

## **Biographical Notes for Conference Speakers**

**Marieve Allair** works in the social responsibility department of the Mountain Equipment Co-op store in Montreal.

**Greg Allen** has worked on advancing sustainability for 29 years as a designer, builder, community planner, inventor, researcher, manufacturer, policy advisor, community activist and environmental consultant. As President of Sustainable EDGE Inc., his activities include advanced building systems, renewable energy applications, ecologically engineered treatment facilities, and sustainable community planning.

**Dr. Juan Almdares** is an internationally known Honduran medical doctor, human rights activist, environmental leader and alternative medicine practitioner. He is recognized for his work in combating alcoholism, tobacco and drug abuse, malnutrition, ecological damage, and pesticide poisoning in Honduras. In 2001 he was awarded the Barbara Chester Award for his outstanding and courageous work with prisoners, victims of torture, the poor, and indigenous populations. He works with Friends of the Earth-Honduras.

**Julia Bourke** is a faculty lecturer in the School of Architecture at McGill University, where she teaches design and construction with a specific focus on sustainable housing.

**Stewart Chisholm** co-manages Evergreen's Common Grounds program which supports community groups and land use professionals in their efforts to bring nature back to their cities. He has developed a range of urban greening resources including municipal policy guidelines, case studies, research reports, community guidebooks and a national community grant program. He has also worked with municipalities, landowners and concerned citizens to find consensus-based solutions to protecting threatened green spaces. Stewart previously worked in the private and public sectors leading land use planning and resource conservation projects. Stewart has a Master's degree in urban planning from the University of Waterloo and is a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

**Evelyn María Castro Gómez** works at the Salvadoran Center for Appropriate Technology (CESTA) in El Salvador.

**Kelly Hawke Baxter** is Chair of The Natural Step Canada. The Natural Step (TNS) is an international non-profit organization in twelve different countries that uses a science-based, systems framework to help organizations, individuals and communities take steps towards sustainability an organization

**Alex Hill** is a Project Officer for Alternatives, a Montreal-based NGO dedicated to creating a more equitable and sustainable world. He works on Alternatives' environmental programs, including the Rooftop Garden Project, which promotes the utilization of roofs for food production and urban green space development.

**Dr. Bob Jickling** is in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where he specializes in environmental education.

**Eva Johnson** is the Office Manager at the Kahnawake Environment Office.

**Nicholas Mainville** is the Quebec regional coordinator for the Youth Environmental Network.

**Adekanla Ayodeji Alake Majekodunmi** (Ade Majekodunmi) has worked for the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) for over five years; currently she is Project Officer of the South East Zonal Office in Cross River State. She has a MSc in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Established in 1980, NCF is the premier non-

governmental organization (NGO) in Nigeria dedicated to Nature Conservation and sustainable development with a vision of "a Nigeria where people prosper while living in harmony with nature". NCFs mission is to preserve the full range of Nigeria's biodiversity, promote the sustainable (wise) use of natural resources, and advocate actions to minimize pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.

**Ira Morriseau** is a youth aboriginal representative from Manitoba.

**Dr. H. Peter Oberlander** has had a distinguished career of teaching and research in architecture and planning over fifty years at the University of British Columbia. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Community and Regional Planning at UBC and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science at Simon Fraser University as well as Senior Ministerial Advisor to Canada's preparations for the UN World Urban Forum 2006. Dr. Oberlander has been involved in public service at the international level, working as a Senior Advisor for the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, as well as at the local level, for example serving as Chairman of Vancouver School Board. In 2002 he was inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of his public service, particularly for his advocacy of sustainable urbanization.

**Doug Ragan** is a senior manager of the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA), a non-profit focused on the improvement of the physical and social environment through the engagement of youth and communities. Doug has a Masters in Management for the Voluntary Sector from McGill University. Currently Doug is facilitating a youth program leading up to the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006.

**Sidney Ribaux** is co-founder and general coordinator of Equiterre, a popular education organization whose mission to promote ecological and socially equitable choices, and which reaches 300,000 people directly each year. From 1992 to 1998, he worked for "Option consommateurs", a national organization defending consumers' rights. He contributed to establishing a national energy efficiency programme targeting low income people. From 1996 to 2003, he was chair of the Montreal Regional Environment Council (CRE), of which he remains a director. He chairs the Quebec Action Fund for Sustainable Development (FAQDD) and sits on the board of the Green Communities Association. He is the author of numerous memoranda, reports, articles and documents on energy, transportation, responsible consumption and climate change. He is training as a lawyer.

**Christine Rieux** has a diploma in agricultural technology with a specialization in international development and is presently studying at l'Université Laval to become a professional agronomist. For the past seven years, she has worked in the agriculture and para-agriculture community. Her last job was with L'Union des cultivateurs franco ontariens [Franco-Ontario Farmers Union] where she founded and coordinates the Réseau des jeunes entrepreneurs en agroalimentaire, a flourishing 135 members network (Young Agri-Food Entrepreneurs Network). The wise use of natural resources, integrated rural development, along with rural exodus and urban sprawl phenomena are among the issues that concern Christine. As a Franco-Ontarian, she brings to the YRTE a vision of people of all ages, from near and far, working together in the agriculture and agri-food industry.

**Pierre Sainte-Marie** is currently responsible as division head for the preparation of the Master Plan for the new City of Montréal which, created in 2002, encompasses 28 former municipalities. Mr. Sainte-Marie has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, a master's degree in urban planning as well as an MBA degree. Professionally active in the fields of city planning and economic development since 1983, he was responsible between 1988 and 1992 for the portion of the former City of Montréal's first Master Plan that dealt with the downtown core.

**Irene Velez Torres** works at CENSAT Agua Viva, an environmental 'Friends of the Earth' organization in Bogota that is involved in cultural, social and environmental projects throughout the country. Irene has a background working with native communities in Colombia, looking into

the cultural importance of the coca crop, as well as the threats to culture and biodiversity that aerial fumigations pose. She is a member of a youth organization called Enruedate which promotes the use of bicycles as a political tool, and is also part of the Youth Environmental Network of Colombia. Irene is involved in an initiative that CENSAT coordinates with the Global Forest Coalition called "The Commercialization of Life", and has published various articles and essays. Irene's presentation "Issues of Biodiversity in Colombia and Perspectives of Action and Resistance" will address issues related to biodiversity in Colombia and how nature and people are being affected by fumigations and strategies for strategic control by external interests of biodiverse territories.

**Marion Town** is the Executive Director at BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) joining the organisation in January 2003. Marion Town is an environmental planner, with over 15 years of experience in government and consulting, providing senior professional service to federal, provincial, and municipal governments and private organisations on a broad range of projects. Marion began her career in private practice in Ontario, working with communities to develop long- and short-range strategies to deal with growth pressures. Marion later joined the Ministry of Environment in Ontario to create improvements to the Environmental Assessment Act. Since settling in Vancouver Marion has worked with communities across the Province, first as a planning consultant, and most recently as a Director of Programs at Fisheries Renewal BC. She has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the School of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo and currently sits on the Environmental Advisory Committee at YVR.

**Jerome Vallaincourt** is Director General of Vivre en Ville, an organization based in Quebec City that promotes the incorporation of sustainable development principles into urban, village and rural planning.