



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
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NEWS RELEASE
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Canadian Commission for UNESCO Announces International Adult Learners' Week 2010

Ottawa, January 15, 2010. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO announced that International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) 2010 will be celebrated across Canada from March 1 to 7.

This annual celebration provides partners in adult education with an opportunity to share success stories and best practices, to gain greater insight into challenges, and to plan future collaborative efforts.

A particular focus of this year's events will be the call to action issued at the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) in Belém, Brazil, in December 2009. CONFINTEA participants from around the world, including Canada, unanimously called for equal access to education for all people, even the most vulnerable, in order to develop a just, inclusive and economically sustainable society in the 21st century. The CONFINTEA VI Framework of Action calls for partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector to mobilize broad political support and resources for adult education, particularly in the area of literacy.

As part of the IALW celebration, the Commission has prepared a special publication, titled *Opening up the Possibilities*, which reports on key ideas and issues from CONFINTEA VI. The magazine also features success stories by adult learners in Canada as well as ideas and perspectives of partners within the adult learning community. We encourage partners to prepare an insert for this magazine with local information relevant to learners.

David A. Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, wishes to thank all partners across the country, including governments at all levels, non-governmental organizations, community-



based groups and educators, for their support of this Week and for their commitment to adult learning. "Each successive celebration has witnessed increased partner participation and greater outreach to a wide variety of groups," he said.

Information about the Week and a PDF version of the magazine will be posted at: www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx

- 30 -

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