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COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATION COUNSEL

Newsletter No. 11 [Volume 1]

Drafting Assistance

The last newsletter contained the names of two lawyers who were interested in performing drafting assignments.

As a further avenue of promoting the use of the services of drafters who are available for assignments of this kind, this newsletter includes details of private bodies that may be able to provide assistance in procuring volunteer drafters. The publication of the names of these organisations has two purposes.

- (a) Any person who wishes to undertake drafting [or other legal work] as a volunteer outside his or her own country should consider applying to any volunteer organisation based in that country. That organisation may be able to arrange for that person to work in, or do work for, a country where there is a demand for services of a kind that the person is able to provide.
- (b) If a need for legal services arises in a Commonwealth country, CALC members in that country should alert their Government to the fact that a likely source of assistance exists in volunteer organisations based in other countries. Such an organisation may be able to put the Government in touch with a person who is available to provide the assistance concerned.

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS

1. Agency for Personal Service Overseas
J. W. Jackson (Chief Executive)
29 Lower Baggot St
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel: 761571

The Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO) is the principal Irish volunteer organisation. In 1983 it had some 193 volunteers working in 46 countries. The majority of these volunteers were placed in Commonwealth countries, including large programmes in Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Agency has not as yet had any experience with posting volunteers to legal posts.

Its contracts are organised on a two year basis, with APSO providing return airfares, insurance, accommodation, a volunteer allowance and resettlement grant.

2. Australian Executive Service Overseas Programme
R.D. Cheatley (Executive Director)
P.O. Box E14
Queen Victoria Terrace
A.C.T. 2600
Australia
Tel: (062)732311

The Australian Executive Service Overseas Programme (AESOP) was founded in 1981 by the Confederation of Australian Industry and the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. It is one of the growing number of 'executive services' designed to provide short-term high-level assistance by senior professional people. At present AESOP has 40 volunteers working in 10 countries, including the Commonwealth countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Tonga, Western Samoa, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nauru, Singapore, and Vanuatu. It has not yet had any experience with providing volunteers to legal posts, but has legally qualified persons on its register.

The organisation provides return air fares, insurance, out of pocket expenses associated with preparing for the project and spouse allowance. The 'client' business, organisation or institution is expected to provide accommodation and a subsistence allowance.

3. British Executive Service Overseas
Gordon Wilson (Director)
London SW1X 8PH
United Kingdom
Tel: (01)2350991

BESO is also an executive service, and has had a growing experience with legal volunteers. It is enthusiastic about the possibilities of this type of work, and the necessity of providing legal resources to promote economic development. BESO assignments are also short-term - a maximum of six months - and it draws on a register of retired or serving executives. Working in some 63 countries, BESO undertook a total of 129 assignments in 1983/4.

Beso pays return air travel, insurance, out of pocket expenses, a spouse allowance and a small weekly allowance. The requesting organisation meets the costs of local living expenses and transport during the assignments.

Services are provided to companies, para-statal corporations, governments and other organisations.

4.

CUSO
135 Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1N 9K7
Tel: (613) 563-1242

A major Canadian volunteer organisation, CUSO has some 800 volunteers working in 36 countries in 1985. Especially large programmes in Commonwealth countries include: Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Vanuatu and Zambia. Although they have only had one legal placement (in Papua New Guinea), this worked out positively.

CUSO pays airfares to and from the assignment, medical expenses, insurance and settling-in and termination allowances. The host country pays salaries at the local rate and provides accommodation.

5.

Canadian Crossroads International
31 Madison Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5R 2S2
Tel: (406) 967-0801

Canadian Crossroads International provides overseas volunteers as part of a comprehensive programme which also includes training people from developing countries in Canada and educating Canadians about development issues.

In 1985 it had 160 volunteers working in 31 countries around the world, including many Commonwealth countries. It has had experience with lawyer volunteers.

Canadian Crossroads International demands a three-year commitment from its volunteers for overseas placement. The first six months are spent preparing to go overseas through personal orientation activities and local, regional and national orientation activities. The second half of year one is spent on placement overseas which runs from four to six months. In the following two years, participants are expected to spend at least 200 hours educating Canadians about development and development issues.

CCI provides a return air ticket, housing and food and a basic allowance to cover project related living expenses.

6.

Canadian Executive Service Overseas
Suite 200
1867 Young Street
Toronto M4S 1Y5
Canada

CESO, another 'executive service', considers lawyers very suitable for applicable projects, although its experience so far has been limited to one assignment in Western Samoa. During 1984 it had 331 projects in 45 countries, and its roster includes 1800 personnel.

Consultants have their economy flights, medical and accident insurance paid by CESO, and the host client provides accommodation, meals and local transportation.

7. Overseas Service Bureau
71-75 Argyle Street
(P.O. Box 350)
Fitzroy 3665
Australia
Tel: 419-1788

The major Australian volunteer programme, O.S.B. now has 200 volunteers working 21 countries. Major projects in Commonwealth countries include: Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. The Bureau considers lawyers to be as suitable as any other professional group for inclusion in its programme, although to date they have only sent one lawyer (to Papua New Guinea).

O.S.B. makes appointments for two years, and requires applicants to be at least 20 years old with at least two years work related experience. It provides return air fares, settling-in and resettlement grants and insurance. Once assigned the Volunteer Development Worker works for the overseas employer, who will provide a salary, paid at the same rate as a similarly qualified local person, or a volunteer allowance. Accommodation is also arranged by the employer.

8. Service Civil International
International Secretariat
13 Wincheap
Canterbury
Kent CT1 3TB
United Kingdom
Tel: (227)450318

United Kingdom branch:
International Voluntary Service
Ceresole House
53 Regent Road
Leicester LE1 6YL
United Kingdom
Tel: (0533)541862

Service Civil International is the coordinating office for a number of volunteers working in 50 countries, with major Commonwealth programmes in Bangladesh, Botswana, Ghana, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland and Tanzania. Its United Kingdom branch, International Voluntary Service, works in 3 Commonwealth countries: Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho. The service has not yet had any experience with lawyer volunteers.

9.

Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals

Mr Rustam Lalkaka
Co-ordinator, TOKTEN
United Nations Development Programme
1 U.N. Plaza
New York, New York 10017
United States of America
Tel: (212)754-2902

TOKTEN represents a novel form of volunteer scheme. The idea is to tap the knowledge of highly -qualified consultants who are expatriate nationals of developing countries for the benefit of their homelands.

At present TOKTEN has projects in 18 countries, including the following Commonwealth countries: Bangladesh, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, India, Pakistan, Saint Lucia, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago. It also has a regional Africa project.

Experts are provided on short-term consultancies. Travel and living expenses are paid through the national U.N. Development Programme indicative planning figure - the amount of assistance UNDP allocates to a country over a five-year planning cycle.

TOKTEN receives the support of the U.N. family of agencies in organising its programmes.

The programme has not as yet had any experience in the legal field.

10.

United Nations Volunteer Programme
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: 985850

The United Nations Volunteer Programme, founded in 1970, is the major U.N. agency involved in posting volunteers. It now has 1017 volunteers working in 86 countries, including many from the Commonwealth. There are major Commonwealth programmes in Bangladesh, Botswana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda, Western Samoa and Zimbabwe. Although it does not include lawyers on its list of professional categories, UNV has sent lawyers on its projects. The organisation comments that the relatively few small number of lawyers sent is because of few requests from developing countries, and some lawyers are channelled into non-legal posts.

A large proportion of the total number of UN Volunteers are themselves nationals of developing countries. This constitutes a concrete expression of the UN policy of technical cooperation among developing countries.

UNV maintains a roster of 1500 candidates - who tend to be young but highly qualified professionals. UNV assignments last for an initial period of two years.

UN volunteers are assigned either to projects initiated directly through the UN system or to domestic governments. They also provide sup

for such domestic development services as national volunteer services and development youth schemes.

The UNV programme assumes the entire legal and administrative responsibilities for the assignment of a UN volunteer. The contracts are established and signed between the UNV programme and the volunteer concerned.

The costs involved for each volunteer assignment comprise;

- (i) travel to and from the country of assignment
- (ii) health and life insurance
- (iii) settling-in grant
- (iv) monthly living allowance
- (v) free modestly furnished simple housing
- (vi) resettlement allowance.

Funding is derived from the indicative planning figures developed by the UN Development Programme, and the Special Voluntary Fund.

11. United States Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20526
United States of America
Tel: (202)655-4000

The Peace Corps is an enormous United States Volunteer Organisation: 5,400 volunteers are currently working in 60 countries around the Commonwealth and the world. The only legal project which they have undertaken in the past five years is with Solomon Islands provincial governments. Previously other work had been undertaken, for example to staff fledgeling law faculties in East Africa.

Peace Corps provides complete health care; transportation to and from the country of service; a living allowance to cover basic expenses of food, housing, clothing, local transportation and three months of pre-service training.

12. Volunteer Service Abroad
31 Pipitea Street
P.O. Box 12-246
Wellington
New Zealand
Tel: 725-759

Volunteer Service Abroad has serviced some innovative projects of a legal nature, with a high level of satisfaction being expressed by both the volunteers and their employing authorities.

VSAworks in 13 countries in the Pacific and South-East Asia.

It provides return airfares; insurance; initial, midterm and resettlement allowances. The employing authority provides a standard living allowance or a local salary plus furnished accommodation.

13.

Volunteer Service Overseas

9 Belgrave Square

London SW1X 8PW

United Kingdom

Tel: (01)235-5191

VSO is the largest British volunteer organisation working in Commonwealth countries. It had 1000 volunteers overseas in 1983. VSO has undertaken a number of legal projects in the Pacific and is enthusiastic about further development and the possibilities of securing volunteers of high legal calibre.

The organisation meets travel expenses, insurance and small grants at the beginning, mid-term and completion of service. Accommodation and a living allowance are provided by the employer overseas, which are based on the same rate as local people in equivalent jobs.

Volunteers under VSO undertake a minimum of two years' service.