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MEDIA TIPS AND LEADS

UVIC'S FIRST CANADA CORPS STUDENTS OFF TO INDIA:

Instead of heading back to class this September, University of Victoria students Roselynn Verwoord and Jennifer Scott will be on their way to India. As UVic's first Canada Corps international interns, Verwoord will be working with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia, and Scott will be working with UVic's International Institute for Child Rights and Development and its partner organization, The Concerned for Working Children (CWC). Canada Corps, administered by the Canadian International Development Agency, is co-chaired by Dr. Gordon Smith, director of UVic's centre for global studies, and Canadian astronaut Julie Payette. The program sends Canadians abroad to participate in good governance and institution-building in developing countries and fragile states. Verwoord, a fourth-year education student, will be working to develop an educational upgrade course for women elected to local office in India. "These women have been elected to participate in local governance," she says, "but they have low literacy and education. We'll be developing a course to give them the skills they need." Scott, who is earning a masters degree in child and youth care, says she will be working on children's labour rights issues in India. "We'll be empowering children to plan what they need for their communities and themselves and to lead the children's rights movement," she says.

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