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SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Filmmaker asserts that art requires risk

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EVAN NING/THE EPOCH TIMES

Green jobs will exceed trained workers: report

By CINDY CHAN
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Jobs in the environmental sector are growing rapidly and Canada needs to catch up to train more workers to meet the demand, says a recent report.

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL), the country's national organization for educational research, says that in 2011 the demand for environmental employees is expected to increase by 8.1 percent, fuelled by rising interest in environmental issues.

Taking the latest figures from ECO Canada, an industry-led group that specializes in research, training, and certification of environmental careers, the council says the pool of qualified workers is not keeping up with the rising demand.

The council says that the number of graduates from post-secondary environmental programs dropped by 9 percent between 1999 and 2005. It also estimates that in the meteorological field alone this year there will be more than 3,000 unfilled jobs.

"The green economy is an undeniable part of our society and global culture, and it is critical that Canada is prepared to meet this sector's need for skilled workers," said Paul Cappon, CCL's President and CEO, in a press release.

Careers in the green economy span a broad range. Some examples

include botanist, geologist, oceanographer, landscape architect, petroleum engineer, eco tourist operator, environmental lawyer, park interpreter, policy analyst, and pollution control technologist.

ECO Canada estimates that the environmental sector accounted for more than half a million jobs across the country in 2006. By 2011, the demand in this sector is expected to increase by nearly 40,000 jobs, reaching more than 570,000.

Mr. Cappon notes that people who pursue environmental careers are "a special shade of green," as they are drawn to their professions by personal belief rather than money or power.

"Students choose green careers primarily because of their personal interest in environmental issues, strong emotional connection towards the environment and passion about the environment and environmental issues," the CCL report said.

While the CCL findings identify the impending skills shortage, they also point to some potential solutions.

Based on research on career choices in the environmental sector, CCL recommends stimulating students' interest in the environment early as the key to increasing the supply of environmental program graduates.

PLEASE SEE GREEN JOBS ON P3

GOLDEN MOMENT



THE GREAT: Alexandre Bilodeau rallied the nation when he took home Canada's first-ever gold medal on home soil Sunday. It was an even more magical moment for his family. Reporter Matthew Little spoke with the Bilodeaus. Read more on A8. EVAN NING/THE EPOCH TIMES

Olympics bring opportunity, controversy for First Nations

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—From an Inuit logo, to centre stage in the opening ceremonies, to native-themed images on the Olympic medals, it's clear that aboriginal

culture has in no uncertain terms made its mark on the Vancouver Olympics.

But controversy continues as to whether the inclusion of First Nations iconography is simply propaganda to make the Games appear "Indian approved" or a sign

of sincere cooperation between VANOC and local First Nations.

Some critics, including an aggressive anti-Olympics movement operating under the banner of "No 2010 Olympics on Stolen Native Land," have charged that the organizers are exploiting

Aboriginal culture.

They allege that greedy "native collaborators" and those "ignorant" that the Games represent corporate interests are the reason local First Nations have thrown their support behind the Olympics.

PLEASE SEE CONTROVERSY ON P2

Foreign demand for U.S. debt drops by record amount

By ANTONIO PEREZ
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Foreign demand for U.S. Treasury bills fell by a record amount last December, U.S. government data showed on Wednesday. That month, China sold a record \$34.2 billion in U.S. treasuries, and relinquished its title as the United States' top debt holder.

The latest data released by the U.S. Department of Treasury underscores the trade tension between United States and China—with both countries accusing the other of unfair trade practices in recent months. The United States has long requested China to strengthen its currency, while China complained about U.S. trade policies and its arms sales to Taiwan.

PLEASE SEE DEBT ON P5



CHINA'S CONSCIENCE: Gao Zhisheng at his office in Beijing on Nov. 2, 2005. Gao has been arrested several times and subjected to severe torture, in particular because he spoke out against the persecution of Falun Gong. VERA YU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Missing Chinese rights lawyer alive, says group

By CHERYL CHEN
Epoch Times Staff

Missing Chinese human rights attorney Gao Zhisheng is in Urumqi, according to information released by Chinese authorities to the Dui Hua Foundation,

a U.S.-based human rights group.

Mr. Gao disappeared from his home on Feb. 4, 2009. No one, including his wife, has had news about his whereabouts or condition for over a year.

PLEASE SEE GAO ON P4

W2 brings new dimension to Olympics coverage

By ANDREA HAYLEY
Epoch Times Staff

For the first—and possibly last—time ever at an Olympics Games, Vancouver has an official social media centre, providing support for hundreds of independent journalists and bloggers from around the world wishing to cover the Games.

Located in the Downtown Eastside, the W2 Culture + Media House provides a space where unaccredited media can work, tweeting and blogging 24/7, and webcast programs live to a global audience.

Social media, often called new media, refers to the likes of citizen journalism, blogs, interactive websites, online video, and twitter feeds.

W2 Executive Director Irwin Oostende describes daily press conferences and 25 videographers who go out to support the bloggers and independent and online journalists who work out

of the public space.

"It's a kind of place for camaraderie and looking for stories, and because we're in the Downtown Eastside there is so much activity, there are so many issues here, we can be a great place for people to get the local stories, the local eyes on the ground," he says.

Oostende adds that by empowering citizen journalists and with the broad range of stories produced, the appeal of the Games can be expanded to individuals and groups "who may not be represented in the Olympic story."

"Social media provides that most direct access—empowerment of audiences and proliferation of storytelling away from the dominant media so that the articulation can be more nuanced, can be more relevant to the readers and the viewers."

W2's opening on Feb. 10 was attended by Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson.

PLEASE SEE W2 ON P3

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