

July 27, 2015

Hello IJB!

My name is Dow Linnell and I am the incoming International Junior Representative (IJR) for 2015-2016. I will be serving the remainder of Hana Strickland's 2014-2016 term, and I thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself before we (hopefully!) meet in Norway at Global Conference and IJBC. I have divided this introduction up into my personal life and CISV experience to make it easier for you to get a clearer understanding of who I am and my ideas for the IJR term. I will of course be more than happy to answer any/all your questions should they arise! Happy reading!

Personal Life

As mentioned, my name is Dow... Well, actually it's Dowling. I just go by Dow to make it easier on everyone. Feel free to call me which ever you prefer! I live in Calgary, Canada where I recently graduated post-secondary with a business degree in Management, Marketing and Global Tourism. I am 22 years of age and when I'm not hanging out with my dog Maggie, you can find me volunteering with local community organizations or spending time with my friends. I just got a job as a Manager of Marketing and Product Development with a luxury travel and tourism company in Calgary and am very much looking forward to starting with them in October. I have experience working in administration positions writing corporate policies, managing client services and pioneering corporate charitable initiatives.

CISV Experience

I have been involved with CISV since I was 13 years old. My first experience was a Village Open Day in Calgary, where I met a group of 11 year olds who would change my life forever. I joined JB immediately and over the years I've held nearly every position available to me both locally, and nationally. I was NJR for Canada between 2011-2013, and have since been working internationally with the IJB Team as their Communications Specialist. I now work with a variety of task forces, working groups, and special teams as the JB Representative and IJB Communications Specialist. For a more detailed breakdown of my past roles please visit my [JB Pedia page](#).

Outside of JB, I have participated, JC'd, led, staffed, or directed in every CISV programme except for IPP and YM. I have just completed my 12th CISV International experience one week ago. I was a Village Director in Jacksonville, Florida and boy, was that ever fun!

Looking Forward

Transitioning into this role right now is very exciting. Not only as it is so near to our first ever Global Conference, but also as we know there is a Junior Branch Review underway which has released a thought provoking [discussion paper](#). Now, I could jump into a long drawn out response on how I personally feel about the idea of Pathways, but I won't. Because the truth is, whoever sits in the role of IJR needs not be for or against the concept. Rather, they need to be willing to be flexible in times of change. They need to be strong for all the members and make decisions for the greater good of the Junior Branch. That person needs to have the confidence to help guide whatever change comes, and based on my experiences both in and outside of CISV, I am not only capable of handling change, but I am comfortable facilitating it while

executing strategic plans. I look for learning opportunities around every corner and how I can channel the IJB Team's energy bringing them and JB to the next level.

The Junior Branch Review Team has put a tremendous amount of work into this "thought experiment", bringing many valuable ideas to the forefront of our membership's minds. Topics like: youth involvement, and developing new personal growth opportunities, are areas of focus that help to build active global citizens and engaged youth volunteers at every level of the organization, which, ideally is where we would like to be. However, in order for Junior Branch to be successful these are areas we must delve into further. I believe we have much work ahead of us, and will certainly be faced with many more opportunities to look inward and adapt to the future of CISV. With that said, I am eager to put my best foot forward and be a strong voice for all JBers.

Conclusion

I hope that I could give you at the very least a glimpse into my life and how I got to where I am today. Should you still be curious please take a peek at my [IJR Candidate Questionnaire from 2014](#) (username: `ijb.guest` | password: `cisv4all`) as I dove into a few of my previous projects and explored some pretty interesting questions. In the meantime, should you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to write me a note at dow.linnell@ca.cisv.org. Thanks for taking the time to get to know me a bit; I cannot wait to get to know you all in just a few short days!

Until then,

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Dow Linnell

IJB Team - Communications Specialist
Incoming International Junior Representative
CISV International
Building Global Friendship

2015 - CISV Year of Conflict and Resolution