



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

www.unesco.ca

50th Annual General Meeting May 6-8, 2010

Hôtel Château Laurier Québec
1220, place George-V Ouest
Québec (Québec)
<http://www.vieux-quebec.com/en/laurier/>

2010

International Year of Biodiversity and International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures





Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity

This year, the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO will explore the linkages between biodiversity and cultural diversity, and the potential for strengthening synergies between them, through its focus on the two international years being celebrated in 2010: the International Year of Biodiversity and the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

The themes and objectives of these two International Years, both being celebrated in 2010, pave the way for interdisciplinary exchange and intersectoral cooperation. They offer rich potential for further exploring the linkages between them and for developing strategies that consider the maintenance and reinforcement of diversity – both biological and cultural – as requisite for sustainable development and prosperity, and for living together in peace.

“Recent years have seen the emergence of integrative fields of inquiry (resilience thinking, ecosystem health, ethnoecology, deep ecology, etc.) that have sought to improve our understanding of the complex interactions between culture and nature, to incorporate insights from both the biological and the social sciences, and to integrate traditional and local knowledge systems and worldviews with conventional scientific approaches. Over the last decade, the Biocultural Diversity paradigm has emerged as a unifying platform rooted in life-sustaining interdependencies and co-evolution of various forms of diversity.”

(Source: Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, Report of the International Workshop organized by UNESCO with support from The Christensen Fund, 2007)

International Year of Biodiversity 2010 “Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is Our Life”

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, and designated the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD – located in Montréal) as focal point for the Year. UNESCO, through education, the natural, social and human sciences, culture and its emphasis on diversity, and communication, is a central promoter of the year by tackling the root causes of biodiversity erosion and loss due to unsustainable development. This year coincides with the 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002, to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by this date.

The celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity are a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role of biodiversity in sustaining life on Earth and of its importance to human well-being and poverty reduction. It is an occasion to promote innovative solutions to reduce threats to biodiversity, to call for immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss and to initiate dialogue among stakeholders on necessary steps for the post-2010 period.

The four key messages of the Year are:

1. Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it.
2. Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on.
3. Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. These losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on every day. But we can prevent them.
4. 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. Let's reflect on our achievements to safeguard biodiversity and focus on the urgency of our challenge for the future. Now is the time to act.

International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2010

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures and designated UNESCO as the lead agency. In launching the Year, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stated, "In asking UNESCO to lead [the Year], the United Nations General Assembly wanted to capitalize on the ample and successful experiences of UNESCO in fostering international cooperation through education, the sciences, culture and communication."

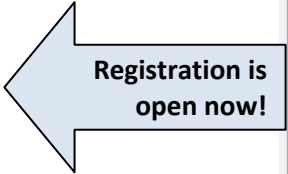
This International Year marks the culmination of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), and the beginning of new strategies to promote cultural diversity and to show how intercultural dialogue and understanding are essential for a peaceful world.

Based on the principle of the equal dignity of cultures, mutual respect and the strengthening of cooperation for lasting peace, UNESCO, in consultation with Member States and partner organizations, has identified four major themes for the year:

1. Promoting reciprocal knowledge of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity;
2. Building a framework for commonly shared values;
3. Strengthening quality education and the building of intercultural competences;
4. Fostering dialogue for sustainable development.

For more information please see the following websites:

1. [Environment Canada](http://www.ec.gc.ca) (www.ec.gc.ca) **International Year of Biodiversity 2010**
2. [International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity, Montréal, June 8-10, 2010](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/icbcd/) (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/icbcd/>)
3. [Convention on Biological Diversity: 2010 International Year of Biodiversity](http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome) (<http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome>)
4. [UNESCO, Paris](http://www.unesco.org) (www.unesco.org): **International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures**



Registration is
open now!



Thursday, May 6, 2010

<p>2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Foyer des Plaines</p> <p>4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Foyer des Plaines</p>	<p>Arrival of participants</p> <p>Registration</p> <p>Informal networking activity / Poster Session</p>
<p>5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Salle des Plaines</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Panelists:</p>	<p>Launch of the UNESCO World Report “Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome remarks, Michèle S. Jean, President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO• Presentation of the UNESCO World Report, Georges B. Kutukdjian, Scientific Expert and General Editor, UNESCO World Report <i>Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue</i>• Remarks by Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Government of Québec• Representative of the Government of Canada (TBC) <p>Panel of Experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David A. Walden, Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO• Tony Pigott, President and CEO, J. Walter Thompson (JWT) Canada, and Member of the Advisory Committee for the UNESCO World Report, <i>Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue</i>• Marie McAndrew, Chair, Canada Research Chair on Education and Ethnic Relations, University of Montréal, Montréal, Québec• Georges B. Kutukdjian, Scientific Expert and General Editor, UNESCO World Report <i>Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue</i> <p>Question Period and Closing Remarks</p>
<p>7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Assemblée nationale du Québec</p>	<p>Welcome Reception – Cocktail dînatoire Hosted by the Government of Québec Restaurant Le Parlementaire</p>



Friday, May 7, 2010

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Foyer des Plaines

Registration

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Foyer des Plaines

Breakfast and Poster Session (Kiosks)

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Salle des Plaines

Plenary:

- Welcome by representatives of the Aboriginal community
 - **Konrad Sioui**, Grand Chief of the Huron Wendat Nation
 - **Ghislain Picard**, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Québec and Labrador
- Opening Remarks by the President of the Commission, **Michèle S. Jean**
- Welcome by **Christine Alfsen**, Director, a.i., UNESCO Office, New York
- Annual Report by the Secretary-General, **David A. Walden**

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Foyer des Plaines

Break and Poster Session (Kiosks)

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Salle des Plaines

Plenary:

- Group discussions on the links between activities of the participants and UNESCO's work

11:15 a.m. – 12 a.m.
Salle des Plaines

**Keynote Speaker: Hubert Reeves,
2010, International Year of Biodiversity and
International Year of Rapprochement
of Cultures**

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Salle des Plaines

Lunch and Poster Session (Kiosks)

(Intergenerational partnership participants meet in Room Grande-Allée)

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Salle des Plaines

Plenary:

- Continuation of Dialogue with **Hubert Reeves**
- Collective Intelligence Activity
- Closing remarks by the President, **Michèle S. Jean**

Collective intelligence emerges from the interactions, collaborations and conversations of individuals sharing their knowledge, creativity and passion to seek answers to questions that are important to them.

Collective intelligence is not merely a quantitative contribution of information by people from many different backgrounds, it is also qualitative, and evolves from the synergy they create. In that sense, it is greater than the sum of its parts.



Saturday, May 8, 2010

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Foyer des Plaines

Breakfast

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Salle des Plaines

Launch and screening of two new National Film Board of Canada (NFB) playlists on biodiversity and cultural diversity.

The presentation will be followed by interactive discussions on how to use NFB films online to stimulate dialogue and engagement on the two themes. Presentation by **Claude Joli-Cœur**, Assistant Commissioner, and **Susan Nosov**, Special Projects, National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Salle des Plaines

Business Meeting (Plenary)

- Adoption of the Draft Agenda
- Adoption of the Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting
- Address by the President, **Michèle S. Jean**
- Address by the President designate, **Axel Meisen**
- Address by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO, **H.E. André Bachand**
- Elections
- Close of the 50th Annual General Meeting

12 p.m. – 13:30 p.m.
Salle des Plaines

Lunch

Departure of Participants

Simultaneous interpretation will be offered in all sessions except when the meeting format requires spontaneous dialogue in group discussions. We are counting on the support of bilingual participants to act as a resource to facilitate participation in both official languages.



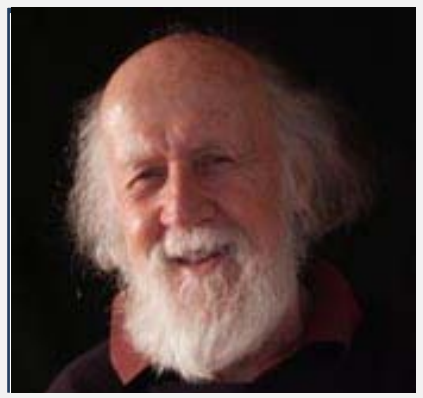
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Poster Session (Kiosks)

1. **“ Bringing Together University Communities – Diverse Approaches and Disciplines : An Opportunity to Share the Outcomes of UNESCO Chairs in Canada”**
 - UNESCO Chairs in Canada
2. **“UNESCO Associated Schools in Québec: A Window to the World!”**
 - UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)
3. **“UNESCO Biosphere Reserves : Special Places of Biodiversity, Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Intercultural Dialogue for Sustainable Development”**
 - Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA)
4. **“CRRF : Towards the Elimination of Racism and the Strengthening of a Harmonious Canada”**
 - Canadian Race Relations Foundation
5. **“Innucadie : Territoire fantastique”**
 - Le festival de contes et de la légende de l’Innucadie
6. **“Dialogue : The Tools, the Training, the Practise”**
 - YOUCAN
7. **“Biodiversity, Climate Change and Human Impacts”**
 - Environment Canada
8. **“YMCA Youth Peace Network”**
 - YMCA of Greater Vancouver
9. **“Can Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity Coexist? A Visual Presentation”**
 - Centre for Emerging Markets, University of Winnipeg
10. **“Education and Biodiversity - Planting the Seeds of a Sustainable Tomorrow”**
 - Regional Centre of Expertise Saskatchewan

Keynote Speaker Hubert Reeves



Hubert Reeves, internationally renowned astrophysicist, was born in Montréal (Québec) on 13 July 1932. He studied at the Brebeuf school, the University of Montréal and the Cornell University (USA) where he obtained a PhD in nuclear astrophysics. He then taught at the University of Montréal while working as a scientific adviser for NASA. From 1966 to 1997, he was Director of Research at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) while teaching at the Observatory of Meudon (France). He is Associate Professor in the Physics Department of the University of Montréal.

In 1981, he received the Scientific Award from the Fondation de France. In 2004, he received the Order of Commander of the French Legion of Honor. He is a member of the Académie Canadienne-française (now Académie des lettres du Québec) (1988), the Royal Academy of Canada (1991), National Order of Québec (Officer in 1994 and Companion in 2003).

Author of numerous books, many of which are best-sellers, he is a gifted lecturer. And a musician at heart.

Hubert Reeves is the President of the ROC League for the preservation of wild fauna, which promotes biodiversity preservation.

For more information: www.hubertreeves.info and www.biodiversite2012.org

Biographies

Ghislain Picard is Innu and is a member of the Pessamit community.

Between 1976 and 1989, he devoted most of his time to communications. Among other things, he was responsible for communications and media relations for the Conseil Atikamekw Montagnais (CAM). He published a periodical called "Tepatshimuwin" for Atikamekw and Innu communities.

In the early 1980s, Mr. Picard was President of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Québec. In 1983, he was actively involved in establishing a community radio station network within his nation. He was a founding member of the Société de communication atikamekw et montagnaise (SOCAM), which produces radio shows in Aboriginal languages.

In the mid 1980s, Mr. Picard participated on behalf of SOCAM in a UNESCO-led international study on the role of communication in rural communities.

After acting as Vice President of CAM in 1989, he was elected Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador in 1992 and holds this position to this day. As part of this role, he sits on the Assembly of First Nations National Executive Committee and has been the spokesperson for the Education, Languages, Health and International portfolios.

On October 28, 2003, Mr. Picard became a Chevalier of the Ordre national du Québec. On January 24, 2005, he received the insignia for the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur from the Consul General of France.

Konrad H. Sioui is the Grand Chief of the Huron Wendat Nation since October 31st, 2008. In that capacity, he assumes the responsibilities linked to this position, for the internal management of his community as well as taking part in the multiple assemblies and meetings with the Authorities of the Municipal, Provincial, Federal and other First Nations' Governments.

He is presently completing a doctorate / PhD in Graduate Studies at Laval University and his former experiences have prepared him to occupy this function of Grand Chief. Thus, he was Executive Director, Senior Counsellor and Chief Negotiator for the Innu of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam for five (5) years.

Previously, as First Nations' Specialist within the Standing Senatorial Committee for the Aboriginal People, he was Consultant-Expert for the Special Review on Self-Government. His other experiences include: Senior Analyst and Special Counsellor to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, Founder and Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador, Chief within the Council of the Huron Wendat Nation, Economic Development and Native Employment Officer with the Department of Employment and Immigration.

In 2000, he was given the prize in the "Public Service" category at the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards for work accomplished during the last 30 years with the First Peoples of Canada.

Christine Alfsen is the Director, a.i. of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) Office in New York. The focus of her work in the last ten years has been on governance of urban areas and ecosystems functions in human dominated landscapes. As the Senior Science Program Specialist for UNESCO in North America, she founded the UNESCO URBIS Initiative which is a network of municipalities, educators, planners, universities, and research organizations, promoting sustainable urban development. She also works with the Cities and Biodiversity Network coordinated by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ms. Alfsen also coordinates networks of NGOs in North America to foster on the ground activities and awareness of Education for Sustainable Development. From 1999-2005, she developed and managed the Columbia University/UNESCO Joint Program on Biosphere and Society (CUBES), a network combining the strengths of major research institutions with UNESCO's global networks supporting globally relevant local strategies for poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and conflict mitigation.

Ms. Alfsen was born in France and received her undergraduate training in Political Sciences at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (IEP), followed by graduate degrees in Public Law and Development Economics. She also has degrees in Russian and Romanian languages and civilizations. She joined the UN system in 1979.

Her career included 18 years in Southeast Asia, with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Thailand where she served as a regional adviser on the Law of the Sea, five years in Cambodia where she was part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the Natural Resources Sector, and from 1995 to 1997, at UNESCO Phnom Penh where she managed the Environment Unit.

Biographies of Panelists of the Launch of the UNESCO World Report “Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue”

Georges B. Kutukdjian was born in Cairo, Egypt, and his formal education is in philosophy and social anthropology, from the University of Paris.

After a research assignment from 1968 to 1971 at the French *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS), he held several positions at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 1972 to 2001, including Director of the Bioethics Programme, Senior Director of the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, Secretary-General of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and Executive Secretary of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). From 2002 to 2003, he was the Rapporteur for the IBC Drafting Group of the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data.

Since 1996 he has taught a Master’s seminar on diplomacy and international organizations (University of Paris-South), and since 1999 a Master’s seminar in bioethics and biotechnologies (University of Versailles).

Mr. Kutukdjian is the author of numerous articles, essays, reports and publications on social anthropology, human rights issues, bioethics and the ethics of science. He has also served as the general editor of the UNESCO World Report *Investing in Cultural Diversity and in Intercultural Dialogue*.

Tony Pigott currently holds the positions of President and CEO, J. Walter Thompson (JWT) Canada, and Global Director, Ethos JWT. He is also a Co-Founder of the BRANDAID Project.

He graduated from the University of Western Ontario and spent a number of years combining travel with teaching and publishing work in Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Mr. Pigott then joined JWT – an advertising and marketing communications company that is part of the WPP network operating in over 90 countries. For more than twenty-five years Mr. Pigott has developed strategy and communications programmes for various leading businesses including Unilever, HSBC, Kraft, Johnson & Johnson, Shell, Nestle, Wal-Mart and The Discovery Channel.

Mr. Pigott also launched JWT’s Social Marketing practise, now called Ethos JWT. It is the centre of excellence for social strategy and communications for the agency globally and has undertaken audits of consumer trends, social issues and corporate best practise in the area of Social Change and CSR around the world.

Mr Pigott has been involved with UNESCO for over 7 years, starting in 2002 where he initiated a UN Type Two partnership between UNESCO and JWT that was presented at the *World Summit on Sustainable Development*. More recently, Tony was selected by the Director-General of UNESCO to join an advisory committee providing guidance on the development of UNESCO’s World Report, *Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue*.

In 2008, Mr. Pigott, Cameron Brohman and Academy Award-winning director Paul Haggis launched the BRANDAID Project. BRANDAID Project is a radical new idea bringing modern marketing, design, and celebrity power to developing world master artisan communities so they can gain access to worldwide markets, sell their works at fair prices, share in the profits and gain independence. See www.BRANDAIDProject.com. BRANDAID has been piloted in Haiti in collaboration with UNESCO and the Award of Excellence Programme, and includes a not-for-profit BRANDAID Foundation that supports skills education, community development, and now efforts to rebuild Haiti's artisan community.

Marie McAndrew is a full professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations at the University of Montréal. She holds a PhD in Comparative Education and has specialized in the education of minorities and intercultural education. She has worked extensively in research and policy development and evaluation in this field. From 1989 to 1991, as an advisor to the Deputy Minister's cabinet of the Québec Department of Cultural Communities and Immigration, she was closely associated with the development and dissemination of the Policy Statement on immigration and integration, *Let's build Québec together*.

From 1996 to 2002, she was the Director of *Immigration and Metropolis* at the Inter-university Research Centre of Montréal on Immigration, Integration and Urban Dynamics, one of four centres created in 1996 by the Social Sciences Research Council of Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the framework of their joint initiative to foster the development of research and policy related to immigration.

From 1993 to 2004, Dr. McAndrew also coordinated the Research Group on Ethnicity and Adaptation to Pluralism in Education (Groupe de recherche sur l'éthnicité et l'adaptation au pluralisme en éducation - GREAPE). This was an interdisciplinary research team that worked in partnership with the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ), the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration (MRCI) as well as a number of School Boards on the Island of Montréal. Dr. McAndrew's book, « Immigration et diversité à l'école : le cas québécois dans une perspective comparative » (Immigration and Diversity in School : the Québécois Case in a Comparative Perspective) won the Donner prize 2001 attributed to the best book on Canadian public policy.

Since June 2003, Dr. McAndrew has held the Chair for Ethnic Relations, and in June 2006 she was awarded a SSHRC Canada Senior Research Chair in Education and Ethnic Relations.

In June 2005, Ms. McAndrew received the Jacques-Couture Québec Citizenship Prize for Intercultural Rapprochement, in recognition of the relevance of her involvement in research and dissemination to the development of public policies better adapted to pluralism. She was also a member of the Consultative Committee on integration and reasonable accommodation in the school setting, established by the Minister of Education of Québec in October 2006.

The Commission's Commitment to Sustainable Development

50th Annual General Meeting

In the spirit of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), the Commission considers its own contribution to sustainable development as essential. As a complement to our reflections and discussions on the necessary societal shifts to embrace new approaches and behaviors to achieve a sustainable future, concrete actions have been undertaken for this year's Annual General Meeting.

For example:

- Fair trade products such as tea and coffee are offered;
- Numerous materials such the programme and our newsletter have been printed on recycled paper with double-sided pages;
- Recycle bins have been made accessible (paper, cans);
- Pitchers of water and juice (avoiding bottled water) and low-packaging snacks are being offered;
- Leftover food will be donated to a local food bank (as permitted by health regulations);
- Soy milk and some vegan meal options are available;
- Out of town participants have been encouraged to take public transportation or to share cabs.

As you may have noticed, the number of publications and information material brought to the AGM has been significantly reduced. If you wish to obtain copies of specific documents, most UNESCO www.unesco.org and Canadian Commission for UNESCO www.unesco.ca materials are downloadable from the web or can be specifically requested from the Commission and mailed to you.

In your hotel rooms, you are invited to reuse linens and towels to reduce the use of water and detergents. This should be indicated to the hotel staff by hanging the towels that do not need to be replaced.

Upon your departure, please return your name tag holders to the Registration Desk so we can reuse them at other events.

The Commission would also like to thank the Hotel Chateau Laurier Québec for its cooperation in assisting us in the responsible planning of this event.

We thank you for your contribution to maximize these efforts.



Notes