

## GHANA: Where's Wa?



The [Canadian International Development Agency](#) (CIDA), through the Stand Alone Public Engagement Fund (SAPEF), funded SIAST's one-year \$57,000 public engagement project entitled Where's Wa?

The project saw SIAST staff and students travel to Wa to develop a short documentary on the Wa Polytechnic.

To view the documentary, go to:

- [Where's Wa?](#)  
(mov - 8 MB)
- [Where's Wa?](#)  
(mov - 20 MB)

You will need [QuickTime](#) installed on your computer.

### Project Description

The Stand Alone Public Engagement Fund (SAPEF) financially supports programs that:

- seek to increase the awareness, understanding and engagement of Canadians in international development issues and programs
- increases support for Canada's international assistance program and for international efforts to reduce global poverty
- creates opportunities for meaningful participation in international development activities

The purpose of the project is to increase awareness and potential for active participation of Saskatchewan students, staff, faculty and communities with the [Establishing the Wa Polytechnic Project](#), other international development projects and communities in the Upper West Region in Ghana.

The goal of the project is to promote greater understanding and increased support in Saskatchewan for Canada's international development assistance and partnership activities in Ghana.

### Duration

- April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

### Recipient Country/Partners

- Wa Polytechnic

## Project Budget

CIDA Contribution	CDN \$44,225.94
Local Partner Contribution	CDN \$13,162.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>CDN \$57,388.44</b>

## About Ghana

Located off the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, the Republic of Ghana faces very significant poverty reduction challenges, as demonstrated by 40 percent of its population living on less than one dollar per day. Although the Government of Ghana has demonstrated recent and sustained resolve to improve political, economic and social conditions despite significant and ongoing sub-regional disruptions, Ghana is ranked 136<sup>th</sup> of 177 countries on the United Nations Development Index 2006 rankings.

Bordering Burkina Faso in the extreme north of Ghana, the Upper West Region is one of the worst affected of the country's 10 regions. Over 70 percent of the region's population lives in poverty. This figure is almost double the national average and approximately 15 times higher than the rate in the capital, Accra.

Over 75 percent of the region's inhabitants are engaged in small scale agriculture. Most worrisome is that prices for agricultural commodities traditional to the upper West Region, such as tubers and shea nuts, are decreasing with market deregulation. Compounding this situation is the swelling use of environmentally unsustainable practices that is rapidly diminishing yields. As a result, a lack of basic food security is a growing concern for the vast majority of households in the Upper West Region.

## Facts

- Dagaare, belonging to the Moore-Dagbani language family, and Sissalii, of the Grusi family of languages, are the two prominent dialects spoken in the Upper West Region.
- While English is the language of business and education, there are more than 60 different languages and dialects spoken in Ghana.
- The Upper West Region hosts approximately 575,000 of the country's 23 million people, with 225,000 living in Wa.
- Literacy levels in the area are approximately 27% of the population over the age of 15.
- 72% of the population engage in agriculture and related work.

## Wa and Wa Polytechnic

The Upper West Region is one of the worst affected of the country's 10 regions. Over 70% of the population currently lives in poverty. Recognizing the critical need for enhanced local human resources, the Wa Polytechnic (WP) was established by legislation in 1999 and began program offerings in September 2004.

The Wa Polytechnic offers five programs at present – Agricultural Engineering, Accountancy, Secretaryship and Management, Building Technology and Civil Engineering. There are currently 600 students and 32 faculty members. The WP is looking into other, non-traditional programs to continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of the local population. With the assistance of SIAST, WP is also developing numerous short courses that can be offered to the local population and businesses.

## Film Production Staff



The film production staff - Karen Elliot,  
Christian Moulding and Tom Bartlett

Tom Bartlett  
Director

Christian Moulding  
Production Assistant

Karen Elliott  
Production Assistant

### **Tom Bartlett** Director

Tom is the multi-media production specialist in the Media and Communications Department and works out of SIAST Wascana Campus.

Tom has previous African media experience with trips to Namibia as a photographer and to Malawi as the videographer/editor of the CIDA funded *A World of Choices: Technical, Vocational Career Choices for Young Women* in 2003.

Tom is also the most recent of recipient of the 2007 SIAST Outstanding Service award for Wascana Campus.

To learn more about Tom's experience in Ghana, go to [Tom's article](#).

### **Christian Moulding** Production Assistant

This project marks Christian's third assignment with SIAST's Business Development and International Partnership (BDIP).

In 2007, Christian traveled to Malawi to produce a documentary highlighting the [Enhancing TEVET Outcomes Project](#). He also worked as an assistant in Saskatoon during the filming of a documentary on SIAST's [Decentralized Management of Skills Training in Ukraine Project](#).

Christian graduated from SIAST's Media Arts Production Diploma program in 2007 and is currently working as a producer for Shaw in Swift Current.

To learn more about Christian's experience in Ghana, go to [Christian's article](#).

### **Karen Elliott** Production Assistant

This is Karen's second assignment with SIAST's Business Development and International Partnership (BDIP). Karen worked with Christian Moulding in Malawi on the Enhancing

TEVET Outcomes Project documentary.

Karen graduated from SIAST's Media Arts Production Diploma Program in 2007 and is currently working at CTV Regina. Karen also worked as a production assistant in June 2007 on CBC's critically acclaimed show *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.

To learn more about Karen's experience in Ghana, go to [Karen's article](#).

## Contact Us

If you have questions or comments about the Ghana: Where's Wa? Project, please contact:

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