

**The Poverty of Corrupt Nations**  
**Roy Cullen**  
**Blue Butterfly Books, 2008, 228 pages**

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**Reading room**  
**By Krista Boehnert, MLIS, Alumni Officer**

We've all heard it before. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, especially in undeveloped countries where a very small portion of the population has abundant wealth, and the majority live in poverty, struggling with large families, disease and a lack of resources to feed, clothe and shelter their kin. To those of us in the developed world, it has become a distant and muted refrain, but author and former MP Roy Cullen gives us a wake-up call: if all is not well with people on the planet, something must be done to improve things.

And that's what makes *The Poverty of Corrupt Nations* such a powerhouse book. It's not just its well-researched, thought-provoking content; it's because the author's passion for the topic engages the reader and serves as a call to action. Cullen shares insights into the vicious cycle of poverty and corruption that exists in many undeveloped countries. He outlines several strategies for addressing corruption: accountable, transparent governments, government watchdogs (like our attorney general) and an independent press that can report balanced, unbiased views of a nation's workings to its citizens. He also argues that a reduction of trade barriers, sustainable natural resource management and fair labour practices will help developing countries alleviate abject poverty and curb corruption.

If I lacked faith in our elected officials, it has been restored by Cullen's breadth of knowledge and his passion to make the world a better place for its citizens. His solutions require committed individuals to move them forward—which would vastly improve the well-being of many people around the world.