

**2010 G8/G20 Canadian Civil Society Coordinating Committee  
Parliamentary Roundtables on the G8/G20 Agendas**

**Roundtable 3: The MDGs  
Biographies**

**Charles Abugre Akelyira, Deputy Director UN Millennium Campaign,  
Africa**

A Ghanaian national, Charles Abugre Akelyira brings to the Campaign over 20 years of anti-poverty campaigning and is a leading intellectual from the African continent. Prior to joining the Campaign, Charles worked at ChristianAid, where he was the Head of the Global Policy and Advocacy Division, based in the UK. During that time he was a visiting gender and macroeconomics lecturer at the University of Utah and the Levi Institute in New York and was also a lecturer and research fellow at the University of Wales in Swansea. Prior to those roles, Charles was Executive Director of the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) and Coordinator of the Africa Secretariat of the Third World Network, both in Ghana. He also has extensive experience with various consultancies and missions related to evaluations, reviews, programme development, capacity development, and research and analysis both within Ghana and the UK but also Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Africa, Netherlands, and the US, among other countries.

Charles holds a Masters degree in development economics from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands, a Bachelors degree in economics and geography from the University of Ghana in Accra, and is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Wales, Swansea, UK.

**Gerry Barr, C.M., President-CEO, Canadian Council for International Co-operation**

Gerry Barr is the President-CEO of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) a coalition representing about 100 leading Canadian non-governmental organizations engaged in international development. Gerry Barr is a Member of the Order of Canada. He was awarded the Pearson Peace Medal in 1996 for his personal contribution to aid to the developing world, mediation in conflict, and peaceful change through international cooperation.

He is the co-chair of Make Poverty History (Canada). MPH campaigns for More and Better Aid, Trade Justice, the cancellation of the debt of the world's poorest countries and - in Canada - the eradication of child poverty. Gerry Barr is also co-chair of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group – a national coalition organized to monitor, and promote public discussion of, the human rights implications of anti-terrorism laws in Canada and other countries.

Before joining CCIC in January of 2001, Gerry Barr was the Executive Director of the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, a labour-based non-governmental organization that supports projects undertaken by partner organizations in 13 countries and five regions of the world. He has served on several Boards and Steering Committees including those of the North South Institute (1994-2000), the Ethical Trading Action Group (1996-2000), the Horn of Africa Policy Group (1991-1993).

## **Lee Berthiaume, Journalist, Managing Editor, Embassy Newspaper**

Lee Berthiaume graduated from Algonquin College in 2002, before moving on to work as a crime reporter in Woodstock, Ontario where he received a national Canadian newspaper award for being one of the country's top young journalists.

In December 2002 Lee moved to South Africa where he lived and worked for nine months primarily for an NGO doing health equity work before heading to Zimbabwe for two months to work, illegally, for an independent newspaper. He moved back to Canada where he started working at the Peterborough Examiner in January 2004, and earned another award. In October 2004 he moved to Cambodia to work for the Cambodia Daily newspaper, where he covered environmental issues, as well as human rights and international donor issues. Lee was also the country's lead reporter on preparations for the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

In February 2006 Lee moved back to Ottawa where he again freelanced for the Ottawa Citizen before being hired by Embassy in June 2006. Lee was promoted to news editor in August 2006 and has been the managing editor since March 2008. At Embassy, he has generally focused on international development issues and Canadian aid policy, an area he believes has been largely neglected by the mainstream media. Over the years Lee has also written articles for the Globe and Mail, South Africa's Mail & Guardian newspaper, the Montreal Gazette and the Vancouver Sun, and has reported for CBC radio.

## **Johanne Deschamps, Member of Parliament, Bloc Québécois, International Cooperation Critic**

Mrs. Deschamps is the Member of Parliament for Laurentides-Labelle, a beautiful region of Quebec just northwest of Montreal. Johanne is the Bloc Québécois critic for International Cooperation and the co-critic for Foreign Affairs – focusing on Africa and Latin America. As such, Johanne is a member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development; she also serves as Vice-Chair of both the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association and the Canadian All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity. Johanne was first elected federally in 2004, but was no stranger to politics, previously working as a municipal counsellor and a school board trustee, in addition to years of involvement with the Parti Québécois and as a political attaché to the National Assembly. An avid learner, Johanne has diplomas in guidance counselling, administration, accounting, communications, and human sciences. As an MP, she is always thrilled to see the great work that Results Canada is doing, and hopes to continue working together to effect change in Canada's foreign and development policy.

## **Hon. Keith Martin, Member of Parliament, Liberal Party of Canada**

Keith Martin is the Liberal Member of Parliament for the riding of Esquimalt–Juan de Fuca, where he has represented his constituents on beautiful Vancouver Island since 1993. During the last session of Parliament, Dr. Martin served as the Critic for the Canadian International Development Agency.

Born in London, England, he grew up in Toronto and graduated from the University of Toronto. An Emergency Room Physician/General Practitioner by training, Dr. Martin has had a varied

career. He has worked as a physician in northern B.C., provided care to remote Aboriginal villages, and did two tours of duty at a rural bush hospital on the Mozambique border during that country's civil war. He has also worked as a correctional officer and a science researcher. Dr. Martin has visited Africa more than twenty times and has been on diplomatic missions to some of the most difficult areas of the world – Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

His primary political interests are foreign policy, defence, international development, health care, and democratic reform. Dr. Martin has had more than 100 articles published in Canadian newspapers and journals. He hosted his own nationally syndicated television show, "Beyond Politics," for five years and was selected by Maclean's Magazine as one of Canada's Top 100 Leaders of Tomorrow.

### **John Rafferty, Member of Parliament, New Democratic Party of Canada, International Cooperation Critic**

Prior to his successful run for office in the fall of 2008, John spent much of his career as an educator and community volunteer. He began his post-secondary education at the University of Waterloo, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. John returned to university, this time attending the University of Western Ontario and earning a Bachelor of Education. After completing his degree, John volunteered as a high school teacher for 2 years in Nigeria with the World University Services of Canada (WUSC). He later returned to Africa as a Field Director for WUSC. In between his trips to Africa, John worked as a teacher in Canada's North, including as the first high school principal in Rankin Inlet.

Later in his career, John pursued a diploma in broadcasting at Confederation College and worked as a talk show host at CKPR until 2000 when he entered his first federal election campaign. John continued to be involved with teaching and community service after entering politics. He was active in the Rainy River school boards as a musician with Learning Through The Arts and as an occasional teacher and volunteered with numerous organizations in his home community of Fort Frances and the surrounding area. During this time, he also started Rafferty Communications, a small business producing voiceovers for health, safety and training CD-ROMs.

Elected as the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay – Rainy River in October of 2008, John holds portfolios as the NDP Critic for Forestry, the CBC and for International Development and CIDA.