

# PEOPLE & PROJECTS



## KARMA?

The Partners met last week, as they do every November, and had as their guest speaker Jeffrey Simpson, a national affairs columnist at The Globe and Mail.

One of the speaker's gifts was the purchase from Tree Canada of 10 trees in Jeffrey's name. Tree Canada is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that calculates the cost of carbon footprints, charges participating organizations accordingly and plants trees to offset their carbon dioxide emissions. (The Partners' meeting was run as a carbon neutral event - we have made a donation to have 191 trees planted across Canada.)

Interestingly Speakers' Spotlight, the company that represents Jeffrey, has chosen as one of their means of volunteerism to partner with Kiva.org. To thank Dillon, they have extended a loan in our name to Kiva.org, the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to entrepreneurs in the developing world. By combining microfinance with the internet, they are creating a global community of people connected through lending to help alleviate poverty.

*Idigul Nurova lives in the city of Norak. She works in the same city, running a business. For the last five years she has been selling various foods. The income coming from the business enables her to support her family. She alone raises and provides for her three children. Her husband is jobless, so she works a lot. She decided to apply for a loan to increase sales. It will help her expand the business. The loan will be repaid over 10 months.*



P.S. - for those who are interested, check out the Kiva website...it's quite interesting!