

# **SCYP ALUMNI** AN INTERVIEW WITH **BEN CHUNG** **FORMER: PARTICIPANT, STAFF AND PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

**Name?** Ben Ngo-Ming Chung

**What do you do for work?**

I am currently a Project Supervisor for Canada World Youth, leading a group of 18 youth volunteers aged 18-24 in a cultural exchange program for three months in Estelí, Nicaragua and three months in Saskatoon.

**What kinds of skills and knowledge do you use in the work that you do?**

Facilitation skills, knowledge of group dynamics, interpersonal skills, and of course my knowledge of co-operatives and the strength of co-operative problem solving!

**How were you involved in SCYP?**

I was a participant, then Junior Staff, and then a Program Assistant for 3 summers and Co-ordinator for 1 seminar.

**How did your involvement in SCYP influence you?**

SCYP really improved my self confidence, my people skills and my ability to speak and interact with people from very different backgrounds.

**What influenced/led you to do the work that you are doing now?**

My background is in teaching and I've always had an interest in other cultures, languages, and ways of seeing the world so Canada World Youth is the perfect mixture of these things for me. In my role as Project Supervisor I'm also able to hone my conflict resolution skills and improve my knowledge of group dynamics.

I would say that SCYP was the starting point for the path that I'm on right now. My experience in the seminars helped me realize that I had the ability and the responsibility to be an active global citizen which led me to get my Bachelor of Education, get involved with Oxfam Canada, and now my amazing work with Canada World Youth.



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**What do you find inspiring in your work?**

Working with a group of youth is very inspiring because they bring the energy, passion, and creative ideas that lead to some incredible things! I'm inspired that there is such a wealth of leadership in this generation and that our similarities cross borders and languages in a way that real positive change can happen.



**What else inspires you?**

I'm inspired by my parents who immigrated here from Hong Kong almost 20 years ago now so that they could give me a better life. Their strength, wisdom, and respect for others in their day to day actions inspire me to become a better person and help others in the way that they do. For example, my parents bake 4 dozen muffins every week to take to the Souls Harbour Mission House in Regina.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

My answer to this changes every week but right at this moment I would have to say Montreal. I'm absolutely in love with that city.

**Favourite summer activity?**

Swimming and reading in a hammock

**Last book you read?**

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

**Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?**

I used to make fun of a friend of mine for this but I've grown a serious dislike of goats. ☆

