

## ***The Eastern Townships – Mae Sot Education Project 2010 - 2011***

### **Volunteer Application and Selection Process**

**Objective:** To select four students (aged 18-26) from Bishop's University and Champlain College-Lennoxville, as volunteers to participate in the *Eastern Townships – Mae Sot Education Project*.

**Selection Committee:** To be comprised of four members of the project committee, with representation from each educational institution and one external member of the community

#### **Application and Selection Timeline:**

- *Application Period* – October to December 11<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Interested students may acquire information and application forms from project committee members, complete them and submit them on or before the deadline.
- *Short Listing* – December 2009  
The selection committee will meet soon after the application deadline, having reviewed all applications, to shortlist candidates based on pre-determined selection criteria. Short listed candidates will be contacted and interviews arranged for early January.
- *Interview and Selection* – January 2010  
The selection committee will contact references and conduct interviews. A contract will be signed with each student-volunteer, and preparation will begin.

#### **Selection Criteria and Description of Responsibilities for Student Volunteers:**

##### Requirements

Students chosen for participation in the Eastern Townships – Mae Sot Education Project as volunteer ESL teachers in Mae Sot, Thailand, will satisfy these requirements:

- Are currently enrolled in a program of study at Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville or Bishop's University (or are recent graduates of either institution);
- Will be aged 18 to 26 at the time of departure for Thailand;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in social-justice issues and world affairs;
- Can provide evidence of their autonomy, self-reliance, and resourcefulness;
- Work well as part of a team;
- Show evidence of intercultural sensitivity and adaptability;
- Show evidence of maturity and good judgment;
- Have prior experience leading activities for children and demonstrated effectiveness in working with children;
- Have a high level of mastery of spoken and written English;
- Show willingness to fundraise;
- Are in good health.

## Assets

These traits will be viewed as assets in candidate selection:

- Prior international development experience or travel in poor countries;
- ESL/EFL teacher-training or teaching experience;
- Musical or artistic interests and skills;
- Residence in the Eastern Townships;
- Knowledge of Burma and Thailand and of issues related to displacement of people.

## Responsibilities

Students selected to participate in this project must be prepared to undertake the following:

Before departure for Mae Sot, Thailand:

- Receive training in ESL teaching for children during winter 2010 if they do not already have such training to a satisfactory level;
- Self-teach elementary Thai (with tapes, web resources);
- Engage in fund raising towards their participation in the project;
- Inform themselves regarding political and economic conditions and regarding inter-ethnic relations in Burma (Myanmar) and on the Thai-Burmese border;
- With support and guidance from the Project Committee: plan their travel; lay the groundwork to address, on their return from Thailand, Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, as well as Champlain and Bishop's audiences; and make contacts with regional media;
- Attend cultural preparation briefings;
- Have a physical examination and all necessary vaccinations.

In Mae Sot, Thailand, from June – December 2010:

- Integrate into the Mae Sot community and into schools for Burmese migrant children;
- Assist in teaching of English, lead activities, model teaching techniques;
- Write dispatches for publication in Eastern Townships media;
- Prepare materials for talks about their experience to be given on their return.

On return, winter – spring 2011:

- Make presentations to Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, and on the Champlain-Bishop's campus;
- Write articles and/or give interviews for regional media.