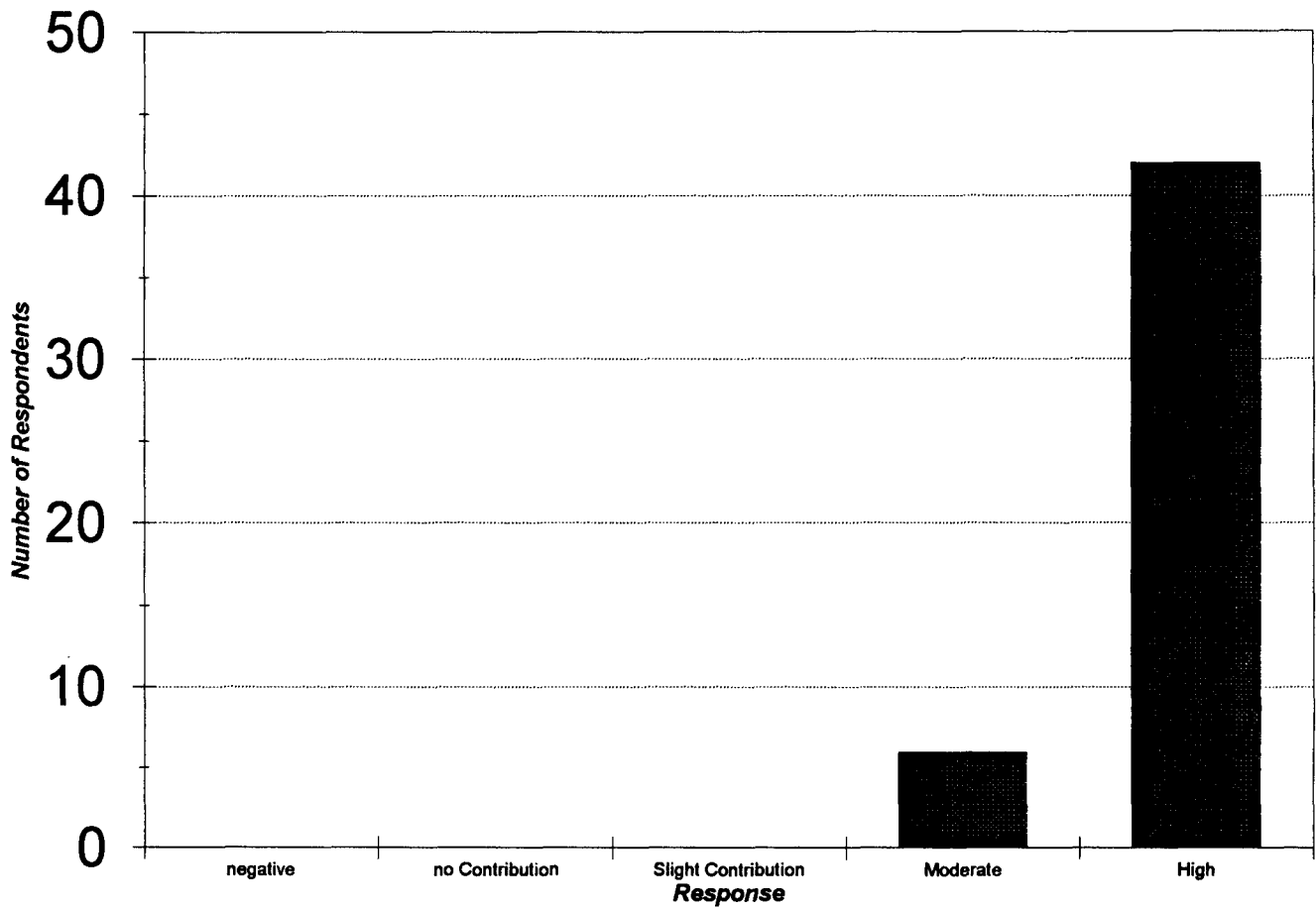
... " The YCRA not only provided funds to conduct my field research but also established credibility of my abilities in the international development profession."

2.1d Responses Concerning Institutional Affiliation

(Discussion related to questions 6-13)

Nearly 90% of respondents had arranged their affiliation prior to leaving Canada (Table #1).

**#1 - Rate the Contribution of the YCRA
to Your Professional Development?**



This is not surprising as it is a requirement that applicants submit proof of affiliation at the time of application. However, it is interesting to note that 5 individuals managed to delay this requirement until they arrived overseas. It is not clear what circumstances permitted this to happen, but perhaps the rules on this requirement should match practices.

Table 1: Responses to questions 2, 3 and 6

Question	YES	NO	NO. ANSWER
Awardees indicating on-going activities related to International Development?	42	5	1
Awardees maintaining contact with their host country?	47	1	0
Awardees who arranged official affiliation before leaving Canada?	43	5	0

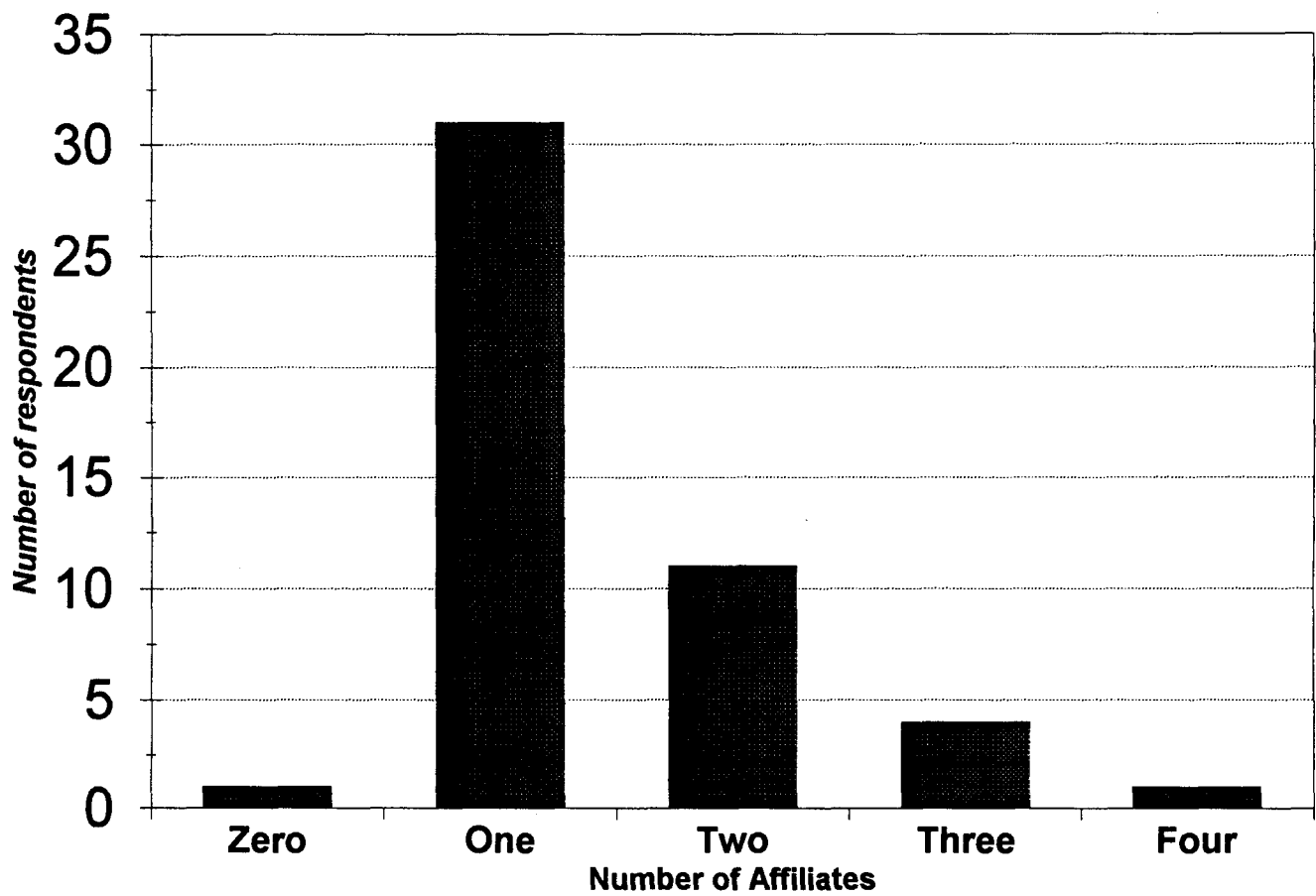
It was important to know the number of *official* affiliates an awardee chose to work with during their research. Usually the number was dependent on the type of research being conducted (ie. a comparative study of NGOs might result in several NGO affiliates that served the dual purpose of affiliate, and informant). The majority of awardees worked with only one official affiliate (65%, **Figure #2**). Many researchers worked with two affiliates while a few had 3 or more.

There was also a perception from pre-survey discussions with previous award holders that awardees often changed affiliations once they were in the field and research needs and priorities changed. The survey data clearly refutes this perception. A full 96% of researchers remained with their original official affiliate. Only two respondents reported changing affiliates in the field. Researchers did, however, work closely with unofficial affiliates as the next paragraph reveals.

Another pre-survey assumption was that researchers were routinely working with unofficial affiliates or, in other words, organizations and institutions that the researcher found helpful, but that were not put forth as the official affiliate at the time of application. In this case, the survey strongly confirmed this suspicion showing that 63% of awardees were linked to unofficial institutions to varying degrees during their fieldwork.

A related question asked respondents which affiliate they worked MOST closely with, the official or the unofficial one? Many did not answer this question (ie. if they indicated having no

**#2 - How many Official Affiliates
did you have?**



unofficial affiliate then it was a moot-point), and for some it was unclear as to which affiliate was most important. However, eleven (23%) of respondents did clearly indicate that their unofficial affiliate was the one they worked MOST closely with. Some of the comments from respondents better explain this phenomenon:

... "I worked most closely with unofficial affiliates (the universities of Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, and Ghana) because they were able to offer more immediate and relevant assistance."

... "I consider the village where I conducted my research to be as valid an affiliate as the official NGO with which I was supposed to work. As my research was immediately accountable to those villages, I would say that I worked more closely with them."

Figure #3 shows the distribution for both official and unofficial affiliates and the type of affiliate institution the researcher was connected with. It is clear that universities and research centres are the most common affiliate, while NGOs and government ministries play important roles, particularly as unofficial affiliates.

Again, to try and understand the dynamics of the researcher-affiliate relationship, the survey asked for the frequency of contact with the official affiliate. **Figure #4** shows that daily and weekly meetings were common. "Other" ranks highly and includes varied arrangements ranging from "as needed", to "only once when I first arrived."

To end this section of the survey, the questionnaire asked respondents to rate the effectiveness of the official affiliate in helping them carry out their work. **Figure #5** shows a distribution of answers over the full 5 point scale, but clearly indicates that most respondents found the affiliation moderately or very effective. 12.5% of respondents found the affiliation only slightly effective, while 10% found the affiliate to be ineffective. If IDRC believes that the potential exists to have 100% satisfaction between awardees and affiliates, then these last two percentages show there is room for improvement.

2.1e Other Aspects of the Researcher-Affiliate Relationship

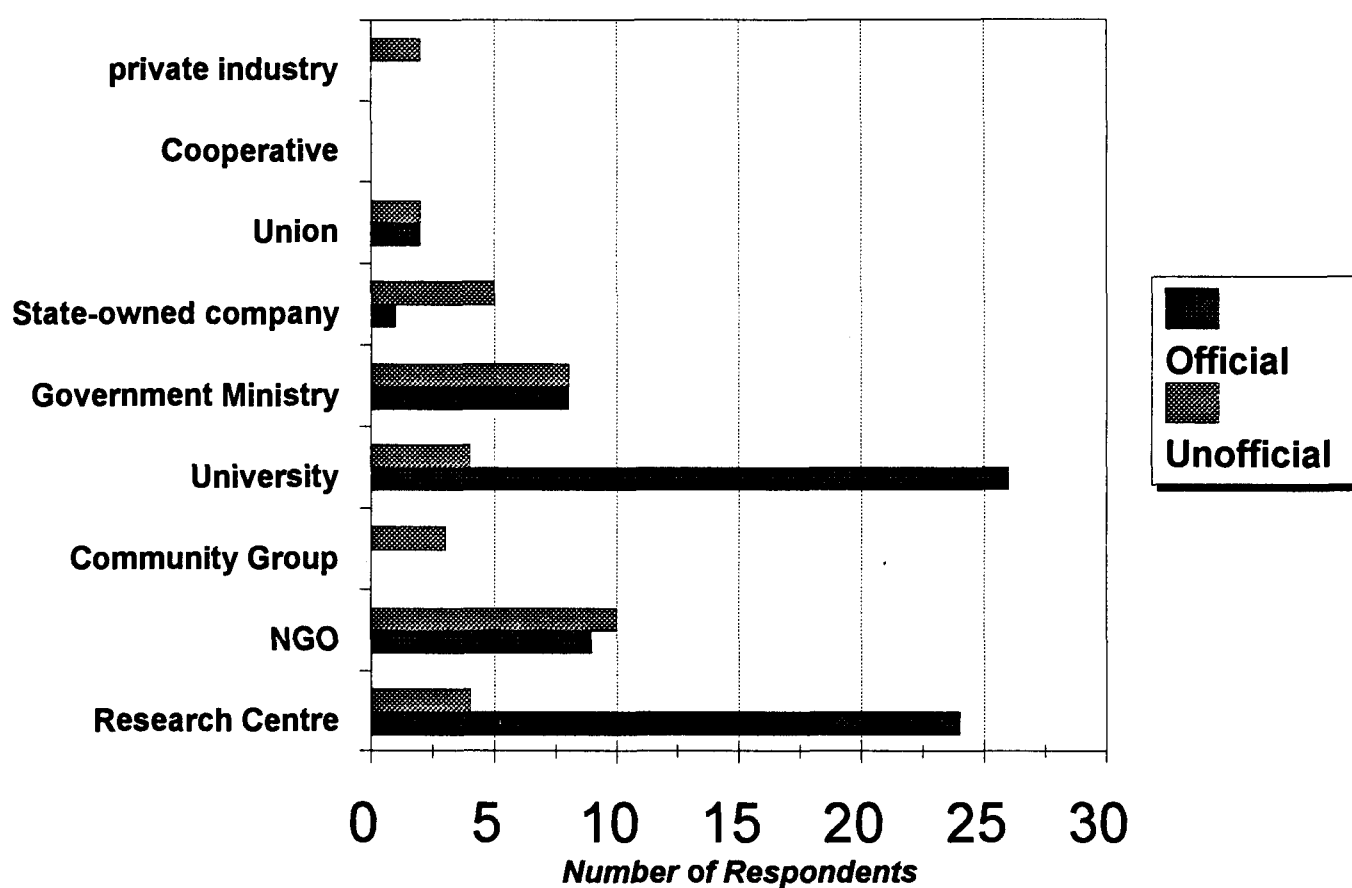
(Discussion related to questions 14-19)

To further understand the researcher-affiliate relationship, the survey asked the respondents to indicate the type of assistance they received from their official affiliate. **Figure #6** shows the distribution of different forms of assistance. Survey question #15 asks, "what other kinds of assistance awardees would have found helpful?" The following comments highlight a range of needs:

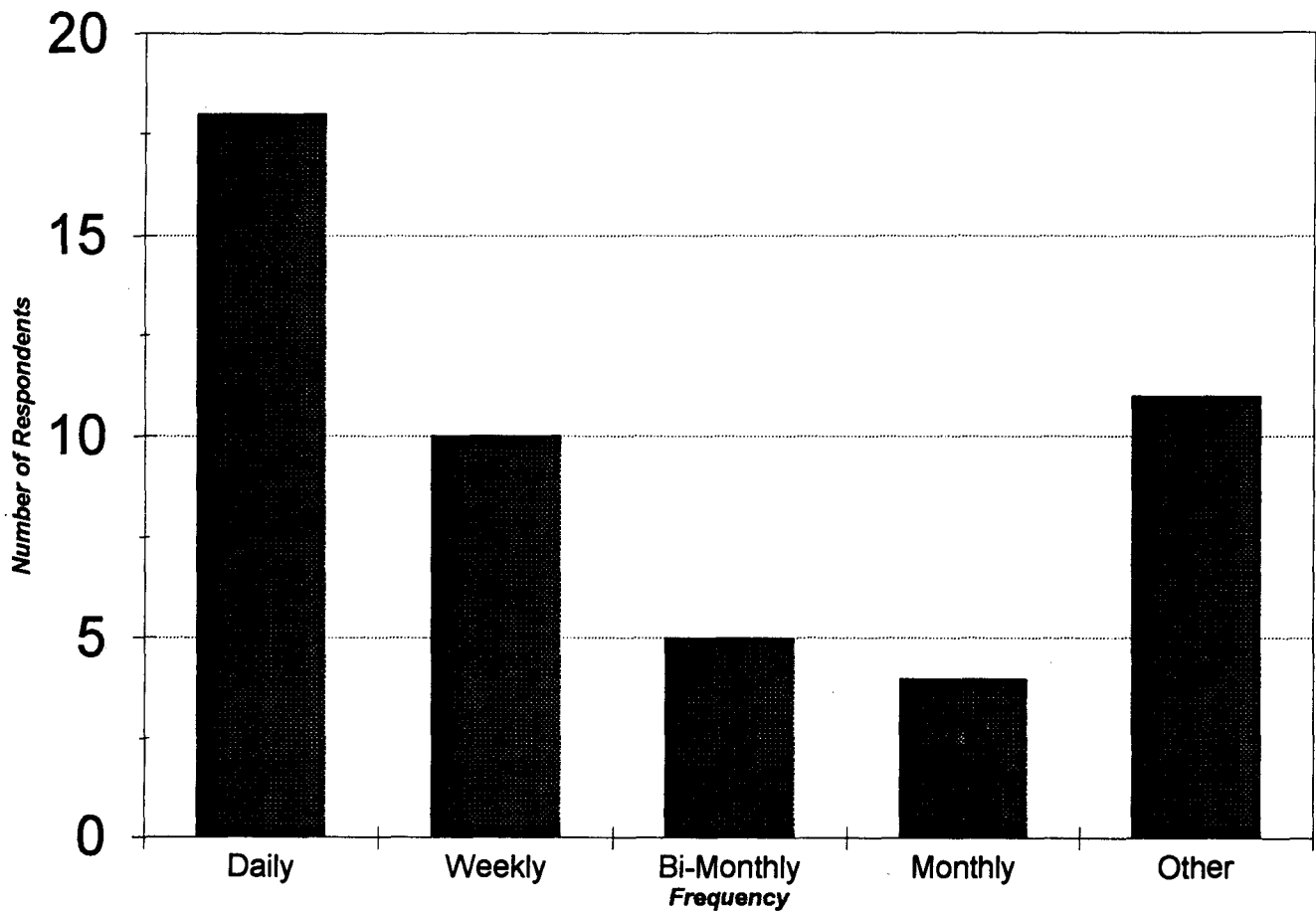
... "More consistent, less personality-driven support. For instance, the level of organization was at times inadequate for the research reliability required."

... "Most important would have been a serious attempt to collect fishery data on Goby fry fisheries. They put their worst person on it (he was known for losing things, being sloppy - everybody made wry remarks about his forgetfulness) and of course the data was lost or rendered

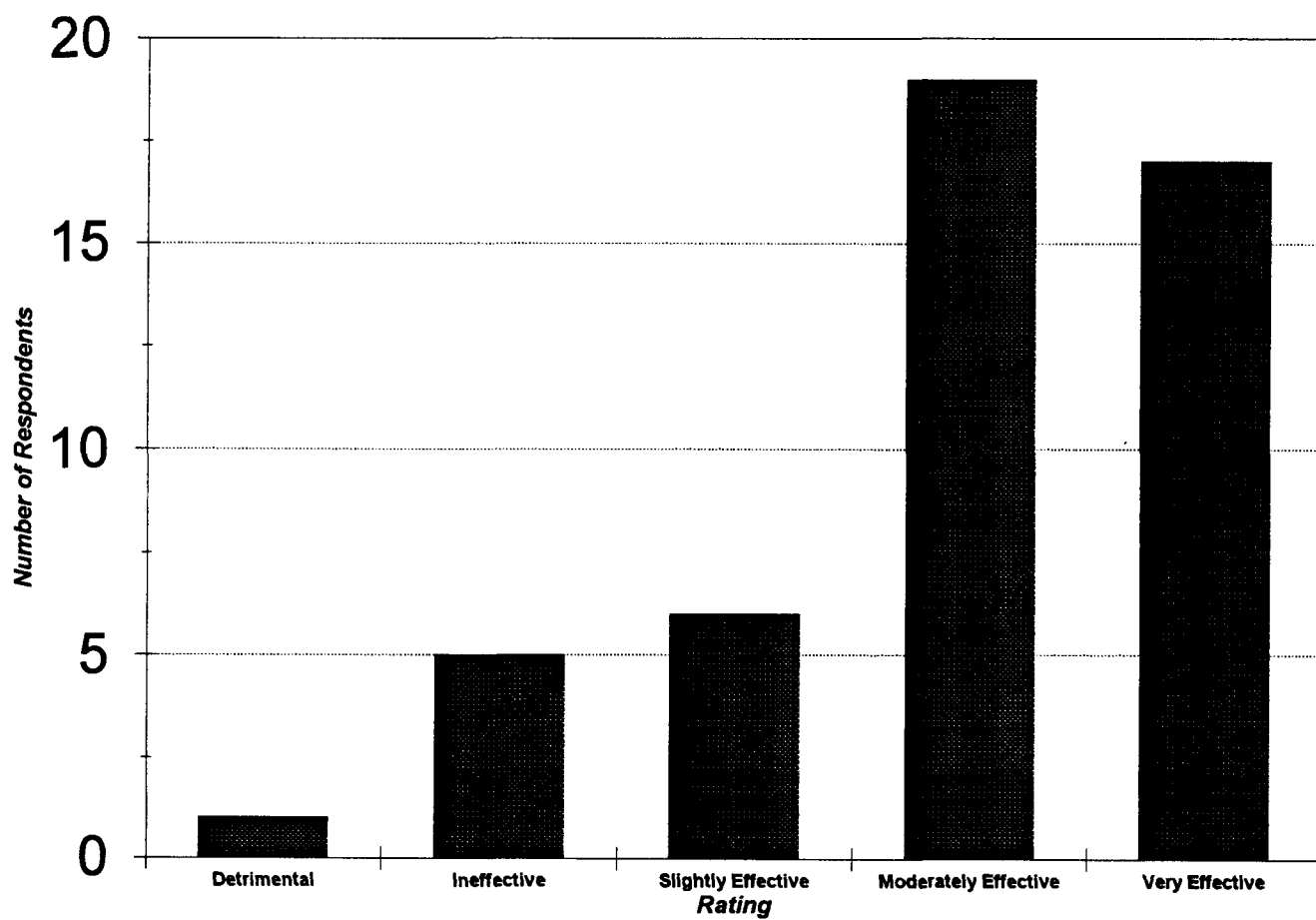
#3 - Types of Official & Unofficial Affiliates



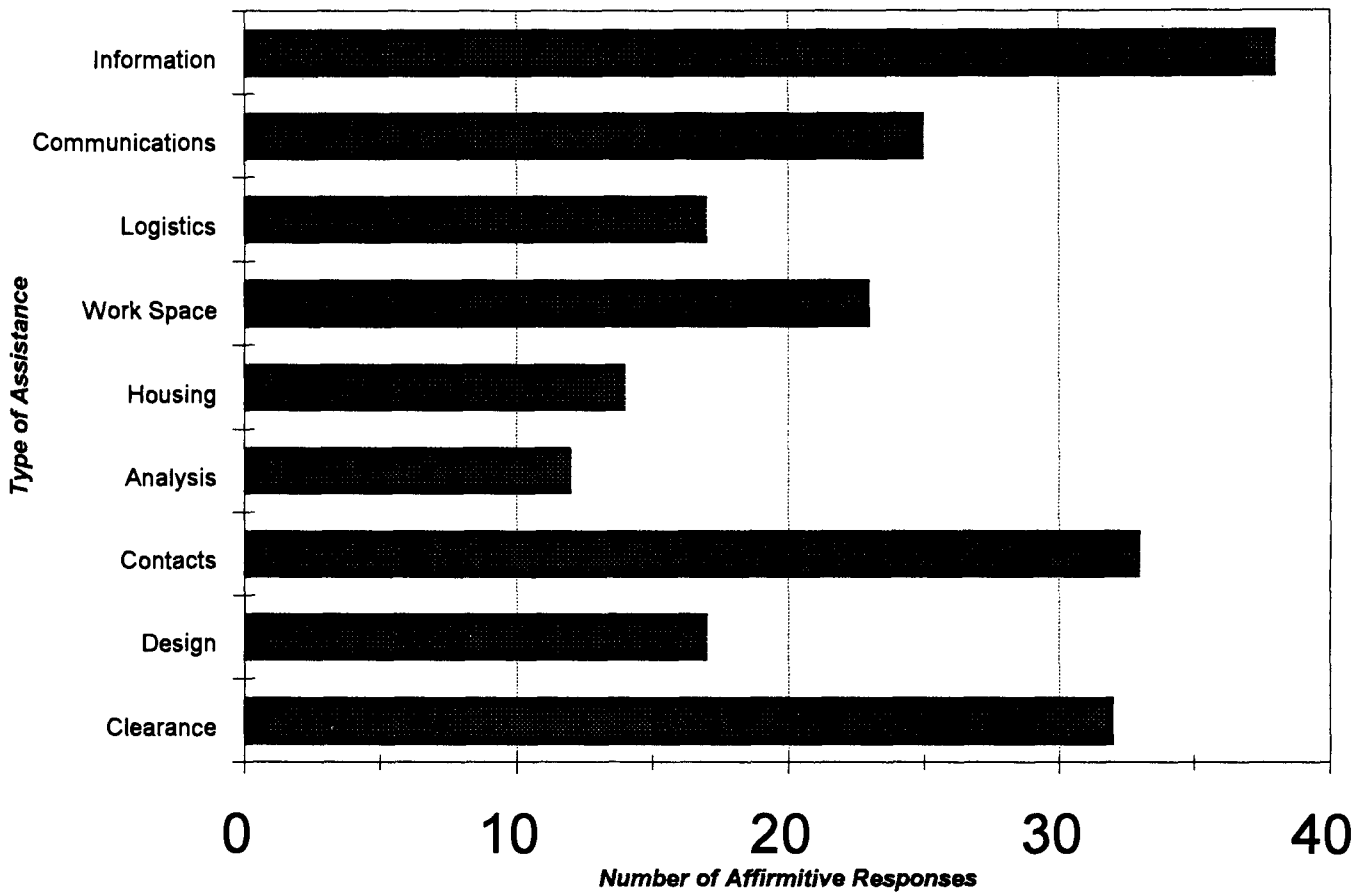
**#4 - What was the Frequency of
Contact with Your Affilliate?**



**#5 - Rate the Effectiveness of Your
Affiliate in Assisting Your Research**



**#6 - Did your Affiliate Assist with
the Following?**



useless. Fortunately, I had collected some myself just in case."

Survey respondents were asked whether or not they thought the official affiliate benefitted from the relationship with the researcher. A significant majority (75%) thought there was a benefit to the host institution. Others did not:

... "They did benefit from the rent I paid and the equipment (a laptop computer) I left behind.... The official agency is a pretty high profile research organization that did not feel they could benefit a lot from a Young Canadian Researcher. "

Most former YCRA recipients maintain a relationship with their official affiliate (79%). It is important to note again that this figure may be a little high due to the fact that only the most recent group of YCRA recipients was sampled. It is probable that contact will diminish over time. Only 27% of respondents have sent their completed thesis to the affiliate, although all of the remaining respondents indicated that they intend to send a copy once the work is completed.

Finally, the survey asked for a simple opinion on the value of the affiliation; Should YCRAs be required to have an affiliate or not? A comfortable 70% said yes, while 23% said no and 7% did not answer the question (see **figure #7**). Some of those answering "yes" said:

... "Absolutely, otherwise research has a 'colonial' approach - go in, take data, specimens, etc - and leave without any exchange or collaboration with host country institutions. "

... " affiliation is important for support and follow-up. It also requires the award recipient to be more involved in the host community. "

Some of those who said "no" to affiliation made the following comments:

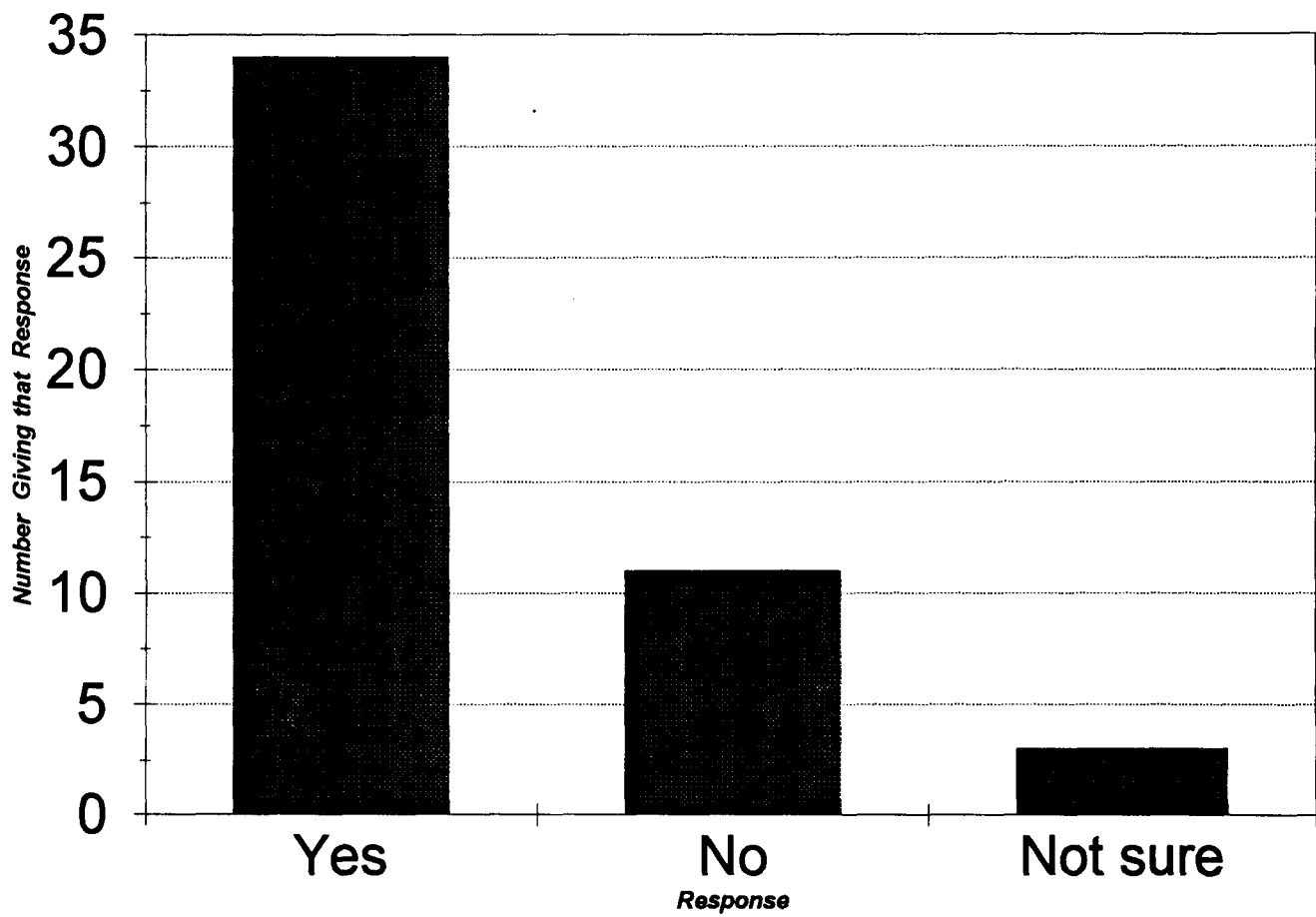
... " I think that this may depend upon the type of research being conducted and the area where it is being carried out. For my part, I think it was a good thing to have an affiliate organization, but I can think of other situations where this would be unnecessary and even undesirable. "

... " There is a substantial degree of fruitful research that needs to be conducted in 'developing' countries but that may well be contrary to the interests of affiliates. This research deserves to be funded through the YCRA. One possible solution is to broaden the definition of affiliates to include 'unorganized' or 'unrecognized' entities such as villages or grassroots groups. "

2.1f In Summary

The study shows that the institutional affiliation is generally working well. The IDRC-supported researchers seem to successfully build and maintain relationships with their host, and most feel that the affiliate institution also benefits from the arrangement. Despite suspicions to the contrary, awardees overwhelmingly tended to stay with their originally pre-arranged affiliate,

**#7 - Do You Think That YCRs should
be Affiliated?**



though many (63%) also develop "unofficial affiliate" relationships with other institutions. Of the 63% claiming to have established unofficial affiliates, 23% considered these relationships to be the most important in the field.

Former awardees did express some concerns about the "dynamics" of particular affiliate experiences. This is further reflected in the figures showing 23% of awardees stating that they should NOT be required to have an affiliation, and 12.5% of awardees rating the affiliation as only moderately effective. However, it is important not to overstate the negative sentiments about the affiliation experience. Clearly the majority of awardees found affiliation effective, stimulating and, for most, absolutely essential.

Other aspects apart from the affiliation were also examined in this study. For example, the study revealed a very high on-going participation in international development activities on the part of awardees. Almost all awardees had previously been to a developing country, and 96% continued their involvement with the country in which they had conducted their IDRC supported research. When asked about the overall contribution the YCRA had made to their professional development, 87.5% said it had contributed highly.

2.2 THE INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The institutional input was gathered during personal interviews with professors Meleche and Ndegwa from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Nairobi in early September 1994. This Department is very much involved with York University in Toronto through a University linkage project through which several YCRA recipients have been hosted.

Since professors Meleche and Ndegwa were very familiar with the process of affiliation with Canadian students generally, and they were less aware or concerned with the source of support for any individual student, they were willing and able to answer the interview questions based on their overall experience with Canadian student researchers. This was felt to be a reasonable generalization, and that the value of the information collected on 'generic' affiliation relationships outweighed the lack of familiarity with the Young Canadian Researchers Award program specifically. For the purposes of this report however, the detailed responses from the Kenyan professors have been placed in appendix. What follows is a brief summary of the salient points.

2.2a Summary

There are several instructive comments coming from the institutional interviews, all of which can be thought of in terms of what they say about the role of the YCRA program in contributing to capacity building or institutional strengthening overseas.

The professors talked positively about the impact visiting Canadian researchers make on their department. They mentioned the increased collaboration between Canadian and Kenyan students, sharing of ideas, and stimulating intellectual discussion. They ranked programs such as the

YCRA highly in terms of professional development impact, and the lasting connections forged between Canadian and Kenyan students primarily.

However, the strongest reactions in the interviews focused around the responsibilities, recognition, and remuneration of host institution staff, as well as the potential or lack thereof for collaboration between Canadian and host institution faculty via the Young Canadian Researcher. The professors felt that they should be more involved in a students' work, and should have more collaboration and input with Canadian advisors regarding the students' progress. In return for a more formal role in student supervision, the professors indicated that some recognition or even remuneration would be appropriate.

Comments from the professors seemed to indicate a feeling of being relegated to the margins of the research exercise, particularly vis-a-vis their academic peers in Canadian Universities. There is a paucity of collaborative opportunities for Kenyan academics and, in so far as the YCRA can act as a bridging agent, these two professors felt the potential faculty-faculty linkage was being under utilized. This dynamic could be viewed as a missed opportunity at capacity building or institutional strengthening.

3.0 IMPROVING THE YCRA PROGRAM

Several issues emerged from the data and, more importantly, from individual meetings with awardees. The purpose of this section is to elaborate on some of these issues and ideas. Some of the matters discussed in this section re-appear as more concrete recommendations in section 4.0.

a) Suggestions for Improving Institutional Affiliations

Several awardees seemed unaware or unsure as to how IDRC staff might have been utilized in establishing more appropriate affiliations. This is part of the larger problem of awardees feeling unconnected to the Centre.

Also, in terms of the affiliation criteria, the CTA unit will generally allow an application to proceed to the review stage without proof of an established affiliation. Reviewers are asked to suggest additional contacts or affiliates for the applicant. Perhaps it would be better to drop the affiliation requirement at the time of application in favour of a collaborative process between the successful applicant and the reviewer(s) to establish the most appropriate affiliate.

b) Better Linkages Between Awardees and IDRC

Generally, the awareness and "connectedness" of awardees to the Centre was very low. Except for their connection to the IDRC Awards Officer, awardees had little or no awareness of the program side of the Centre. This raised a number of ideas, including:

- * Encouraging a link between awardees and a PO as a standard procedure.
- * requiring awardees to make a presentation at the Centre following their fieldwork.

- * encouraging even closer collaboration with IDRC's Regional Offices.

c) Improved Networking Between Awardees

Virtually all interviewees mentioned the need to be better networked with other current or past awardees, particularly to share information on specific countries or research methodologies. Some strategies mentioned to achieve this included:

- * An internet e-mail network of awardees
- * A "mentorship" system where new awardees would be linked with a past awardee.
- * An awardee newsletter

d) Training and Orientation for a Student Client

The idea was raised that a specific pre-departure orientation for the awardees be provided. This might better connect awardees to the considerable expertise at IDRC, as well as improve research processes in the field by having the awardee better prepared to deal with culture shock and adjustment. It was suggested that this kind of training might be arranged jointly with CIDA.

e) Improved Connection to the IDRC Library

Again, the awareness about the Centre library was remarkably low. Some strategies to correct this might be:

- * To include information on the IDRC Library in awardee acceptance packages.
- * To look into "alumni status" for awardees so that they can continue to have privileges at the library since many are involved in on-going research.
- * To give awardees the opportunity (ie through a checklist) to be put on mailing lists for Centre publications and/or events.

f) Obtaining the Final Report and Thesis

Several interviewees found it surprising that they were still being asked for a copy of their thesis so long after the fact. The general consensus seems to be that the **final report** represents the completion of an awardees obligation to IDRC. Unfortunately, the final report mechanism favours brevity over substance, and is usually no substitute for the completed thesis. The consultant feels this is part of the reason that the Centre has relatively few theses, completed with Centre funds, in the library. To correct the situation, it was suggested that a significant amount of money be withheld until the final thesis has been submitted to the Centre (and perhaps to the affiliate as well).

g) Accounting Measures

One person interviewed expressed concern about the difficulty in collecting receipts in the field, especially when the chance of being "audited" by IDRC is remote. Of course, the awards officer is aware of the difficulties involved in keeping accurate accounts in the field. After discussion

with IDRC staff, it was suggested that a "Model Budget" be identified and included in awardee acceptance packages. This would ensure a uniform accounting system, and remove some of the guesswork that awardees are forced to do at times.

h) A Code of Ethics for Awardees

The YCRA program currently enjoys a very good reputation. The award is seen as prestigious, and the implication is that one is working under the auspices of IDRC. The Centre has an International reputation for high quality and ethically sound research. Since the YCRA program entails the disbursement of very significant sums of money for the purpose of research, it was suggested that awardees abide by a code of ethics which would touch upon the responsible use of public monies as well as the need to adhere to ethical research standards.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 *The Institutional Affiliation*

The findings of this study indicate that awardee-affiliate relationships are working very well. It is recommended that the status quo be maintained in this regard.

4.2 *Improving the capacity building aspects of the YCRA program*

To maximize the informal capacity building taking place through the awardee-institutional relationship, the CTA should make efforts to obtain input from the affiliate supervisor and should recognize their contribution with a well written, personalized thank you letter. This small measure helps to reinforce and value the contribution of affiliate supervisors.

4.3 *An Annual Awardee Presentation Week*

In order to address some of the concerns noted in points a-e above, it is recommended that a week each year be blocked out, and a small amount of funding (\$3-4,000) set aside to allow a number of YCR (and Bene awardees) to come to Ottawa and make presentations based on their fieldwork. This would facilitate linkages with PO's, raise the profile of the awards program, and familiarize and connect awardees better to the Centre. The presentations could be built around themes, and publicized well in advance to ensure strong attendance from Centre staff, and other interested individuals.

4.4 *Improved Orientation Package*

The awardee acceptance packages should include more information on the library, as well as a checklist for centre publications and events. Also, the names of Program Officers working in the areas the awardee is interested in would be helpful. The names of the Centre staff who reviewed the application should be given to the successful awardee to initiate contact. We might also include the names of past awardees who worked in the same country or on a similar topic. Staff should consider asking awardees for an e-mail address so that these addresses can be circulated

in a memo with all awardee e-mail addresses for each new group to facilitate networking.

4.5 A Model Budget for Awardees

A "Model Budget" should be identified and distributed with acceptance packages to assist awardees in writing their own budgets. This "Model Budget" would help to clarify what is an acceptable expense, and would give the CTA unit a more standard format for reviewing applications and budgets.

4.6 Encouraging Thesis Submissions

In order to ensure a higher percentage of completed theses being submitted to the Centre, a significant amount of money (ie. \$250-\$500) should be withheld until the thesis is received. In order to avoid having too many open files in the system, a special thesis payment fund could be established, and payments made from this fund upon receipt of the thesis.

4.7 Code of Ethics for Awardees

A code of ethics which touches upon the responsible use of public funds and the ethical aspects of conducting research should be written as soon as possible to ensure the continued excellence of the YCRA program.

Appendix 1

**Young Canadian Researchers Award (YCRA)
Impact and Affiliation Study Questionnaire**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

fax: _____

Permanent Contact

Address: _____

SECTION ONE: Impact of the YCRA on your career\research.

1) What are your current activities? (check more than one if needed)

Academic\research _____ (level of study) _____

Employment _____ (type of organization) _____

Volunteer _____ (type of organization) _____

Other _____

Give details _____

2) Are any of these activities related to International Development?

yes _____

no _____

Please explain _____

3) Do you maintain contact or involvement with the country in which you conducted your IDRC funded research?

yes _____

no _____

In what capacity? _____

4) Had you visited a developing country prior to receiving the YCRA?

yes _____

no _____

5) Please rate how the YCRA contributed to your professional development? (circle one)

1

negative
impact

2

no
contribution

3

slight
contribution

4

moderate
contribution

5

high
contribution

Please
explain _____

SECTION TWO: Institutional Affiliation Questions

One of the requirements of the YCRA is that you have an **official** affiliate organization or institution in the country where you plan to conduct your research. Some awardees have more than one affiliate. The affiliation(s) is usually accepted by IDRC upon receipt of a letter from the institution(s) stating that they are interested in your work and willing to assist. An **official** affiliate therefore, is one for which IDRC has a letter on file, while an **unofficial** affiliate has not been asked to submit such a letter. Please answer the following questions.

6) Did you arrange your **official** affiliation(s) prior to leaving Canada?

yes _____

no _____

7) How many **official** organizations or institutions did you arrange affiliations with?

8) Did you change **official** affiliate organizations during the course of your fieldwork by asking the new organization to write IDRC?

yes _____

no _____

If yes,
why? _____

9) Were there any **unofficial** affiliates that you worked closely with?

yes _____

no _____

10) Which affiliate, **official or unofficial**, did you work **most closely** with and why?

11) What kind of affiliate organization(s) were they?

	official	unofficial
-Research Centre	_____	_____
-Non Governmental Organization	_____	_____
-Community group	_____	_____
-University	_____	_____
-Government Ministry	_____	_____
-State-owned company	_____	_____
-Union	_____	_____
-Cooperative	_____	_____
-Private Industry	_____	_____
-Other (please explain)	_____	_____

(* From here on, we are concerned with your **official** affiliate(s) only)

12) What was the frequency of contact with your **official** affiliate institution(s) while in the field?

-Daily _____
-Weekly _____
-Bi-monthly _____
-Monthly _____
-other _____

Comments _____

13) Rate the effectiveness of your official institutional affiliation(s) in helping you carry out your YCRA research.(use numbers or different colours if rating more than one institution)

1	2	3	4	5
detrimental	ineffective	slightly effective	moderately effective	very effective

Please
comment _____

14) Did your official affiliate assist with;

YES

-visa's or extensions?	_____
-research clearance?	_____
-research design?	_____
-contacts in the field?	_____
-analysis of the data?	_____
-housing?	_____
-working space?	_____
-research logistics (travel, accommodation)?	_____
-communication (phone, fax)?	_____
-information resources (ie.library)	_____

Comments: _____

15) What other kinds of assistance would have been helpful?

16) Do you think the official affiliate institution benefitted from the relationship with you?

yes _____ no _____

Please
explain _____

17) Do you still maintain a relationship with your official overseas affiliate(s)?

yes _____

no _____

18) Did you send a copy of your completed thesis to the official host affiliate(s)?

yes _____

no _____

intend to _____

19) In your opinion, should YCRs be required to be affiliated with an institution in their country of research?

yes _____

no _____

Please
explain _____

Any final
comments? _____

I am hoping to organize one hour focus group meetings in several cities in Canada this summer. The purpose of these focus groups is to hear from past YCRA recipients directly and make recommendations for improving the award. Would you be willing to participate?

yes _____

no _____

Would you like an executive summary of this study when it is completed?

yes _____

no _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your input is appreciated!

Appendix 2

Additional Questions for YCRA Interviews;

- * Do you think a stricter time limit would help or hinder the research process?
- * Would orientation or cross-cultural training have been useful?
- * was your re-orientation into Canada difficult?
- * What kind of relationship did you or do you maintain with the IDRC Library?
- * Have you been in Contact with IDRC since your award? Do you feel that the Centre is accessible?
- * Do you think it would be useful to be connected to other YC researchers?
- * Do have any publications as a result of your research?
- * Any academic or professional awards since completing your research?
- * What are your future plans

Appendix 3

Institutional Affiliation: Questions for the Affiliate

This short interview schedule is designed to elicit comments on the usefulness of the "institutional affiliation" requirement of the Young Canadian Researchers Award (YCRA). This information will be analyzed in conjunction with survey responses from approximately 40 past Canadian recipients of the YCRA, in which they were asked to comment on the affiliate relationship.

These two data sets will provide a useful comparison of both the awardee and the affiliate institution perspective on this specific requirement. Of course, the ultimate goal of the study is to identify ways in which the award can be improved which may include revising some of the requirements of the award.

Questions:

What is your view of the Institutional Affiliation?

Has the YCRA recipient maintained contact with you or your institution?

Have you or do you expect to receive a copy of the YCR's thesis?

How would you rate the contribution of the YCR to:

Professional Development of colleagues:	-N	N	S	M	H
As a catalyst for discussion:	-N	N	S	M	H
General benefit to your institution:	-N	N	S	M	H
Interaction for other Students:	-N	N	S	M	H
Increased capacity for your institution:	-N	N	S	M	H
More collaboration and research:	-N	N	S	M	H

How was the affiliation with your institution arranged?

Was this a satisfactory process?

Do you think an affiliation should be required?

Can you suggest improvements to the affiliation requirement of the YCRA or the award in general?

Would you like a more active role in the process?
ie -review, supervision, reporting

Appendix 4

Question 1)

What is your view of Institutional Affiliations?

The professors made a number of positive comments regarding their affiliation with Canadian students. Firstly, they felt that the opportunity for Kenyan graduate students to interact with the Canadian researchers gave them a chance to "perceive the learning experience from another perspective." The meeting of different cultures helped to provide a different view of issues and problems.

Both professors mentioned that Canadian students are very individualistic: The learning process, particularly at York, seems quite unique and certainly different from that employed at the University of Nairobi. "These differences help a lot in the process of sharing different approaches to learning."

They also noted that Canadian students are generally motivated and self-driven, and they felt that this was "very positive and challenging for the Kenyan students."

On the other hand, the University of Nairobi emphasizes studio work in town planning for example, and the "Canadians join in and learn a great deal from us as well." A good number of Canadians, says Dr. Meleche, "have left here feeling that they gained a lot from our program."

Question 2)

Have the YCRA recipients maintained contact with you or your institution?

The professors felt that contact at this level had been satisfactorily maintained. They noted that at least three students still correspond regularly with other students at the university. Several students have been very good at maintaining contact with the Department while in the field conducting research. In at least two cases the professors said, "students sought our advice on methodology and other research issues throughout their stay."

Question 3)

Have you or do you expect to receive a copy of the YCR's thesis?

Students on the York link are required to provide the University of Nairobi with a copy of their thesis. The same expectation exists within the YCRA program, although there is no such formal requirement. For the most part, the University of Nairobi has, or certainly expects to receive, copies of student work.

Question 4)

How would you rate the contribution of the YCRA program to the following (Interviewees were asked to rank on a 5 point scale, negative, none, some, moderate, high):

a) The professional development of you and your colleagues?

The professors had the following to say; "Several students stimulated and challenged professors. Some students in particular were very good at provoking discussion around gender. This has been good for the faculty."

The faculty is also in the habit of inviting visiting students to present seminars to which students and faculty are invited. This has proved to be "thought provoking and stimulating for all."

Overall Ranking: High contribution

b) As a catalyst for discussion?

"The Canadian students have spawned a great deal of discussion in our department around gender issues, PRA, and other research questions." The professors re-stated their feeling that the stimulus of having "guests" in the department did indeed act as a catalyst for intellectual discussion.

Overall Ranking: High contribution

c) Interaction for other students?

The professors cited a couple of examples where they felt the interaction between Canadian and Kenyan students led to an improvement in the quality of work submitted by the Kenyans. As noted previously, the opportunity to share learning styles and to influence each other has been quite positive.

Overall Ranking: High contribution

d) Increased Capacity for your Institution?

On an interpersonal level, and particularly for Kenyan students, yes, the professors felt that capacity had been enhanced. In terms of improved facilities or institutional services, they felt there had been no impact. To explain, they described how equipment is supposed to be left at the university through the linkage program (occasionally, YCR's make similar commitments to leave behind computers, lab equipment, etc.). Even though there is a provision under the linkage agreement to provide equipment, the University of Nairobi has not been all that aggressive about the provision, and so far no equipment has materialized.

Overall Ranking: Some contribution

e) More Collaboration and Research

Yes, there has been some collaboration with students. For example, in the area of sustainable development research, efforts to develop indicators of sustainable development have been carried out jointly. Both professors expressed a desire for more collaboration between the Kenyan and the Canadian FACULTY. For example, the professors felt that the Kenyan and Canadian advisors for a particular student should be more closely linked and involved together in a student's project, in supervision, etc.

Overall Ranking: Moderate contribution.

Question 5)

How was the Affiliation with your Institution Arranged?

Originally, the University of Nairobi was looking for some type of collaborative program with a northern university. Through faculty exchanges, a relationship developed with York University and the linkage project was born.

In terms of arrangements for individual Canadian researchers coming to Nairobi, the Department has a key role in selecting which students will come. Usually, there is a University of Nairobi faculty member working at York as a visiting Professor, so that the professor meets with interested students. A CV and a work proposal is required of the student and this is circulated to the University of Nairobi faculty before a final decision is made. According to the professors, "there have been no inappropriate candidates selected so far". Of course, for YCRA recipients not involved in the York link, the faculty, like faculty in institutions all over the developing world, would usually have no formal role in arranging an affiliation.

Question 6)

Do you Think an Affiliation Should be Required?

The professors emphatically agreed that an affiliation be required. "If students come on an academic exchange, of course they are free to do their own work, but an affiliation with our institution is essential." They said that such a link provides a forum for feedback and accountability. Affiliation, in the case of Kenya, also happens to be a National requirement of the government agency which authorizes field research.

Question 7)

Can you suggest improvements to the Affiliation Requirement of the YCRA Program?

The professors expressed a need to be more involved in a students' field work. They suggested that resources be provided to allow supervisors to accompany students occasionally, for the benefit of both the student and the faculty member. They also noted that professors in most developing country institutions are poorly paid, and some remuneration for the provision of student assessment and supervision would be appreciated.

Question 8)

Would you Like a more Active Role in the Process (ie. review, supervision, reporting etc.)?

The professors expressed a concern about the flexibility or variability in the process of writing a report on a students performance. Sometimes a Professor may be asked to do this, and sometimes not depending on the student and the students' interpretation of the requirement of their award. In general, the professors said they and other faculty would LIKE to be asked to report or give feedback. This would, they said, "help faculty feel more responsible to the student, and in turn help the student feel his\her responsibility to the Professor." In general, they suggested, IDRC should "tighten up the reporting requirement for the host institution faculty." In addition, if there is a standard and consistent expectation of the host faculty, then perhaps the faculty can expect a measure of recognition for their effort in return.

The professors elaborated on this last point saying, "recognition is not just a monetary concern, but a matter of professional integrity. Interaction with other academics, their thinking and their work is important." They said the student in programs such as the YCRA can and should be the bridge between Canadian and Kenyan faculty.