



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

[www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### International Adult Learner's Week Kicks Off

**Thursday, September 8, 2005, Ottawa, Ontario** Today through September 14<sup>th</sup>, adults around the globe will commemorate adult learning in all its forms by celebrating International Adult Learner's Week. Communities across Canada will be holding events to highlight the importance of adult learning.

This year's theme, 'Building Sustainable Communities', underlines the potential that learning has for transforming every aspect of personal, professional and community life. "Adult learning is a key element for encouraging active participation in our communities," said Max Wyman, President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which delivers the Week in Canada. "It lies at the very heart of solutions for meeting the challenges we face together—opening our minds to other cultures and welcoming immigrants, fighting poverty and exclusion, protecting our environment and our health, and respecting human rights."

As a global movement that continues to gain momentum, International Adult Learners' Week is now observed in more than 40 countries. In Canada, the Week is the result of a successful partnership between the federal government, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and provincial/territorial departments responsible for education, and numerous non-government organizations. Through the support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, International Adult Learners' Week is celebrated for the third time in this country. Groups and organizations across the country have organized events and activities for the Week and throughout the year to highlight the many opportunities for lifelong learning and to underscore the challenges that still exist.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is a consultative forum that advises the Canadian government on its relations with UNESCO. It coordinates UNESCO activities in Canada and brings together government and non-government partners concerned with matters falling within UNESCO's mandate.

-30-

For information on an event in your region, please visit [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca) or contact Aurélie Walsh.

Aurélie Walsh  
Blueprint Public Relations  
(613) 237-7400 Ext. 23  
cell (613) 797-4259  
Website: [www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca)