

## Global citizenship

refers to understanding one's responsibilities to others, to society and to the environment by:

- ▶ examining the **meaning** of democracy and citizenship **from differing points of view** including non-dominant, non-western perspectives;
- ▶ exploring the various **rights and obligations** that citizens may be said to have in their communities, nations and in the world;
- ▶ understanding and reflecting on **one's own life**, career, and interests **in relation to** participatory democracy and the **general welfare of the global society**; and,
- ▶ exploring the relationship of global citizenship and **responsibility to the environment**.

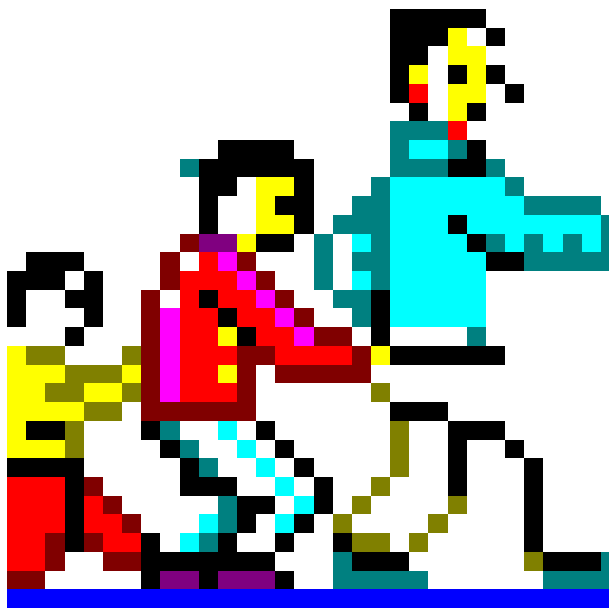
## A global citizen

- (a) is **aware of the wider world** and has a sense of their own role in that world as a citizen,
  - (b) respects and values **diversity**,
  - (c) is **willing to act** to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place, and
  - (d) **takes responsibility** for their actions
- (Oxfam, 2000)

Bryer (2000) notes that a global citizen:

- ◆ knows **where and how she fits in the wider world** and believes that she has the potential to develop the understanding and skills to **make an impact for the better**;
- ◆ is **self-aware** because of being open and sensitive to others;
- ◆ better **understands the whole** and sees how she is connected to, the world; and,
- ◆ knows she can **act to make a difference**.

Bryer (2000) adds that being a **global citizen** is not just about understanding, attitudes and values (e.g., human capital in the context of social capital); it is about:



**standing up,  
standing out  
and taking  
action!**

It is *participating*  
in the world as a  
*consumer citizen.*





**M**ore than a billion people are living at a material standard of living that is supposed to be able to support only 400-800 million people and another five billion people aspire to this standard of living



**T**he richest 20% of the world's people account for 80% of the world's total consumption



**A** child born in North America or England will consume, waste and pollute more in a lifetime than as many as 50 children in a developing country

- ❖ **W**e would need **three earths** if everyone on earth lived at the Canadian lifestyle
- ❖ **T**he average Canadian household has over 10,000 *things* in it (the ideal would be 200)
- ❖ **37%** of all clothes/apparel sold in Canada are made in China where they are forbidden from organizing to improve working conditions (sweatshops, child labour, prison labour)
- ❖ **80%** of all the products we buy are made by women (on average aged 12-14)

- ❖ **I**n the last 40 years, the world lost half of its **crop land**. It takes 500 years to form an inch of top soil - we deplete it 40 times faster than it can be replaced
- ❖ **T**he industrialized world uses close to 70% of all oil consumed in transport even though they make up only 20% of world's population
- ❖ **T**here are over 500 million cars in the world, expected to increase 5 fold, to 3 BIL, by 2020
- ❖ **E**very day, 11,000 children die of hunger, 800 million are starving (70% women and children) and 200 million suffer from malnutrition

**These patterns are not  
sustainable, are not  
just and **are**  
changeable, if we  
change the way we  
see ourselves in  
relation to the world!**

