

Montreal Council of Women

Thursday, April 7, 2016

Guest Speaker

Wanda Bedard, Founder: 60 Million Girls

Rachel Raspberry Pi:

Innovation in girls' education in the developing world

Technology can transform lives even in the most remote areas. Since 2013, Wanda Bedard, through her foundation *60 million girls*, has been harnessing new technologies to educate young girls and children in rural areas of Sierra Leone.

Using a device called RACHEL-PI, she is helping children in a remote district of Sierra Leone to reach their academic goals by giving them access to learning materials.

RACHEL-PI is an offline server that runs on a tiny and affordable computer and that can deliver maths and science tutorials to students living in remote areas where the lack of electricity, of transportation and of qualified teachers make for poor schooling conditions.

RACHEL-PI is transforming the lives of young people there. 'They now have access to a wealth of educational content and can take control of their learning; they are becoming more and more curious about things' said Wanda Bedard during her presentation at the MCW meeting on April 7.

Not only the children, but the whole community is attracted by the technology. 'Community engagement is paramount' said Wanda, 'It elevates the level of education'. The project has been so successful that *60 million girls* will be partnering with McGill University to evaluate the impact of self-learning education and the impact of technology on intrinsic motivation over the next two years.

They will be adding a digital literacy program to the maths and science tutorials to help the children learn how to read and write as well.

60 million girls is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Since its inception, it has invested \$ 2.4 million in girls' education projects. It is entirely volunteer run and is supporting projects in 14 developing countries around the world.

For more information, visit: <http://60millionsdefilles.org/en/>