



## Educação, Cidadania e Desenvolvimento Sustentável

### 1000 Women – Education, Citizenship and Sustainable Development

Funded by the Canadian Government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in collaboration with and with the support of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the **1000 Women** project runs from March 2007 to March 2011.

The **1000 Women** Project's primary goal is to promote the social and economic inclusion of disadvantaged women from the north-east and north of Brazil, enabling them to improve their workforce potential, their lives, and the lives of their families and communities. The purpose of the project is to contribute to the capacity development of the Federal Institutes of Education, Science and Technology (IF) system (similar to the Canadian college system) to develop the tools, techniques and curriculum to provide a minimum of 1000 disadvantaged women with vocational training and linkages to employers that will enable them to enter or progress in the workforce.

Under the project, a number of activities are conducted through a collaborative partnership of the Canadian college system, represented by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) and the Brazilian IF system represented by the Professional and Technological Secretariat of the Ministry of Education (SETEC/MEC). Activities include: the development of a process, the necessary administrative infrastructure, and the policies and procedures that would allow for the provision of access services (outreach and intake processes, counselling, assessments) to the target population of disadvantaged women; the customization and implementation of Prior Learning Assessment and

Recognition (PLAR) tools and techniques; the development and/or customization of appropriate vocational/professional assessment tools to identify knowledge, skills and the "gaps" for the target women group; the development and delivery of a generic "access program" and of a variety of sector-specific customized training programs; and the development of the systems and tools that would enhance the IFs capabilities to link to the employers in the community and provide disadvantaged women with internships and job placements.

The **1000 Women** project is developing a framework, models, practices, tools and techniques that will build a sustainable and effective adult access and training system within the individual IFs and within a network of IFs in the north-east and north regions of Brazil. Thirteen IFs have committed through SETEC/MEC to the implementation and continuity of this system for marginalized populations, although the system and tools benefit others as well. The Canadian experience using PLAR over the past 20 years in colleges and institutes has shown that an effective access and training system for marginalized or non-traditional groups benefits the broader community.







The **1000 Women** project focuses clearly on gender equity in access to education and the workforce, and the ultimate result of such access in improvement to family life, as well as regional and national economic development. The project also expects to improve women's access to the world of employment, with a resulting growth in the "health" of family life, and the potential ability of marginalized women to contribute to the governance of their communities as women become more economically enfranchised. The project has a "regional concentration" in its focus on the north-east and north of Brazil. These regions are well recognized as suffering from a highly unequal income distribution, unemployment or informal employment rate, and from lower levels of female labour force participation.

Throughout the proposed project, Canadian and Brazilian teams are developing the appropriate systems for the IFs, building on or customizing appropriate Canadian models and best practices in access services, prior learning assessment and recognition, and customized short-term training programs. The collaborative work will result in sharing of knowledge and skills and ultimately will strengthen the relationship between Canada and Brazil.

At the completion of the project, over 1000 disadvantaged women will have achieved an employment goal; from 10 to 15 IFs in the north-east and north of Brazil will have sustainable systems in place to provide access and customized training to disadvantaged women; and the strengthened relationship between Canadian and Brazilian college institutions will enhance the overall linkages between the two countries.



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