



Hunger has no boundaries

Summary and outcomes of the the 6th Annual Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit

The 6th Annual Summit was the largest summit of Universities Fighting World Hunger to date. It was the first time that it was held outside the United States. There were over 350 delegates signed up to attend and over 40 speakers at the plenary and panel sessions. Overall the response of the delegates and participants was to comment that this was both one of the most exciting and well-run conferences that they had attended. In addition, there was a diversity of attendees including student participants from Canada, United States, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Australia. There were faculty and staff from American and Canadian Universities and representatives of private companies, non-governmental organizations and governments and government agencies from both sides of the border. The theme of the Summit, *Hunger has no boundaries*, was reflected not only in the site of the Summit but in the breadth of participation and the strength of the commitments made at the end of the Summit.

More than \$130,000 was raised from corporations and individuals to support the Summit and the convener and organizer are very grateful for the support. This level of support made it possible to limit the registration costs of attending the Summit and to support the travel costs of participants. The generosity of the donors enabled the Summit to take place and there will be lasting outcomes that will be a direct legacy of this Summit. (See below).

A pre-conference meeting devoted to student engagement preceded the Summit. Although there were originally about 40 delegates signed up to attend the pre-conference, a typical February Ontario snowstorm prevented a number of people from attending the pre-conference.

The President's Dialogue was addressed by the UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti and former Governor General of Canada, Madame Michaëlle Jean and formally opened by the United States Ambassador to Canada, Mr. David Jacobson. The President of the University of Guelph facilitated an interactive dialogue between five panelists to discuss the theme *Hunger has no boundaries* and to explore the challenges in achieving the number one Millennium Development Goal to halve serious hunger in the world by 2015. The panelists included: Dr. Quentin Johnson – a food supplementation consultant; Dr. June Henton – dean of the College of Human Sciences and founder of Universities Fighting World Hunger; Dr. Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere – director of the Food Policy Research Institute in Africa and former vice-chancellor of the University of Ghana; Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva – deputy executive director of the World Food Program in Rome; and Senator Pamella Wallin – chancellor of the University of Guelph and member of the Senate of Canada.

The Summit ended with a series of commitments that will become the lasting outcomes of the Summit. Some of these are detailed below:

Increase in Canadian involvement with Universities Fighting World Hunger

There has been a significant increase in communication on social networking sites regarding Universities Fighting World Hunger and the 6th Annual Summit. It is anticipated that this will lead to greater membership in the organization. Paul Davidson, the president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has undertaken to raise membership with the presidents of all the colleges and universities in Canada that are members of AUCC and has pledged to work the convener of the Summit to encourage greater membership.

Partnership with the World Food Program

The World Food Program, headquartered in Rome, has expressed an interest in developing a partnership with the University of Guelph in funding development of food products that can be used in famine and emergency relief situations and to provide the knowledge to assist people in growing their own local food. The partnership would be based on the expertise already available at Guelph. In addition, the deputy executive director of the World Food Program expressed an interest in the organization sponsoring the proposed new MBA in poverty, hunger and food security that is being developed in the College of Management and Economics. The University of Guelph will be following up with both these concepts.

Food security issues in Honduras

The University of Guelph has been invited to participate in a major initiative in Honduras on food security. A national symposium will be sponsored by the Honduran government will be held in fall 2011. The University of Guelph will be participating and this will provide an opportunity to network and form partnerships with universities in Honduras particularly the agricultural university of Honduras.

Universities Fighting World Hunger in Central America

Using existing networks, it was agreed that Universities Fighting World Hunger will develop a proposal with the University of Guelph to expand the organization into central America. Honduran universities will take the lead in joining the organization.

Partnership with ONEXONE to support aboriginal communities in Canada

Currently, ONEXONE has a major program in northern Canada providing meals for about 3,000 children in sixteen Aboriginal communities. A partnership has been proposed between ONEXONE and the University of Guelph. The University will design and construct portable greenhouses, ONEXONE will raise funds through its connection with the Lou Adler Foundation, Diesel Canada and other organizations to support design, production, shipping and construction costs and would be willing to consider a proposal to support the University of Guelph in mounting educational programs to help the communities learn how to grow food in the greenhouses. This will involve a partnership between the College of Management and Economics and the Ontario Agricultural College at the University.

Elanco Canada commits to help food banks

Elanco Canada committed to providing employees with a day to be able to volunteer in food banks across Canada

Personal pledges

A number of delegates in keeping with the aphorism promoted by Joey Adler that “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” made personal commitments to raise awareness of hunger issues at home and abroad, to be involved in fund or awareness raising events or to recommit to efforts to assist with hunger-relief programs, advocacy for anti-hunger initiatives and actions to eliminate hunger.

Launch of *Nourish*

At lunch on Saturday 26th February, the Campbell Company of Canada launched a new meal specifically developed for use in food banks known as ***Nourish***. Working in partnership with a number of other businesses Campbell's have developed a complete meal in a can that not only contains high protein and high fibre levels but elevated levels of micronutrients such as iron and zinc. The meal can be eaten cold or hot and has a shelf-life of at least two years. With these characteristics, ***Nourish*** is ideal for food banks and emergency relief situations.

As part of the launch, Campbell's donated 1500 cans of ***Nourish*** to the Guelph Food Bank to represent the money saved in not serving lunch to the delegates at the Summit.

In addition, representatives in the fight against hunger in Honduras, Feed the Children Canada, Food Banks Canada, World Vision, Stop Hunger Now, DC Central Kitchens and the World Food Program all made connections with Campbell's and are interested in discussing use of ***Nourish*** in a variety of different circumstances.

The College of Management and Economics committed to work with Campbell's to develop a case for use in MBA programs on the development, launch and marketing of ***Nourish***.

The Michaëlle Jean Emergency Hunger Relief Award

The University of Guelph announced the establishment of the Michaëlle Jean Emergency Hunger Relief Award to honour and inspire students who make a commitment to finding ways to alleviate or eradicate hunger in an emergency relief situation. This award will parallel the William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award which is offered annually to a student who has shown commitment and leadership to alleviating or eradicating hunger on a sustainable basis.

A new MBA Program focused on alleviating poverty and hunger

The College of Management and Economics at the University of Guelph announced its intention to launch a new MBA program focus on alleviating poverty and hunger. The program will use the current MBA program at Guelph but in the second year involve in the students in real-life case analysis, research and development to solve a current pressing issues. Partnerships with countries in Asia and Central America and with the World Food Program were discussed at the Summit.

An opportunity to raise funds to alleviate hunger in Aboriginal Communities

The Consul General for Honduras in Atlanta committed to encourage the development of a Canadian chapter of people from Honduras living in Canada to provide financial support to alleviate hunger in Aboriginal communities in Canada.

Providing opportunities for political engagement

The president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada offered to mentor students interested in entering into political life.

Raising funds to support the development of school in refugee camps in Kenya

The president of the University of Guelph made a commitment to carry out a feasibility study to build a school for teachers in the United Nations High Commission for Refugee compound in the refugee camp in the northwest of Kenya. This work would be undertaken in partnership with the Windle Trust on the ground in the camp.

Subsequently, residence life students at the University of Guelph have offered to make the school a central focus for student activism in 2011/12 academic year.

Commitment to engage all 95 Colleges and Universities across Canada in UFWH

There was a commitment from students and administrators to attempt to engage all universities and colleges across Canada in Universities Fighting World Hunger.

Sustainability initiatives – particularly relating to hunger

Several student delegates committed to institute sustainability programs in their home institutions based on the models already in place at Guelph.

Expanding the participating in future summits

Several delegates made commitments to expand the engagement of governments and government agencies, graduate students and faculty, farmers and producers and the private sector in future meetings of Universities Fighting World Hunger.

Commitment to a transit subsidy for people with economic challenges in Guelph

The mayor of the City of Guelph made a commitment to press for a transit subsidy for people facing economic hardship in the City of Guelph.

Pledge session

In addition to the pledges above, a number of delegates made personal commitments to continue or expand their engagement in efforts to alleviating hunger. These are recorded on the Summit website www.uoguelph.ca/worldhunger/. Action against these pledges will be tracked throughout the year.