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For the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development - Village Monde Exploring a World of Sustainable Destinations Grants: Registration is Open!

QUÉBEC, April 5, 2017 /CNW Telbec/ - **Village Monde** and the **Air Canada Foundation** are pleased to officially open registration today for 10 *Exploring a World of Sustainable Destinations* grants, which will allow 10 explorers to go off the beaten path to discover and evaluate the sustainable tourism initiatives of villages around the world.

The *Exploring a World of Sustainable Destinations* campaign, launched on March 2, is part of the activities celebrating the *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development*. The goal of the campaign is to make travellers aware of the benefits of eco-friendly village tourism, which provides economic support to disadvantaged communities in remote areas. During the first phase of the campaign, six bloggers travelled to Madagascar, Cambodia, Peru and Bolivia. During this second phase of the campaign, **Village Monde** hopes, with these 10 sustainable explorations, to add 200 new eco-friendly village destinations to its collaborative platform <https://villagemonde.com/en/>. This reservation platform enables these destinations to connect free of charge to the traveler space on a site that already includes over 120 eco-friendly initiatives in 23 countries.



10 countries to discover for Village Monde

Village Monde wishes to thank Air Canada and the Air Canada Foundation for agreeing to transport the bloggers during the first phase and, during the second phase, the explorers to 10 new countries located in three different continents. The winners will travel for three to six weeks between May 30 and October 31, 2017, to accomplish their exploration mission in one of the following countries: Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Laos, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Senegal, Thailand.

Important dates

Candidates with prior experience travelling off the beaten path and who are passionate about sustainable tourism may submit **their applications online by April 23** at <https://villagemonde.com/explorationsolidaire/en/>. They will have a choice of 4 grant categories based on their age and place of residence (Quebec, Canada, France): *Quebec Young Explorer Grant*, *Charlesbourg Young Explorer Grant*, *France Young Explorer Grant* and the *Canada Experienced Explorer Grant*. They will have to prepare a brief video presenting their motivation and skills for embarking on this type of mission. They must also fill out a registration form.

Finalists will have their videos posted online for **public vote** (public vote page) from **April 8 to May 7, 2017**. A jury will gather on May 12 to select the **10 winners**, who will be announced during a media event on **May 17** in Montreal.

Three meetings to answer candidates' questions

Already, over 500 candidates have expressed an interest in *Exploring a World of Sustainable Destinations* grants. The Village Monde team has arranged meetings for all candidates to answer their questions during three social media events. **On April 6 and 12 at 12:00 p.m.** (noon), Montreal time, Francis Lavoie and Catherine Dussault-Desmarais will be on **Facebook Live** on the **@villagemonde page**. **On April 13 at 1:00 p.m.**, Montreal time, they will be on **@villagemonde's Twitter page** to lead a discussion with the candidates. Don't hesitate to send them your questions in advance via social media.

The blogger challenge, an amazing look at what awaits the winners!

To get candidates inspired about sustainable exploration, Village Monde and its partners organized an exciting blogger challenge in three continents from March 25 to April 3. As key eyewitnesses immersed in the villages, the bloggers published their travel impressions on social media and wrote numerous articles that give hints of the type of adventures winners can expect! **We invite you to read their articles at** www.villagemonde.com/explorationsolidaire/en.

Thanks to our partners!

Village Monde would like to thank its partners, who made this large-scale international solidarity campaign possible: the [Air Canada Foundation](#), [LOJQ](#), [CECI](#), the [Caisse populaire Desjardins de Charlesbourg](#), the **Charlesbourg Rotary Club** (Canada), the [ATES](#) and the [ATD](#) (France).

To apply for the *Exploring a World of Sustainable Destinations* grants and follow all the developments on this around-the-world

awareness tour, visit www.villagemonde.com/explorationsolidaire/en.

About Village Monde:

Village Monde is a Quebec philanthropic organization of social innovation founded by Charles Mony and Isabelle Vitté in 2010. Working internationally and under the guidance of its president and successful entrepreneur Charles Mony, Village Monde supports sources of life and wealth-generating initiatives that help improve living conditions in remote and marginalized communities through their social, economic and environmental benefits. Alongside Danielle Valiquette, a well-known actor in international cooperation, in 2015 Village Monde made a transition to sustainable tourism for development by focusing on the support, promotion and development of village tourism and by launching its collaborative reservation platform:

www.villagemonde.com/en.

Thank you to our partners!

About:

The Air Canada Foundation

The Air Canada Foundation, a not-for-profit organization focused on the health and well-being of children and youth, was launched in 2012. It offers financial and in-kind support, through travel assistance, to Canadian registered charities. Its core program is the Air Canada Foundation Hospital Transportation Program, which donates Aeroplan Miles to pediatric hospitals across Canada, enabling children to access medical care unavailable locally. For more information about the Air Canada Foundation, please visit www.aircanada.com/foundation or view the 2015 Corporate Sustainability Report: Citizens of the World online at

https://www.aircanada.com/content/dam/aircanada/portal/documents/PDF/agents/en/documents/csr_2015_report_en.pdf.

LOJIQ

LOJIQ is a group of four offices that annually support over 4,000 Quebec youth between the ages of 18 and 35 who seek personal and professional development through rewarding and educational international mobility experiences. LOJIQ is also involved in welcoming nearly 3,000 young adults from abroad to Quebec. LOJIQ reports to the Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie. lojiq.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Info-LOJIQ](#)

CECI

CECI is a Quebec international cooperation organization that carries out sustainable development projects to support communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas in the fight against poverty and exclusion. Since it was founded in 1958, CECI has trained more than 10,000 volunteers in Canada and 30 other countries, assisted more than 5,000 local organizations and improved the lives of 25 million disadvantaged people. www.ceci.ca/en/

The Caisse populaire Desjardins de Charlesbourg and Rotary Club of Charlesbourg

The Caisse populaire Desjardins de Charlesbourg actively participates in the social and economic development of communities in order to help create sustainable prosperity. As part of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we are happy to join Village Monde and contribute to the economic and social well-being of people and communities by promoting village tourism.

The Rotary Club of Québec-Charlesbourg provides humanitarian service and encourages the observation of high ethical standards in all vocations. As part of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we are happy to join Village Monde and help foster goodwill and peace throughout the world while contributing to local development.

The ATES and the ATD

The Association du Tourisme Équitable et solidaire - ATES. It was natural for us to partner with Village Monde because **ATES'** objective is to define, evaluate and give voice to another type of tourism in France and to conduct meetings and discussions and discover the people and cultures of the world. Thus, we are proud to combine our strengths to develop and promote a different type of tourism as a lever for international development and solidarity. www.tourismesolidaire.org

The mission of **the réseau des Acteurs du Tourisme Durable - ATD** is to unite and represent professionals working to promote sustainable development in tourism. Currently comprising nearly 100 members (tour operators, destination management companies, territories...), ATD collects and promotes best practices in the sector, which can be found at www.tourisme-durable.org.

SOURCE Village Monde

To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/April2017/05/c8054.html>

For further information: Marie-Andrée Boucher, Public Relations Manager, Village Monde, 1-418-317-6466, marieandree.boucher@villagemonde.com; Isabelle Arthur, Media Relations & Manager, Air Canada Foundation, 1-514-422 5788, Isabelle.arthur@aircanada.ca, aircanada.com/Foundation



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