



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(2005)**



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

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## Annual Report of the Secretary-General (2005)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ottawa, 12 January 2006

I am pleased to present this report to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The report provides information about the principle activities of the Commission in Canada and its contribution to the work of UNESCO around the world. As the following pages attest, the Commission continues to build on its strong relationship with existing partners, while at the same time developing new partnerships across Canada to ensure that UNESCO's values and goals reach the widest possible audience.

During 2005, the Commission actively pursued its consultative role within Canada, concentrating on the draft programme and budget of UNESCO (33 C/5) and preparations for the World Conference of Arts Education in 2006. Each of these consultative processes resulted in the elaboration of comprehensive Canadian positions at the UNESCO Executive Board, the General Conference, and at meetings around the world. Within Canada, the Commission increased its emphasis on involving youth in all its activities both directly and through organizations such as the Canadian Teachers Federation, the Centrale des syndicats du Québec, and the Saskatoon Teachers Federation. Education for sustainable development continued as a strong interdisciplinary initiative as well, as the Commission approached sustainable development as the interrelationship of environmental, economic, social and cultural factors.

The Commission is grateful for the continuing support and contributions of our members and partners at all levels of government, in professional associations, in academic institutions, and in civil society. We also wish to acknowledge the many hours of volunteer time that people so generously give to advance the ideals and values of UNESCO. Without them, the Commission would not be able to achieve even a fraction of what we are now able to accomplish.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee, the Sectoral Commissions and *ad hoc* Committees, and especially the staff of the Commission, for their dedication and commitment to furthering the goals of UNESCO and the Commission in Canada and around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Walden', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

David A. Walden  
Secretary-General



## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), one of the 18 specialized agencies of the United Nations system, was established in London, England on 16 November 1945. Canada was one of the twenty-six founding members.

UNESCO headquarters are situated in Paris, France. It is comprised of 191 Member States and has regional and liaison offices in a number of countries. Foreign Affairs Canada represents the Government of Canada at UNESCO through its Permanent Delegation headed by Ambassador Yvon Charbonneau.

The General Conference, the sovereign body of UNESCO, consists of representatives of all Member States. It meets every two years to determine the policies and adopt the Organization's programme and budget. Between sessions of the General Conference, UNESCO is administered by the Executive Board, which consists of 58 elected Member States. At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Conference in October 2003, Canada was again elected to the Executive Board for a four-year term.

Achievement of the ideals and mandate of UNESCO demands co-operation on the widest possible scale within Member States. With this in view, the founding members

invited Member States to establish National Commissions by stipulating in the Constitution (Article VII) that: "Each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for the purpose of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the Government and such bodies." UNESCO is the only organization in the United Nations system that has National Commissions.

National Commissions are therefore the creation of Member States and their status derives from legislation or an executive instrument. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO was established by Order in Council (Privy Council 1957-831) on 14 June 1957, in conformity with UNESCO's Constitution and pursuant to the *Canada Council Act* adopted on 28 March 1957. Section 8(2) of this Act provides that: "The Governor in Council may assign to the Council such functions and duties in relation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as he considers desirable." The Canadian Commission for UNESCO has accordingly been established within the legal authority of the Canada Council, which provides its Secretariat.

## ADVISORY ACTIVITIES – SUPPORTING CANADA’S CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO

### I. GOVERNANCE

#### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee establishes the general policy orientation of the Commission, provides advice to the government, professional associations and non-governmental organizations on the execution and evaluation of UNESCO’s programme, and is responsible for the membership of the Sectoral Commissions and the Commission as a whole.

Between January and December 2005, the Executive Committee met four times. In addition to the ongoing work of the Commission, the Executive Committee addressed questions such as the World Summit on the Information Society, the composition of sectoral commissions, the development of normative instruments at UNESCO, the establishment of a Canadian Coalition of Cities Against Racism, the importance of arts and learning and preparations for the World Conference on Arts Education in 2006, the results of the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Conference and its implications for the Commission. Further information about each of these is contained in this Report.

#### Communications and Advocacy

The Commission continued its work to obtain an enhanced public profile in Canada for both the Commission and UNESCO this year, and actively sought new partners to ensure that we reach the widest possible audience. During the latter part of the year, particular emphasis was placed on more actively involving youth in the Commission’s work, and we will continue this work in the coming year.

The approach taken involved both public relations and public affairs: public relations involve greater visibility for UNESCO and

the Commission, and making Canadians more aware of our work on issues of public concern. Public affairs, in contrast, involve direct contact with public officials, and exerting influence in the decision-making process.

To accomplish this, members of the Commission, staff, and the Executive Committee have been present and visible at events across Canada. We have obtained financial support for Commission organized events, promoted international days and weeks, and honoured the national and international contributions of Canadians. The Commission’s logo has figured prominently at events that ranged from a major conference organized by the Commission in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society, a conference on journalism and world heritage, and promotion of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development amongst non-governmental organizations, students and teachers. Messages from the President or Secretary-General also appeared in numerous programmes and newspaper advertisements in conjunction with events across Canada.

The results of this communications and advocacy strategy are reflected in the diverse activities of the Commission described throughout this report.

#### ***Ad Hoc Committee for the Memory of the World***

UNESCO established the Memory of the World Programme in 1992 to recognize documentary heritage of international, regional and national significance. Much of the Memory of the World resides in libraries, archives, and museums, and because of its significance should be both preserved and made widely accessible in some form.

The *ad hoc* Committee for the Memory of the World was established by the Commission's Executive Committee in June 2005 pursuant to Article 11 of the Constitution. The creation of this *ad hoc* Committee was precipitated by the Archives of Manitoba which had advised the Secretary-General that it wished to make a submission to have the Hudson's Bay Company Archives designated as part of the Memory of the World.

Members of the Committee were selected by the Secretary-General and the Programme Officer, Communication and Information, in consultation with the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, and the Chair of the *ad hoc* Committee, Jean-Pierre Wallot. As this Committee was created specifically to consider the proposal for the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, all of the members were chosen for their knowledge of the collection and expertise as archivists, historians, researchers, evaluators, and authors.

The Committee met in December and considered the application submitted by the Archives of Manitoba. It agreed that the collection was of such quality that it should be designated as part of the Memory of the World, and unanimously recommended to the Executive Committee that it transmit the submission to the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris, on the condition that part of the submission be brought into strict conformity with the criteria and guidelines contained in the UNESCO *Memory of the World General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage*.

### **UNESCO Executive Board**

The Executive Board is the governing body of UNESCO that monitors implementation of the programme between General Conferences (held every two years). Consisting of 58 Member States elected by the General Conference of UNESCO, Canada was elected to the Executive Board in October 2003 for a four-year term.

Canada's work on the Board is a partnership between Foreign Affairs (political issues, finance and administration) and the Commission (programme implementation and relations with Member States and National Commissions.) The President and the Secretary-General represent the Commission on the Executive Board.

The Executive Board met three times during 2005, once in April (171<sup>st</sup> Session), in September (172<sup>nd</sup> Session), and immediately following the General Conference in October (173<sup>rd</sup> Session). The 171<sup>st</sup> Session concentrated on the first draft of the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) that was subsequently debated and adopted by the General Conference in October 2005. Of particular interest to Canada and the Commission were the debates around governance and management reforms, progress on the preparation of standard-setting instruments in bioethics, anti-doping in sport, and the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expression, the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and work with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to ensure "quality" in cross-border education. This latter initiative is the first collaboration with the OECD and involves the development of guidelines so that countries can adopt procedures to protect students from organizations representing themselves as accredited education institutions when they are, in fact, selling worthless university degrees.

The 172<sup>nd</sup> Session, as the final session before the General Conference, largely revisited items where it had requested additional information or work to be done before they could be considered by the General Conference. Among the many issues were directives governing the use of UNESCO's name and logo, the feasibility of developing an ethical code of conduct for scientists, standard-setting instruments, development of a basic sciences

programme, establishment of new prizes in both literacy and the use of communications and technology, and establishment of several new UNESCO centres.

### **Extra-budgetary Funds**

The Commission was extremely successful again this year in raising funds from external sources to further our work in Canada. This has allowed us to undertake more and larger activities, and serves as a tangible demonstration of the support for, and importance of, UNESCO's and the Commission's work in Canada.

Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) again provided generous financial support for the launch of Adult Learners' Week, and also contributed to the funding for the conference, *WSIS II: Paving the Road to Tunis*. Industry Canada, the International Development Research Centre and Canadian Heritage also all made significant financial contributions to this conference. Foreign Affairs Canada provided support for the conference as well, and also made generous contributions to the Commission to allow civil society representation at the preparatory conferences and the World Summit on the Information Society. Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts and the City of Ottawa all contributed financially to the event celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity for the first time in Canada. UNESCO (Paris) made a contribution, as well as sending a staff member to participate in the Roundtable "Combating Urban Racism," to assist the Commission to promote the Coalition of Cities Against Racism in Canada. Health Canada provided financial support to enable the Commission to hold a pan-Canada consultation on the 4<sup>th</sup> outline of the UNESCO *Draft Declaration on Universal Norms in Bioethics*, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) provided in-kind support with the selection of

candidates for the l'Oréal Women in Science Awards.

Finally, royalties were again received from the sale of a poetry anthology from the House of Anansi Press and the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry, through an ongoing arrangement with the Griffin Trust.

The Commission would like to thank these organizations for their support, as well as to acknowledge the many thousands of hours of invaluable volunteer support we receive from our many members.

## **II. CANADIAN NETWORKS: MEETINGS OF SECTORAL COMMISSIONS**

### **Sectoral Commission on Education, Ottawa (May 25 and November 30)**

The Sectoral Commission on Education met twice this year. At its May meeting, it focused almost exclusively on the consultation on the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget, thereby providing valuable input for Canada's Response to both the UNESCO Questionnaire and the document itself. Overall, the Sectoral Commission felt that the Education Sector needed to be strengthened, and concern was expressed that UNESCO was losing its consultative, participatory nature because of the disproportionate use of extra-budgetary contributions in its operations.

Several recommendations were made regarding Education for All (EFA), including the importance of addressing the physical and emotional needs of children, the importance of disseminating information on funding priorities, and the need for literacy efforts and EFA indicators that reflect local conditions. It recommended that UNESCO give further consideration to the capacity of countries to achieve EFA, and noted that additional support might be needed by some countries.

With respect to post-primary education, the Commission highlighted a number of issues, including the need for greater emphasis on prior learning assessment and recognition, the need to expand references to “development” to include “sustainable development”, the importance of monitoring trans-border education to ensure that countries do not lose control of education standards, and the need for greater clarity and objectivity regarding the use of information and communication technologies.

At its December meeting, the Sectoral Commission concentrated on the outcomes from the General Conference affecting the Education Sector, including the priorities for 2006-2007 in the adopted Programme and Budget and the role of the Commission in promoting these in Canada. There was also discussion of International Adult Learners’ Week in Canada and the international launch in Norway, the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, recent developments with the Associated Schools Network, and the elements and implications of focusing on quality education.

The Sectoral Commission also recommended that Ms. Cecile de Passe be appointed as Chair, effective at the conclusion of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in March 2006. The Executive Committee subsequently approved this recommendation.

### **Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences, Ottawa (June 2 and December 1)**

The Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences met twice this year. Its June meeting served as a consultation forum on the Draft Programme and Budget, and members felt that the document reflected a lack of intersectoral cooperation at UNESCO. It also felt that the indicators provided for monitoring progress were often vague, and needed to

be refined to successfully implement results-based management. The Sectoral Commission also addressed related questions such as the involvement of civil society in programs to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, how to involve the private sector in the Commission’s program activities, ways to ensure good communication and knowledge transfer between scientists, civil society and decision makers, and managing water through global governance and systematic monitoring of activities. Discussion also took place about the development of ethical norms to guide scientific and technical development and social transformation, and the importance of disciplines such as history and philosophy of science (given UNESCO’s mandate in the ethics of science).

At its December meeting, the Sectoral Commission considered the decisions and outcomes of the General Conference, and their implications for the social and natural sciences. There was also discussion about UNESCO’s future priority areas, and the need for the next Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) to be a strategic planning document that positions UNESCO well within the United Nations system and enables it to fulfill its mandate, including contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. UNESCO’s ongoing ethical role, both in the context of the recently adopted *Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* and recent proposals to develop a Code of Conduct for Scientists, was also considered, as was the role of the Commission in the upcoming review of the sciences at UNESCO.

The Commission also conducted a review of its membership to ensure that its composition continues to include the requisite expertise as UNESCO’s programme priorities evolve. As a result, the Chair recommended the appointment of three new members that were subsequently approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information, Montreal (June 6) and Ottawa (December 5)**

The Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information similarly met twice, and at its June meeting also considered the Draft Programme and Budget in detail. Members of the Commission felt that there was insufficient information about the cost of managing programs, and that as a result the correlation between resources and programme priorities was not always clear. It also felt that UNESCO's policy of decentralization was creating new pressures with regard to the implementation of programs. There were also concerns about UNESCO's role in supporting freedom of the press and the need to help the media in different national contexts. With regard to information technologies and in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society, a discussion took place about how best to ensure that technology was used to ensure the dissemination of non-partisan, objective information.

At its December meeting, the Sectoral Commission discussed the areas where follow-up was needed on the decisions and outcomes of the General Conference. While the focus of the General Conference in the Culture Commission had been on the adoption of the *Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, much work remains to be done to implement this Convention and other aspects of the programme. Discussions also took place about the future approach and directions of UNESCO that would be reflected in the next Medium-Term Strategy, the need to act on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, November 2005), and the World Conference on Arts Education (Lisbon, March 2006).

The Commission also reviewed its membership and recommended the appointment of new members, and that Daniel Gervais be appointed as Chair and Danika Billie Littlechild be appointed as Vice-Chair, effective at the conclusion of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in March 2006. The Executive Committee accepted, and approved, all of these recommendations.

As has been the case in previous years, the Chairs of each of the Sectoral Commission attended the meetings of the other Sectoral Commissions to promote collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach to the work of the Canadian Commission.

### **III. CONSULTING CANADIANS**

#### **Arts and Learning**

At the UNESCO General Conference in 1999, the Director-General made an appeal for the promotion of arts education as part of the culture of peace in the context of the International Year for a Culture of Peace (2000) and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). UNESCO then initiated a program of creativity that included a balanced approach to education where the basic sciences, human sciences, sports and the arts figure equally in the curriculum. From this developed the idea of holding a World Conference on Arts Education that will now be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2006.

In preparation for the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education, the Commission continued its consultations with experts in arts and learning in formal, non-formal and informal contexts. The consultations were chaired by Commission President, Max Wyman. Following meetings in Toronto and Halifax in late 2004, which respectively brought together

representatives from Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, in 2005 the Commission organized consultations in Regina with representatives from Northwest Territories, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and in Vancouver with representatives from British Columbia, Yukon and Alberta. Two separate meetings were also organized in Ottawa, one with representatives of umbrella organizations and cultural agencies, and a second exclusively for youth. Reports were prepared on each of the sessions and were posted on the Arts and Learning page of the Commission's web site ([www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca)). A preliminary report on these consultations entitled *Learning to Live, Living to Learn: Perspectives on Arts Education in Canada* was then prepared for distribution at the European and North American Regional Preparatory Conference entitled "Synergies between Arts and Education" held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in September (see Canadian Participation in International Meetings below).

#### **Youth Consultation for the 4<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum, Ottawa (September 6)**

In preparation for the Youth Forum held in conjunction with the UNESCO General Conference, the Commission organized a one-day consultation to both prepare for the Forum and to select the Canadian representatives.

Twenty-eight young Canadians aged 18 to 30, from nine Canadian provinces and territories, were selected from among 400 applicants to participate in the consultation. The meeting addressed the theme of this year's Youth Forum, "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples: Ideas for Action in Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication" and proposed actions that UNESCO and the Commission could take to promote a genuine, inclusive and sustainable dialogue among both youth and adults.

The consultation emphasized principles such as inclusion, accessibility, full participation, respect and tolerance as fundamental features in building a dialogue for a culture of peace among peoples and between generations. The proposed actions for intercultural dialogue emphasized the role of media, new information and communication technologies (ICTs), science, technology and intercultural exchange as tools for the promotion of cultural diversity, the importance of disseminating information on cultural diversity to promote intercultural understanding, education as a means of promoting dialogue as a universal value, and the importance of local and traditional knowledge for a sustainable dialogue between generations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants selected Clarisse Kehler Siebert of Montréal as the Canadian representative to the Youth Forum.

#### **IV. 33<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, PARIS, FRANCE (October 3 – 21)**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> General Conference, the supreme decision-making body of UNESCO, was held in Paris from October 3 - 21. Held every two years, the General Conference debates and approves the Programme and Budget of UNESCO for the upcoming biennium (2006-2007).

This was an extremely successful General Conference for Canada as we were elected to five intergovernmental committees, and in two cases received the largest number of votes of any country. The Canadian delegation was led by the Honourable Jacques Saada, Minister responsible for la francophonie, and a total of six Parliamentarians from both the federal and provincial governments participated in the meeting. Canada was active in all five commissions where the programme activities and budgets of each of the sectors of UNESCO were debated, and

also co-sponsored a draft resolution that was debated in all five programme commissions.

A number of important meetings were held in conjunction with the General Conference, and again Canada was an active participant. Three high level meetings were held, including two Ministerial Round Tables – one each on Education for All, and on the Basic Sciences: the Science Lever for Development - and one for parliamentarians on education for all and the ratification of international conventions on cultural heritage. Other meetings of specific interest to the Commission were also held including a meeting of Presidents of National Commissions, a meeting of National Commissions of the Europe Region, several meetings related to the forthcoming review of the sciences at UNESCO, a meeting on HIV/AIDS and quality education, and a panel discussion on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Three standard-setting instruments were adopted: the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights*; the *International Convention Against Doping in Sport*; and the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. Canada played an active role in the development of each of these instruments, with officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage being extensively involved with the conventions on anti-doping in sport and the diversity of cultural expressions, while Mme Michèle S. Jean, Vice-President of the Commission, chaired the International Bioethics Committee that developed the declaration on bioethics. In doing so, Canada continued its efforts to build international consensus around the need for universal standards, and to assist Member States in the development and adoption of domestic policies and legislation.

The Commission again assumed the responsibilities of Co-ordinator of the Canadian Delegation to the General Conference. This involved advance preparations, administration and staffing the delegation office during the General Conference, and preparation of the final report. This was a particularly demanding task as the Canadian delegation consisted of over 50 people.

Canada's success was due to the high level of ministerial support, the expertise on the Canadian delegation, the quality of its interventions, and the intense preparatory work that ensured that Canada's positions were clearly and knowledgeably expressed. The Commission would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the Canadian delegation, and the members of the Commission who participated in the various consultative processes, who collectively contributed immeasurably to this success.

## **V. CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

### **Interregional Training Seminar for New Secretaries-General, Paris, France (February 21 - 25)**

At the request of the Division of National Commissions at UNESCO, the Secretary-General participated as one of the trainers in the Interregional Training Seminar for New Secretaries-Generals hosted by UNESCO. While acting as a resource person throughout the week-long training program, the Secretary-General also made specific presentations on "Preparation for and Participation of National Commissions in the General Conference" and "Enhancing the Role and Capacities of National Commissions in the Reform Process" that addressed both administrative and governance questions.

Approximately 40 new Secretaries-General from all regions of the world attended the training session.

**Bioethics and International Law  
Paris, France, (February 25-26)**

Co-sponsored by the French National Commission for UNESCO and the International Association for Law, Ethics and Science, Bioethics and International Law was an international conference held under the high patronage of Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic. The conference was sub-titled "Contributions to an International Declaration on Bioethics" and included presentations by jurists, academics, diplomats, and academicians from around the world. In her capacity as President of the International Bioethics Committee, the Commission's Vice-President Michèle S. Jean, participated in this conference and gave a presentation on the *Preliminary Draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics*.

**UN Economic Commission for Europe  
High Level Meeting of Environment and  
Education Ministries, Vilnius, Lithuania  
(March 17 – 18)**

Approximately 200 delegates from 42 Member States of the Europe Region attended the High Level meeting held March 17-18 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The purpose of the meeting was to adopt the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and the Vilnius Framework for the Implementation of the Strategy developed in concert with UNESCO and other stakeholders. The meeting also served as the regional launch for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. There was unanimous support for both the strategy and framework which were both adopted as amended by Canada.

The Canadian delegation consisted of Gerald Farthing, Acting Deputy Minister,

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth; Suzan Bowser, Acting Director General, Environment Canada; Diane Rochon, Programme Officer, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (Québec); and the Secretary-General of the Commission.

**European Regional Meeting on Literacy,  
Lyon, France (April 2 – 5)**

The UNESCO Institute for Education, the French National Commission for UNESCO, and other key partners organized this meeting entitled "Literacy and the Promotion of Citizenship" for the Europe region.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO provided the organizers with a list of adult literacy contacts in Canada to assist with the preparation of country reports and the selection of participants. The organizers then invited John O'Leary, President of Frontier College and member of the Sectoral Commission on Education, to participate in the meeting and to make a presentation on "Ensuring Learners' Participation."

**UNESCO Associated Schools Project  
Network (ASPnet) National  
Coordinators' Regional Meeting of  
Europe and North America, Luxembourg  
(May 10 – 14)**

ASPnet representatives from some 50 countries in the European Region plus South America, Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific region attended the regional meeting for co-ordinators of Associated Schools organized by the Luxembourg National Commission for UNESCO in co-operation with the UNESCO Secretariat. The objectives of the meeting were to exchange ideas and experiences (best practices) of ASPnet and plan joint activities, enhance contacts among ASPnet national coordinators, redefine priorities for Europe and North America, and make recommendations on

priority objectives for 2005-2008.

Workshops were organized on education for sustainable development; education for peace, human rights and non-violent conflict resolution; linguistic diversity, language teaching and intercultural learning; and improved co-operation through ASPnet within Europe and with the world, with specific reference to UNESCO's Euro-Arab Dialogue Project.

The final day was devoted to discussing future orientations of ASPnet as a network for quality education. Instead of producing a declaration or set of recommendations, participants agreed to continue implementing recommendations contained in the ASPnet Strategy and Plan of Action 2004-2009, the Auckland Declaration and the Berlin Blueprint. The following priorities received particular emphasis: training of new ASPnet coordinators, establishment of a web portal for the region and movement towards becoming an on-line community, greater involvement of parents and the community in the activities of ASPnet schools, and the establishment of the means to recognize outstanding ASPnet schools.

The drafting committee for the final report consisted of Norway, France, Canada and UNESCO. Katherine Berg represented the Commission at this meeting.

### **Preparatory Regional Conference on Arts Education, Vilnius, Lithuania (September 8 – 11)**

The regional preparatory conference for Europe and North America for the World Conference on Arts Education was held in Lithuania with the theme "Synergies Between Arts and Education." Within this overall theme were five sub-themes: the role of government authorities in stimulating arts education, cooperation between local cultural institutions, creative talents and neighbourhood schools, teacher training and involvement of specialists representing other domains in

the arts education process, democratization of arts education, and arts education of children with special needs. The Commission's report on our consultations, *Learning to Live, Living to Learn: Perspectives on Arts Education in Canada* was enthusiastically received and was the only document of its kind prepared for the meeting.

The meeting produced a series of recommendations that were framed in the form of a statement of principles and a series of actions that the World Conference on Arts Education (Lisbon, March 2006) has been invited to adopt. The recommendations address many of the issues that are central to the arts and learning in Canada, and reflect the thinking and language of the Commission and its partners.

The Canadian delegation to the meeting consisted of Georges Bouchard, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (Québec) and Head of Delegation, Esther Loiselle, Ministère de la culture et de la communication (Québec), Pierre Lemieux, Ministère des relations internationales (Québec), Armand Mackenzie, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Sheila Molloy, Council of Ministers of Education (Canada), and Max Wyman, President of the Commission.

### **Higher Education for Sustainable Development: New Challenges from a Global Perspective, Luneburg, Germany (September 25 – 27)**

Hosted by the German Commission for UNESCO, the inauguration of the UNESCO Chair of Higher Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Luneburg's Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication took place in conjunction with the international conference on "Higher Education for Sustainable Development." The conference explored how the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development provided an

opportunity for re-orienting higher education toward sustainable development.

Ms. Janet Moore, Post Doctoral Research Associate at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University, was invited by UNESCO to attend and facilitate a workshop entitled “Is Higher Education Ready for Transformative Learning - Seven Recommendations for Creating Sustainable Education at the University Level.” The Commission provided assistance for Ms. Moore to participate in this conference.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum, Paris, September 30 to October 2**

The fourth Youth Forum was held in conjunction with the General Conference, and 184 participants from 128 countries plus 45 observers met to discuss the theme “Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples: Ideas for Action in Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication” and ways for UNESCO to better involve youth in its work. The participants presented ideas for concrete actions “by youth, for youth” through dialogue about all of UNESCO’s mandated areas. Most of the discussions took place in three working groups around the themes: All different, all unique: Celebrating cultural diversity through dialogue; Safeguarding the future: practicing dialogue for sustainable development; and Learning to live together: promoting dialogue for peace and reconciliation.

The proposals adopted by the Youth Forum were compiled in a final report and presented to the plenary session of the General Conference. The participants in the Youth Forum also recommended that future delegations to the General Conference should include youth, that the length of the Forum be increased to allow time for the formulation of concrete recommendations, and that the Youth Forum be conducted in the six official

languages of the United Nations to ensure maximum participation.

Canada was represented at the Youth Forum by Clarisse Kehler Siebert, elected at the Commission’s youth consultation, and Cynthia Lacasse, Junior Programme Officer, Youth.

#### **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tunis (November 16 – 18)**

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a joint initiative of UNESCO and the International Telecommunications Union, was held in two phases. Phase I took place in Geneva in 2003 and addressed a wide range of issues affecting the Information Society. The second phase took place in Tunis in November 2005, and assessed progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in Geneva, as well as growing concerns about (restricted) access and freedom of expression on the Internet.

In preparation for Phase I, the Commission hosted a series of cross-Canada roundtables to address the implications and challenges of the Information Society for youth, the elderly, women and Aboriginal people. For Phase II, the Commission organized an international conference with over 200 participants and 35 presenters from civil society, the private sector and all levels of government, entitled “Paving the Road to Tunis - WSIS II: The Views of Canada’s Civil Society on the Geneva Action Plan and the Prospects for Phase II” (for more information see the section on Promoting UNESCO’s Goals and Values in Canada).

Representatives of the Commission also participated in the third Preparatory Conference held in September in Geneva. This was not a typical preparatory meeting however, as the sessions involving civil society experienced repeated interventions by individuals claiming to be

representatives of Tunisian NGOs. The difficult Tunisian situation with regard to freedom of expression and human rights was also addressed. At a plenary session, Canada made a declaration in the name of Western countries requesting greater openness and inclusiveness on the part of the Tunisian government with regard to all those participating in the WSIS process.

The Commission was also mandated by Foreign Affairs Canada to develop a mechanism to select representatives from civil society to join the official delegation to the World Summit in Tunis in November. The Commission invited interested NGOs and individuals to submit their candidature, and received 33 applications. A committee reviewed the qualifications of each of the individuals and selected Danika Billie Littlechild of the Aboriginal Youth Network and member of the Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information, and James Archibald, Director of the Translation Department of McGill University in Montreal. Both recommendations were accepted by Foreign Affairs Canada.

The Commission had received WSIS certification in June 2004, and was therefore entitled to have its own delegation at the WSIS. As a result, 16 individuals were able to participate in the WSIS under the Commission's accreditation. The Commission also organized a side event in collaboration with the United Nations Association of Uganda (UNA Uganda) and the Danish United Nations Association entitled *Consulting with Civil Society on the WSIS: Best Practices*. François-Pierre Le Scouarnec made a presentation on the two consultations the Commission held for Phases I and II of the WSIS, and the lessons-learned.

The Commission was represented at both the Preparatory Conference in Geneva and the World Summit in Tunis by François-Pierre Le Scouarnec, Chair of the

Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information, Marc-François Bernier, Derrick de Kerckhove and Pauline Dugré, Programme Officer, Communication and Information.

### **UNESCO Asia – Pacific Regional Conference in Preparation for the World Conference on Arts Education, Seoul, Korea (November 23 – 25)**

The UNESCO Expert Symposium on Arts Education in Asia, "Measuring the Effects of Arts in Education", was convened as the fifth regional meeting organized in preparation for the World Conference on Arts Education. The conference was co-organized by UNESCO's Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Korea (MCT) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

The conference had four principal objectives: to review the current status of the arts in education in Asia, to promote means to measure the contribution of the arts to children's general development, to sensitize Asian policy-makers about the role of arts within basic education, and, to establish a region-wide network to track the impact of the arts in academic achievement and school development.

At the request of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, Max Wyman participated in this regional conference and gave a presentation on the role and importance of advocacy in arts education.

## PROMOTING UNESCO'S GOALS AND VALUES IN CANADA

### I. PUBLICATIONS AND WEB SITE

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

In 2005, the Commission completely redesigned its website and updated the content. The changes have been well received by visitors to the site and have enabled us to add material more easily and to use it more effectively as both a source of information and a communications tool.

#### Publications

- *Contact*, the biannual newsletter of the Commission
- *Learning to Live, Living to Learn: Perspectives on Arts Education in Canada*
- *Celebrating Adult Learners - A World of Possibilities Through Learning*, kit for International Adult Learners' Week
- *Final Report of the Conference "Paving the road to Tunis – WSIS II"* (and CD ROM)

### II. CONFERENCES, EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### First Nations Education Council Wendake, Québec (January 14)

Following a presentation by Arpi Hamalian, Chair of the Commission's Sectoral Commission on Education, at the conference on Aboriginal Languages entitled *Words of our Future* held at Saint-Sauveur in October 2004, the Commission was invited to make a presentation to representatives of the various schools that comprise the First Nations Education Council (FNEC). The FNEC represents the education interests of the Abénaki, Algonquin, Atikamekw, Huron, Mi'gmaq, Mohawk, Montagnais and

Malécite bands in 21 communities across Québec.

Through videoconferencing, the presentation was able to reach reservations in some of the more remote parts of Québec. Strong interest was expressed in UNESCO's work on intangible heritage and the Associated Schools network, with several schools indicating that they would like to learn more about this international network. This is a significant development in the creation of the Associated Schools network in Canada as "on reserve" schools are funded federally and are not under the jurisdiction of provincial ministries of education. As a result, work to date with the Quebec Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sport and the Centrale des syndicats du Québec has not included these schools.

#### Canada-Europe Panel on the Social Integration of Immigrants, Ottawa (January 24)

Recent events in Europe have challenged the conventional wisdom that social integration of immigrants is a two-way process characterized by a gradual adjustment of migrants, their communities and their institutions on one hand, and of the "host society" and its institutions on the other. What is now emerging amongst some segments of the population is a belief that radical migrants want to impose the values of their homeland upon the host society, and that multicultural policies must therefore be rethought.

The Commission, the Metropolis Project, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canadian Heritage and the Library of Parliament collaborated to host an international panel discussion on Parliament Hill that addressed multiculturalism and integration in Canada

and several European countries. Using the tragic murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh as the point of departure, the panellists explored the question of whether multiculturalism and integration policies needed to be rethought and, if so, what the future directions of integration might be.

Over 200 people attended this event which offered the perspectives of academics from the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as Paul Bramadat, University of Winnipeg, Daniel Weinstock, University of Montreal, and the Honourable Andrew Telegedi, Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

### **Combating Urban Racism, Ottawa (January 24) and the Canadian Coalition of Cities Against Racism**

The International Coalition of Cities against Racism was launched by UNESCO in March 2004 to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia. The Coalition also seeks to involve local officials in the implementation of normative instruments adopted by Member States. A Ten-Point Action Plan for the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism consisting of commitments covering various areas that are within the jurisdiction of municipalities was recently finalized and will be the framework for the policies of Barcelona, Krakow, Paris, Saint-Denis, Stockholm and Nuremburg.

In conjunction with the Canada-Europe Panel on the Social Integration of Immigrants (see above), the Commission, the Catholic Immigration Society, and the City of Ottawa, hosted a roundtable discussion at Ottawa City Hall entitled "Combating Urban Racism." Representatives of the cities of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver, as well as human rights associations and UNESCO (Paris) discussed the need for, and the possibility of, establishing a coalition of

Canadian cities against racism. The applicability of the European Action Plan was also discussed, as several of the areas it addresses are not within the responsibilities of Canadian cities with the result that some adaptations are required. The meeting concluded with the establishment of a working group that agreed to prepare a draft action plan for a coalition of Canadian cities against racism.

The Commission also organized two consultation meetings in Montreal in cooperation with the Centre de recherche sur l'immigration l'ethnicité et la citoyenneté (CRIEC) at UQAM. The "road map" that was subsequently developed was distributed to selected cities in the context of the Ontario meeting of Big Cities, the Union of Québec Municipalities, and the Standing Committee on Social Development. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities passed a motion calling on its members to support and promote the Coalition. More than 20 municipalities have now indicated an interest in joining the Coalition.

There was also strong interest from several provincial human rights organizations, and the Call for a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination was endorsed by the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Associations at its Annual General Meeting. These human rights commission are important new partners for the Commission as they are on the "front line" in their provinces and are therefore natural partners for the implementation of UNESCO's strategy of human rights and the struggle against racism.

Elisabeth Barot made several presentations about the work on the Coalition to municipalities across Canada, including a meeting of municipal administrators from Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton responsible for programmes for aboriginal people, the advisory council for the Metropolis Project in Montreal, and

at a workshop on indicators at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Metropolis Conference, in Toronto. The Secretary-General also made a presentation about the Canadian action plan and the Coalition to the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Associations (CASHRA) in Saskatoon.

### **Canadian Consultation on the Draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics, Ottawa (February 7)**

In 2003, UNESCO began actively working on the preparation of a Draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics (adopted by the General Conference in 2005 as the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights*) to provide “universal principles” in bioethics. This is part of UNESCO’s role as a “standard setter” whereby it uses its access to international expertise to develop declarations and conventions that are then used as the basis for domestic policy and legislation in countries that often lack the capacity to do so on their own.

Under the leadership of the International Bioethics Committee, chaired by Michèle S. Jean who is also Vice-President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, four successive drafts of the Declaration had been prepared by February 2005 when the Commission held a consultation meeting with Canadian experts representing the fields of law, bioethics and research ethics, medical research, Aboriginal health organizations, disabled persons, and the Canadian Council of Churches, to obtain their views on the draft text. The majority of those consulted were supportive of the text but also recommended that societal issues as well as those raised by the life sciences and medicine should be included, that the declaration not be limited to humans but should also include questions pertaining to genetically modified organisms, that greater emphasis should be placed on protection of marginalized groups, and that

additional work was required on the section dealing with “full, informed and prior consent.”

These comments were then included in a report to Health Canada which represented Canada in the final negotiations of the text. This consultation was also partially funded by Health Canada, but was organized by the Commission to ensure its arms-length nature.

### **Growing Up in Cities Gatineau (February 21) and Vancouver (September 13 - 14)**

*Growing up in Cities* is a research-action project centered on the commitment and participation of youth in their communities. The City of Gatineau in collaboration with the Quebec Federation of Municipalities, Senator Landon Pearson, the Toronto Youth Council, and city councilors from Vancouver and Gatineau, hosted a meeting to share experiences within the Growing Up in Cities initiative.

The meeting provided an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of the international linkage between activities in Canadian cities and the UNESCO Growing Up in Cities network. It also served as an occasion to disseminate some of the preliminary research results from the Growing Up in Cities Project in Canada. A network of UNESCO Chairs is also being contemplated as a means to keep university researchers, NGOs, youth and the city councilors informed about each others work. Elisabeth Barot chaired a panel at this meeting.

The project partners of *Growing up in Cities* in Canada also met in Vancouver in September. Phase 1 of the project had been launched in Canada in 2002 under the auspices of the *International Institute for Child Rights and Development* (IICRD), a non-governmental organization based in Vancouver, and this meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation

of Phase 2 that will focus on the transfer of knowledge and skills between current and future partners. A forum to be held on February 27, 2006, in Gatineau was also confirmed.

In addition to the IICRD and the Commission, current project partners include the Environmental Youth Alliance (Vancouver); the RedWire Native Youth Media Society (Vancouver); the HeartWood Institute (Halifax); and the Youth Commission (Gatineau). Cynthia Lacasse, Junior Programme Officer, Youth, represented the Commission at the Vancouver meeting.

### **Taking Stock and Moving Forward Saskatoon Teachers' Association Saskatoon (February 14)**

The Saskatoon Teachers' Association Annual Conference addressed the theme of publicly-funded education and the role of publicly-funded schools as a unifying force in the community. It is their belief that it is in these schools that children - and the next generation of leaders - develop their world view and the awareness of the collective community they live in. Approximately 2500 primary and secondary school teachers from Saskatoon attended the event.

His Excellency John Ralston Saul and Marc Kielburger, Executive Director of Leaders Today, both gave keynote addresses, and representatives of each of the political parties in Saskatchewan, including Brad Wall, leader of the official opposition, participated in a panel discussion on education in Saskatchewan. The Secretary-General also addressed the convention, and used the opportunity to announce the designation of Theresa Sokyryka as a Spokesperson for the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Canada, representing Saskatchewan. Ms. Sokyryka was the first runner-up in the 2004 Canadian Idol competition and is a resident of Saskatoon.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Folk Alliance Conference, Montreal (February 24 - 27)**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Folk Alliance Conference included a workshop on UNESCO's *Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Three Canadian and one American panelist gave their perspectives on intangible heritage, its documentation and interpretation, the heritage policy of the City of Montréal and the role of intangible heritage, how intangible heritage could be used for the economic benefit of those who participate and transmit it, and efforts to ensure that intangible heritage is not trivialized through tourism and commercialization.

Gerald Pocius of Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a member of the Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information, made a presentation about the UNESCO *Convention* on behalf of the Commission.

### **Portrait croisé Sartre-Beauvoir Ottawa (March 14)**

The Commission collaborated with the Alliance Française de la Région de la Capitale Nationale, Library and Archives Canada, CBC-SRC and the Embassy of France in Canada, to present a memorable evening in honour of the centenary of the birth of Jean-Paul Sartre. Before an overflow audience which included Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and His Excellency John Ralston Saul, Ottawa-born filmmaker Madeleine Gobeil presented her film about Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir in Paris in the late 1960's. An animated public discussion with the filmmaker, chaired by Carleton University Professor Patricia Smart, followed the viewing of the film. In her long and successful career, Madeleine Gobeil has worked as a journalist and academic before spending numerous years at UNESCO in Paris, eventually becoming Director of Arts and Cultural Life in the Culture Sector. In her remarks, Ms. Gobeil

spoke at length about the essential role played by UNESCO in promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

**3<sup>e</sup> Colloque des adultes en formation /  
Création du Mouvement québécois des  
adultes en formation (MQAF)  
(April 2 – 3)**

The Mouvement québécois des adultes en formation (MQAF) brings together students and adult learners from universities, CEGEPs and secondary schools to work together to overcome the many barriers that limit adult learners' access to education.

Some 200 adult learners from every level of education and more than 50 regions within the province created a new movement of adult learners at the 3<sup>e</sup> Colloque des adultes en formation held at the University of Québec at Montréal during Québec Adult Learners' Week.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO was one of the main partners of the colloquium. Arpi Hamalian, Chair of the Sectoral Commission on Education, gave a presentation on UNESCO and on lifelong learning.

**Visit of Gordon Young and Information  
Session on UNESCO and Freshwater  
Ottawa (April 15)**

On the occasion of the visit of Gordon Young to Canada, the Commission hosted an information and discussion session on UNESCO's involvement in freshwater activities. Dr. Young, Coordinator of the World Water Assessment Program (WAAP) and longtime member and friend of the Commission, provided updated information on this UN-wide programme on freshwater, on UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), and on the 'Water for Life Decade' (2005-2015), focusing on lack of access to water as a limiting factor to socio-economic development, and water as a global governance issue.

Meeting participants included the Right Honourable Herb Gray, Canadian Chair of the International Joint Commission, and representatives from Environment Canada, the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the United Nations Environment Program.

**Prevention of Violence and Philosophy  
for Children: Colloquium and Launch  
Montréal (April 27)**

Professor Josiane Boulad-Ayoub, UNESCO Chair in Philosophy, gave the keynote address at a colloquium at the University of Québec in Montreal to launch a new programme entitled "Prevention of Violence and Philosophy for Children." The colloquium was organized by La Traversée, an organization dedicated to helping local women and children who are victims of sexual abuse and violence,

Arpi Hamalian, Chair of the Sectoral Commission on Education, attended the event on behalf of the Commission and gave a presentation on UNESCO's work regarding philosophy for children, human rights and peace education, and education for sustainable development.

**Conference of Reporters Without  
Borders, Ottawa (April 28)**

The Commission collaborated with Reporters Without Borders Canada, the French Embassy and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to organize a conference within the framework of World Press Freedom Day. More than 200 people participated in the event, which was hosted by journalist (and subsequently Governor-General) Michaëlle Jean. Robert Ménard, Secretary General of Reporters Without Borders, Sameer Khader, producer with the Arab television network Al Jazeera and Serge Michel, recipient of the 2001 Albert Londres prize and author of the book *American Chaos*, were the guest speakers.

The evening began with a special screening of the film "Control Room" about Al Jazeera, the leading Arab television news network, and the war in Iraq. The panelists then discussed issues raised by the film, including the role of journalism in conflict zones and the role of the media in totalitarian states and emerging democracies. Questions involving freedom of the press and the public's need and right to be informed when journalists were regularly being kidnapped or killed were also discussed. The three conference speakers also participated in a two-hour television special on freedom of the press presented by Tele-Québec.

**Working Day on On-line Government and the World Summit on the Information Society organized by the World Forum on Community Networking and Communautique Montréal (April 28 – 29)**

As a preparatory event for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) the Montréal NGO Communautique and the World Forum on Community Networking organized two working days for Montréal community groups on e-government and on the World Summit. More than 40 NGOs took part as participants discussed issues such as cultural and linguistic diversity, Internet governance, the information society and people with disabilities, public good, and electronic surveillance.

The Commission was a partner in the WSIS day, as discussion was directed toward preparing the NGOs for their participation at the Winnipeg conference, *Paving the Road to Tunis – WSIS II* (see below). François-Pierre Le Scouarnec made a presentation about the Commission's role and participation in the first phase of the WSIS, and Pauline Dugré served as a commentator on the two days of discussion, and the objectives of the Winnipeg conference.

***Paving the Road to Tunis – WSIS II* Conference, Winnipeg (May 13-15)**

More than 200 representatives of Canadian civil society, the private sector and governments participated in the conference *Paving the Road to Tunis*. Organized by the Commission, the conference was designed to obtain the views of civil society on various elements of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the WSIS in 2003. Thirty speakers addressed participants during the two-day event, providing overviews of the various subjects making up the programme.

Participants had the opportunity to contribute to a civil society communiqué that was included in the published report of the event. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Abdul Waheed Khan, provided a video message presented at the conference opening. The Honourable Reginald Alcock, President of the Treasury Board of Canada, attended the opening, and renowned journalist Ann Medina was the keynote speaker. The opening proceedings and the plenary sessions were webcast thanks to the collaboration of K-Net Services, an Ontario Aboriginal NGO. The Montréal-based NGO Île sans fil offered free wireless Internet connections to participants.

The conference was generously funded by Foreign Affairs Canada, Industry Canada, Canadian Heritage, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, International Development Research Centre, the Commission and the Canada Council for the Arts. The conference papers and proceedings were subsequently published in a volume of over 300 pages, and widely distributed at the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in October and the World Summit in Tunis in November as part of the Commission's contribution to Phase II of the WSIS process.

### **Forum for Responsible Citizenship Québec (May 19 – 20)**

At the invitation of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), the Commission placed the 2005 edition of the Forum for Responsible Citizenship under its honorary patronage. With sustainable development as its theme, the Forum also served as the Québec launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for which UNESCO is the lead agency. Aline Bory-Adams, head of the Division of Education for Sustainable Development at UNESCO, represented Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura at the launch. The Commission was represented by the Secretary-General.

Through a series of workshops, presentations and information kiosks, the Forum engaged students and teachers in discussions about citizen commitment of youth, the management of residual materials, fair-trade commerce, and sustainable development in schools. This year's event brought together nearly 1,000 teachers and students from every region of Québec.

The Carrefour is a joint project between the CSQ (through its Établissements verts Brundtland), the Conseil syndical de la région de Québec, Oxfam-Québec, Club 2/3 and RECYC-QUEBEC.

### **Journalism and World Heritage Québec (May 23 - 30)**

This international workshop on Journalism and World Heritage was a direct outcome of the colloquium *Médias et patrimoine* held at the University in May 2002. Both events were organized by Cyril Simard, UNESCO Chair in World Heritage, at Laval University, and both benefited from the patronage of UNESCO and the Commission.

The workshop brought together journalists and students of journalism from some

fifteen French-speaking countries for a series of lectures and practical sessions on World Heritage. These included sessions on UNESCO conventions on culture and heritage, the process for submitting a site for World Heritage designation, World Heritage sites in danger, world heritage and peace, and intangible heritage. Specialized sessions were also held on writing about and presenting world heritage in the media, and raising public awareness about the importance of its protection.

Katherine Berg represented the Commission and addressed the opening session of the workshop.

### **58<sup>th</sup> Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference Saskatoon (June 8 - 11)**

This year's conference of the Canadian Museums Association included a session on "Intangible Heritage - What It Is and What It Means for Museums." Three panelists, including the Secretary-General, examined the current international approach to the preservation of intangible heritage. The relationship between museums and intangible heritage was also discussed, as was the meaning of intangible heritage to one First Nations community, and the current state of the UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*.

### **Raising Awareness Among Residents of Missisquoi Bay, Québec, Vermont, New York (June 28 and July 9)**

The Commission collaborated with the Coalition Eaux Secours! to produce an awareness-raising pamphlet targeted at the 22,000 residents of the Missisquoi Bay watershed basin. The project sought to raise awareness and sensitize the population about plans to de-pollute Missisquoi Bay and Lake Champlain, about the Vermont-New York-Québec protocol for the de-pollution of these waters, and the recommendations of the International Joint

Commission. In addition to providing basic information about these initiatives, the pamphlet also publicized two major theme-related events to be held in Venise-en-Québec: an information evening on June 28 and a concert on July 9 with artists involved in water protection.

In addition to responding directly to the water-related priorities of UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, this initiative also promoted the United Nations Water for Life Decade (2005-2015) and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015).

**Joint WMO/IOC Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology Science Conference and JCOMM-II Meeting, Halifax (September 15 – 27)**

More than 150 participants from over 40 countries and a dozen international organizations participated in the Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) Science Conference and JCOMM-II meeting, held jointly in Halifax.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) is an intergovernmental body of experts, which provides the international, intergovernmental coordination, regulation and management mechanism for an operational oceanographic and marine meteorological observing, data management and services system, and is the result of the increased demand for integrated data and services of the WMO and IOC systems. Themes discussed included recent JCOMM results, future science and technologies for observations, and future JCOMM products and services.

During the meeting a ceremonial launch of the 1250<sup>th</sup> surface drifter, key devices in

the Global Climate Observing System, took place in Halifax Harbour.

**Creative Places + Spaces<sup>2</sup>: Risk Revolution, Toronto (September 30 - October 1)**

The Creative Places + Spaces<sup>2</sup> conference brought together over 600 people from diverse backgrounds in the arts, science, government, business, education and social services to address questions related to creativity and innovation and their role in enhancing productivity, promoting social cohesion, building sustainable communities and adapting to change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Conference themes included changing mindsets, "silo-busting strategies", building creative capacity, risk-taking and accountability, and re-valuing creativity in education.

Produced by Artscape (Toronto), the Commission was an associate partner in the conference. Commission President, Max Wyman, also made a presentation and participated in a Town Hall discussion entitled "21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning: New Schools of Thought."

**Literacy Action Day (October 27)**

Literacy Action Day was held on October 27 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The event was organized by the Movement for Canadian Literacy in cooperation with other national adult literacy organizations. A lunch reception at Parliament brought together representatives of organizations active in the field of literacy and adult learning, and was held to sensitize MPs and Senators to issues involved with adult literacy. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, H.E. James Bartleman, and the Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Claudette Bradshaw, gave keynote addresses. Representatives of each of the political parties also gave speeches emphasizing their commitment to literacy. Kathleen Meagher represented the Commission at the event.

### **Event commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations, Ottawa (October 27)**

Organized by the United Nations Association of Canada (UNAC), the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), these UN organizations were able to share information about their mandates and activities with the public in the context of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Held at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the day was oriented toward children, and interactive activities ("learning stations") were therefore included at each information booth. In line with the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), the Commission showed a movie called "Peace One Day" that related the context surrounding the declaration of September 21<sup>st</sup> as International Peace Day and, more generally, addressed issues relative to peace and non-violence among children. The Commission also had the opportunity to introduce children to the importance of water in everyday life through the game "Ramsar," named after the city in Iran where the *Convention on Wetlands* was signed. Many adults, including numerous teachers, also took part in the day, providing an excellent opportunity for the Commission to be better known to a diverse audience.

The day also introduced young people to the functioning of the United Nations through a model General Assembly where youth from different schools, each representing a Member State, discussed peace-building and development issues. This provided an interesting learning

experience that helped youth to understand the numerous challenges that diplomats face working in a multilateral context. Youth also had the opportunity to meet volunteers from the Museum who had been involved in peacekeeping missions.

### **Consultation on Sustainability in Higher Education: Developing a Comprehensive Research Plan and Strategies, Halifax (October 27 – 29)**

In the context of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF), the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), and Dalhousie University hosted a consultation on Sustainability in Higher Education (SHE): Developing a Comprehensive Research Plan and Strategies in Halifax. Alex C. Michalos represented the Commission at this meeting.

### **Workshop on the Earth Charter Festival Écolo de Montréal (October 30)**

A workshop entitled "*Les trésors de notre planète bleue : comment je pourrai en prendre soin via la Charte de la Terre*" was held as part of the first edition of the Festival Écolo de Montréal. This event, supported by the Commission, was organized in the context of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). An intergenerational workshop, animated by Paulette Vigeant, focused on the Earth Charter, adopted by UNESCO in 2003, and encouraged participants to reflect on the principle of interdependence.

### **Building Inclusive Schools Ottawa (November 17 – 19)**

The “Building Inclusive Schools” Conference was held to develop strategies to ensure that children and youth are not excluded by culture, language, race, socio-economic status, ability or sexual orientation. Participants included teachers, parents, advocacy groups, policy makers and teacher educators. Featured speakers included Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, and Jane Gaskell, Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. The Commission had an information booth in the exhibition section of the Conference, and Kathleen Meagher participated in the Conference workshops on behalf of the Commission.

### **CIDA Informal Roundtable on Basic Education and Development Ottawa (November 21)**

The Commission was invited to participate in the Canadian International Development Agency’s (CIDA) Roundtable on Basic Education and Development to assist CIDA in developing its future strategic objectives for basic education. The roundtable explored the four pillars of CIDA’s programming in education: the quality of basic education, the gender gap in schooling, preventative education for HIV/AIDS and education for girls and boys in conflict, post-conflict, and/or emergency situations, to help to ensure that Canada is aligned with global trends and best practices, and to identify the practical needs of its development and transition partner countries.

Ruth Kagia, Director of Education at the World Bank and Raymond Théberge, Director General of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, co-chaired the Roundtable. Gudmund Hernes, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning attended on behalf of UNESCO’s Assistant Director General,

Education, and the Secretary-General represented the Commission.

### **United Nations Climate Change Conference, Montreal, (November 28 – December 9)**

The Commission, the Canada Council for the Arts, and Environment Canada collaborated to sponsor a unique work of performance art by Helga SchleeH for the delegates to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal. This was the first meeting of the States Party to this Convention since the Kyoto Protocol came into force in February 2005.

The performance by Helga SchleeH was one of a series of parallel events and was presented at St. Joseph’s Oratory. Ms. SchleeH created a new work that focused on non-verbal communication and involved photomontage, video, electronic sensors, live and original recorded music, and dance. The work also included electronic images of those directly affected by climate change, and presented a series of images based on the evolution of the earth and the diverse cultures it supports and sustains.

This project related directly to UNESCO’s programme priorities for 2006-2007, including the environment and sustainable development, and the promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The performance was attended by over 2000 conference delegates, participants involved with events associated with the conference, and members of the general public.

### **Joint Project in Secondary Schools on Freedom of Expression**

A joint project of Pen Canada, the Centre québécois du Pen International and the Commission took on a new direction this year by targeting the schools of the Associated Schools Project Network and the more than 200 Canadian secondary schools offering the International

Baccalaureate Program. A kit is being prepared inviting teachers to use the cases of exiled or imprisoned writers or journalists in activities combining work in geography, history, politics and writing. It is planned that school activities will culminate with the celebration of World Press Freedom Day (May 3) in 2006.

### **III. INTERNATIONAL / WORLD DECADES, YEARS, WEEKS, DAYS**

#### **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005 - 2014)**

##### **i. National Workshop and Interim Steering Committee**

Environment Canada hosted a two-day workshop in March for the participants at the introductory meetings organized by Foreign Affairs Canada in the fall of 2004 to explore the goals of Education for Sustainable Development and ways that Canada could approach the Decade.

Two advisors to UNESCO on the Decade gave presentations during the workshop: Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability, York University, and Carl Lindberg, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science of Sweden.

The Network created an Interim Steering Committee, consisting of approximately half of the participants at the workshop, including the Commission. This resulted in the creation of an Interim Executive Team that was responsible for the initial work to develop terms and conditions for implementing the Decade in Canada. Two interim sub-committees were also created, one focusing on Engagement and the other on Governance.

The Commission agreed to be a member of the Engagement Committee whose focus is to ensure broader representation on the

national network, including enhanced participation from the economic and social sectors. In parallel, the Governance Models Committee agreed to examine different models of how the Network could operate to achieve its goals for the Decade. Dominique Potvin, Programme Officer, Natural Sciences and Kathleen Meagher, Programme Officer, Education, represent the Commission on the Interim Steering Committee.

##### **ii. UNESCO and UNECE Contacts**

On the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), Foreign Affairs Canada nominated Gerald Farthing, Acting Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, and the Secretary-General of the Commission as the Canadian contacts for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development for both UNESCO and the UN Economic Council for Europe (UNECE). Mr. Farthing was also named as Canada's representative on the UNECE Steering Committee for Sustainable Development, with the Secretary-General as the alternate. The first meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee was held in December in Geneva, and Mr. Farthing represented Canada at the meeting.

##### **International Year of Physics**

In June 2004, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Physics to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albert Einstein's three famous publications in physics on the theory of relativity, quantum theory, and the theory of Brownian motion.

UNESCO was named as the lead agency responsible for the implementation of the year. The international launch took place at UNESCO Headquarters in January, and Mr. René Roy of Laval University attended the launch on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicists.

The Canadian Association of Physics, which celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, took an active role in promoting this international year in Canada. Activities to celebrate the year included the publication of a special edition of *Physics in Canada*, a special calendar that was distributed to high schools, and profiles of significant achievements in physics in Canada.

### **Education for All Week (April 24 – 30)**

#### **i. Parliamentary Breakfast for Global Action Week, Ottawa (April 19)**

The members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation hosted a breakfast on Parliament Hill to launch the 2005 Global Action Week for Education for All in Canada. The breakfast was attended by many Members of Parliament and Senators, and the keynote speaker was Mr. Thulas Nxesi, President of Education International. A representative of CIDA was also present to discuss their strategy for Education for All.

The Global Campaign for Education, the international non-governmental organization that coordinates the Week in partnership with UNESCO, this year created the "Send a Cut-Out Friend to School" project. Primary school students around the world created cut-out images of children and adults and wrote why it is important that their "friends" attend school. MPs, Senators and guests were given "cut-out friends" as a reminder of the importance of education for all.

#### **ii. Canadian Civil Society Forum on Education for All / Launch of the Canadian Global Campaign for Education Alliance, Toronto (April 25 - 26)**

The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation, gave the opening address to launch the new Canadian Global Campaign for Education

Alliance at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

The Canadian Global Campaign for Education consists of civil society organizations dedicated to the universal right of education. The Global Campaign's goals include enhancing Canadian commitment to achieving the universal right to education, supporting research and policy, and providing a forum for debate and information sharing among Canadian civil society organizations.

The Canadian Civil Society Forum on Education for All was held at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto with the support of CIDA. Themes for discussion included donor coordination, North-South partnerships, key EFA issues, priorities for EFA advocacy in Canada, and enhancing information sharing among Canadian NGOs. Speakers included Nick Burnett, Director of the Global Monitoring Report on EFA, UNESCO, Albert Motivans of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and Christophe Zoungrana, African Network Coalition on EFA.

#### **International Adult Learners' Week in Canada (IALW) (September 8 - 14)**

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO was pleased to again serve as coordinator for UNESCO's International Adult Learners' Week in Canada with the support of the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The Week is celebrated in over 50 countries, and its purpose is to celebrate adult learners and promote the importance of adult education.

The Partners' Group of government departments and non-governmental organizations met in June to confirm the objectives and strategies of the Week and to discuss the events the partners were planning. The membership of this Group has increased from 22 partners in 2003 to nearly 50 this year. Representatives from

the Ministries of Education in each province and territory were consulted, as well as national literacy organizations including the Movement for Canadian Literacy, Frontier College, Laubach Literacy of Canada, Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français and the National Adult Literacy Database. In addition, many other organizations including the Conference Board of Canada, the Canadian Network for Democratic Learning and the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights have joined with the Partners' Group to support workplace training, continuing education, and the concept of adult learning as a tool for social change.

The Week was celebrated in Canada from September 8-14, commencing on International Literacy Day. The theme "Building Sustainable Communities" was chosen to establish a link between the UN Literacy Decade and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The Commission produced an IALW information kit and distributed 25,000 copies throughout the country to ministries of education and the Commission's partners, many of whom then distributed the kits to their members. Cameo stories in the kits demonstrating hands-on examples of adult learners for each topic were put forward by the partners. The pocket folders were designed so that organizations could include their own material for learners, employees or educators. For the first time, the kits included letters from two of the Ministers at HRSDC, the Honourable Belinda Stronach (Minister of HRSDC) and the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw (Minister of State, HRSDC).

The Commission created an IALW page on its website and included a PDF version of the kit, the IALW logo, and poster. The Commission also partnered with the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) which posted a detailed calendar of events on its web site. The Commission's media strategy focused on local community media

as many events and activities at the community level were held during the Week. Local adult learner stories were prepared in partnership with designated adult education spokespeople in each province and territory. The strategy resulted in more than 20 stories appearing in local media across the country.

Federal, provincial and municipal governments made official proclamations for the Week (including HRSDC, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and the City of Toronto). In addition, over 100 events in celebration of IALW and Literacy Day were held across the country, including members of the literacy community delivering thousands of petitions to Parliament Hill in support of Literacy Day and IALW, an IALW page on Alberta Advanced Education's website, the launching of the Calgary Community Adult Learning Association's IALW Newsletter, the declaration of IALW by the Toronto District School Board, the distribution of kits at Word on the Street in Toronto, and a panel discussion about adult literacy on TV Ontario.

### **Earth Day (April 22)**

To highlight the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, the Commission was invited by the Corporation St-Laurent, organizers of Earth Day activities in the province of Québec, to participate in a tree planting ceremony in Montréal. The event took place under the honorary presidency of the Honourable Thomas J. Mulcair, Québec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks. Other participants included Jacques Languirand, spokesperson for the event, Josée Blanchette, columnist, Isabelle Hudon, President of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, Alan Desouza, representative of the City of Montréal, and Arpi Hamalian, Chair of the Sectoral Commission on Education.

“Reinventing the Wheel,” the theme of Earth Day 2005, was designed to raise public awareness about, and demonstrate the beneficial effects of, sustainable transportation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, Earth Day generates more than 10,000 activities involving six million participants in Canada.

### **World Press Freedom Day (May 3)**

In 1992, UNESCO declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day to recognize, and draw attention to, freedom of expression and the dangers faced by journalists in reporting the news. Again this year, the Commission celebrated World Press Freedom Day at the National Press Club in Ottawa.

The keynote speaker was Henrikas Yushkiavitchus, former Assistant Director-General of Communication and Information at UNESCO, and before that Head of Soviet Radio-Television.

Mr. Yushkiavitchus gave a powerful address on the disappearance of press freedom in post Communist countries, citing organized crime and corruption as the greatest threats to press freedom. Anne Kothawala, President and CEO of the Canadian Newspaper Association, spoke about “silence, secrecy and setbacks for press freedom in Canada” and an excerpt of her speech was published as an entire op-ed page in *The Ottawa Citizen*.

The Secretary-General presented this year’s National Press Club Press Freedom Award to *Ottawa Citizen* reporter Juliet O’Neill for her refusal to divulge her sources in stories relating to the Maher Arar case, even after the RCMP raided her home and office. The theme of this year’s International Editorial Cartoon Competition was “Freedom of Expression and the Electoral Process,” and Mihai Ignat of Romania won for his depiction of the challenges women face even after they have won the right to vote. Mr. Ignat’s

cartoon was chosen from among 425 submissions from 37 countries.

Over 140 people attended the luncheon award ceremony, making this the largest celebration of this day to date. The World Press Freedom Day Awards are sponsored by the Commission, Air Canada, CIDA, the *Ottawa Citizen*, the Canadian Newspaper Association, Gowlings, and *The Hill Times*.

### **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (May 21)**

The *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity* was unanimously adopted by UNESCO’s Member States in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. The adoption of the *Declaration* provided an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their conviction that dialogue among people is the best guarantee of peace, and to reject outright the theory of the inevitable clash of cultures and civilizations (the Huntingdon thesis).

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly declared May 21 “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development”, thereby providing an annual focus for the importance of cultural diversity. Celebrations in Canada in 2003 and 2004 were organized by Canadian Heritage, and this year marked the first time that the Commission assumed responsibility for celebrating the day.

Under the theme *Diversity in Canada: Strengthening a Sense of Belonging*, the day consisted of a series of performances by 37 culturally diverse artists presenting various styles of cultural and artistic expression including music, percussion, dance, and throat singing. The day also included a workshop and panel discussion moderated by Jean-Louis Roy, President, Rights and Democracy. Participants on the panel included Lillian Allen, poet, author and broadcaster, Maurice Chalom, Director, Intercultural Affairs Branch, City of

Montreal, Jack Jedwab, Executive Director, Association for Canadian Studies, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Manager, Diversity Management and Community Engagement, City of Toronto, Susan Tanner, Justice Canada, Erin Tolley, Director, Metropolis Project, and Hassan Yussuff, Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Labour Congress.

The event was sponsored by the Commission, Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage and the City of Ottawa.

### **International Day of Peace (September 21)**

On the International Day of Peace, the Canadian edition of the Global Peace Games 2005 was launched on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Part of an international event that takes place in over 50 countries, the Global Peace Games aim at promoting youth engagement on global issues such as intercultural understanding and peace, which are among the main objectives of the *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010*. Similar events were also held in Victoria, Montreal, Regina and Charlottetown.

The fact that the year 2005 was declared the *International Year of Physical Education and Sport* by the United Nations gave added importance to this event. Viewing sport as a “tool” for peace, the activity allowed participants to demonstrate their desire for a better world by signing the *Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence*.

Organized by SOS Children’s Villages Canada, in cooperation with the Commission, Play Soccer International, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the Canadian Soccer Association, the launch transformed

Parliament Hill into a soccer field where two teams of young girls demonstrated different drills aimed at encouraging teamwork, respect, and solidarity among players.

Katherine Berg, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, gave a speech underlining the importance of sport as a way to promote peace, education, health and development. The event was hosted by the Senator Jim Munson and by Canadian soccer star, Craig Forrest.

### **Philosophy Day (November 21)**

In 2002 UNESCO declared November 21 as Philosophy Day to demonstrate the importance of philosophy in everyday life, and to engage a larger public in philosophical debates. This year the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy at the Université de Québec à Montréal organized a roundtable discussion to mark the day to address the question “Is Tolerance a Political Value?” Participants included academics from Québec and French universities.

The University of Manitoba also organized an event that featured six lectures by eminent professors on a wide range of philosophical topics, followed by a lively discussion. In Ontario, the University of Ottawa and Carleton University organized a joint activity around the theme “What Philosophers Do.” Two philosophers from each university talked about the pertinence and provocative nature of their current research work. And, in Nova Scotia, the Philosophy Department at St. Francis Xavier University celebrated the day with a series of presentations on “the importance of doing nothing.” Bringing together the insights of philosophers from Asian, continental and analytic traditions, seven faculty members provided often humorous commentary about how philosophy is not simply a “doing”, but also a “being.”

## **IV. AWARDS AND HONOURS**

### **Mondialogo Engineering Award**

The Mondialogo Engineering Award is an initiative of Daimler Chrysler and UNESCO to promote intercultural dialogue. The initiative calls on students from industrialized and developing countries to work together on technical proposals that address the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly the eradication of poverty and the promotion of environmental sustainable development.

In 2005 more than 1700 young engineers and students from 79 countries formed 412 international teams and submitted their projects for the Awards. An international team of experts chose two Canadian projects to compete with 38 others in the finals for the Award. Engineering students at Ryerson University, Toronto, collaborated with students at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, on a project called "Use of unmanned aerial vehicles for land mine detection", while students at McGill University in Montreal worked with students at the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería in Managua, Nicaragua, on a project titled "Current lack of lighting systems in rural areas of Nicaragua."

At the Mondialogo Engineering Award Ceremony and Symposium held in Berlin in May it was announced that the Ryerson University/American University in Beirut project had won the Award in the "Emergency and disaster response and reconstruction" category.

### **Harmony List of Best Cultural Practices**

The Harmony List of Best Cultural Practices Contributing to Sustainable Development highlights the best traditional or innovative cultural practices that significantly and sustainably contribute to improving quality of life, and that integrate cultural considerations into economic and social development. The Harmony List is

the result of a partnership between the UNESCO's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) and International Development at Integral Development Asset Management (I.D.E.A.M.) The partnership is viewed by many as a model of collaboration with the business community incorporating UNESCO values and objectives.

The Harmony List was created in 2004, and the first two practices selected for the List were Cree Bush Schools in the James Bay region, and Bedouin Hospitality. An official ceremony organized by the Commission, in collaboration with the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), was held in Quebec City to commemorate the occasion. On behalf of the Bush School of Chisasibi, Mr. Romeo Saganash, Director of Quebec and International Relations for the Grand Council of Crees, accepted the certificate from Aline Bory-Adams of UNESCO representing the IFPC, and Antoine Dehen, Director of I.D.E.A.M of the Crédit Agricole Group.

### **Canadian Commission for UNESCO Award for Science for Peace and Development**

For the third year, the Commission provided a \$1,000 award at the Canada-Wide Science Fair for an outstanding project addressing issues related to science for peace and development. This fair is the largest extra-curricular youth activity related to science and technology in Canada and brings together some 450 top young scientists who have been chosen from nearly 100 regional science and technology fairs held across the country.

The 2005 Science Fair was held in Vancouver from May 15 - 23, and the Commission award received over 400 submissions. The winner was Spencer Hughes from Timmins, Ontario, for his project "Too Hot to Handle" about how to extract and reuse energy from hazardous waste underground. Spencer Hughes also

won four other prizes for this impressive project.

The Commission enjoyed a strong presence at the Fair this year, with Alex Michalos serving as a judge, and Max Wyman presenting the award to the winner at the awards ceremony.

The Commission's award is the only one with a social component or vision for a greater cause outside of science itself. As a result, it receives the highest number of applications (students "apply" for specific awards), as students like to see their project contributing to peace and development.

### **Canadian Fellowship Program "For Women and Science"**

On the occasion of World Science Day for Peace and Development (November 10), l'Oréal Canada, in collaboration with the Commission, honoured Andrea Ottensmeyer and Sharonna Greenberg, the recipients of the 2005 "For Women in Science" Mentor Fellowships. Ms. Ottensmeyer and Ms. Greenberg are doctoral candidates in marine biology and organic chemistry respectively.

Beginning in 2006, Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Ottensmeyer will participate in mentoring sessions organized by Actua and l'Oréal in universities across Canada. They will also share their experiences and their passion for science with young girls aged 8 to 17 at summer camps, workshops and clubs, and through Actua's website: [www.girls.actua.ca](http://www.girls.actua.ca)

Mr. Pierre-Yves Arzel, President and CEO of l'Oréal Canada used the occasion to announce the creation of two new Fellowships of \$20,000 CDN each, to support women scientists in Canada.

The ceremony was held in Ottawa this year for the first time, and the Secretary-General and the President and CEO of L'Oréal

Canada, presented the fellowships. Ms. Denise Bombardier addressed the ceremony as a keynote speaker.

## **V. BIOSPHERE RESERVES**

### **Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve Inauguration Ceremony**

Six months after its official designation by UNESCO, the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve (GBLBR) held its inauguration ceremony and public workshop on April 29 – 30, in Parry Sound. This ceremony brought the various stakeholders together and helped to strengthen the common sense of responsibility for the area and to build synergies among the various groups.

The workshop also successfully brought together individuals and organizations interested in working together under the umbrella of the biosphere reserve. The participants agreed that the first key goal of the Biosphere Reserve should be to change the current orientation and self-pride of residents towards a greater realization of the phenomenal area they live in. It was suggested that one goal would be greater realization that the Georgian Bay area is not simply a "scenic place", but one of high "natural capital" and of high biodiversity. "Training the trainers," such as tourism officers and local teachers, was also identified as a priority. The need to raise public understanding of the biosphere reserve concept was identified as the most important area for immediate action.

Speakers, including, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, and representatives of the local Aboriginal group, NGOs, businesses, residents and academics, shared their views and support for the new biosphere reserve. Dominique Potvin, Natural Sciences Programme Officer, transmitted UNESCO's greetings through

remarks sent by the MAB Secretariat, and Fred Roots, Chair of Canada MAB, provided an overview of the global biosphere reserve network. In recognition of their contribution to the designation of the Biosphere Reserve, the GBLBR presented several groups, including the Commission, with an exact replica of the UNESCO certificate signed by the Director-General made from old-growth red birch that had been preserved in the waters of the Georgian Bay.

### **Building Student Capacity towards UNESCO's Global Change in Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE)**

Through a series of results-oriented meetings and workshops, the "Global Change in Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE)" project of UNESCO-MAB is developing an overarching research strategy for addressing Global Change issues that integrate activities from both the natural and social sciences. The project is being developed in selected mountain biosphere reserves with the goal of ultimately implementing the strategy in all mountain biosphere reserves around the world.

In 2004, UNESCO selected Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (British Columbia) as one of the 28 GLOCHAMORE sites due to its representative ecology and the availability of enhanced scientific infrastructure. As a result, the President of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation is working with the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria to have Masters-level students conduct research and to establish a Global Observation Research Network in Alpine Environments monitoring site. To support and encourage this initiative, the Commission provided financial assistance to enable Ms. Kristina Swerhun, a Masters student at the University of Victoria, to participate in a conference on the Integrated Climate Research on Western Mountains

(CIRMOUNT) held in Chico Springs, USA. The participation of a representative of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve at this conference also provided the biosphere reserve managers with a better understanding of the next steps required for them to participate actively in this global network.

### **China - Canada Biosphere Reserves Collaboration**

Building on well established collaboration between the Chinese National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program and Canada developed in recent years in the context of the Chinese Public Sector Reform Program, three managers of Canadian Biosphere Reserves visited the Chinese Biosphere Reserves of Baotianman, Jiuzhaigou, and Dalai Lake. Louis Gagné (Lac-St-Pierre), Norm Ruttan (Thousand-Islands-Frontenac Arch), and John Whitaker (Riding Mountain) were accompanied by James Birtch from the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and Chucri Sayegh from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In China they met with their counterparts, as well as Professor Han Nianyong, Secretary-General of China-MAB, Mr. Li Delai, a consultant to CIDA in Beijing, and Miss Wei Riufang, a graduate student from Peking University. The goal of this ongoing exchange is to share experiences about sustainable development in biosphere reserves with a focus on improving management of the landscape, flora and fauna, and the development of sustainable tourism.

The twinning of biosphere reserves is also being explored, and the Canadian and Chinese Biosphere Reserves Associations continue to share expertise based on their respective experiences. Some of the common objectives and challenges faced by biosphere reserves in both countries include community involvement, research, and the integration of traditional knowledge in monitoring and management programs.

## **EuroMAB, Schloss Hernstein, Austria**

The Austrian Commission for UNESCO and the Austrian MAB National Committee, in cooperation with UNESCO, organized a EuroMAB meeting for biosphere reserve coordinators and managers to provide an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and ideas about how to implement the biosphere reserve concept.

Mr. Richard Murzin, President of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association, presented opening remarks on biosphere reserves as learning sites at a plenary session for the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Mr. Stan Boychuck from the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve led a workshop on "Public Participation and Public Relations in Biosphere Reserves." Ms. Rebecca Pollock, a member of the Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences and member of the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve, also participated in this meeting.

## **Publications**

Biosphere reserves also figured prominently in two publications, *Environments*, a journal of interdisciplinary studies, published by the Faculty of Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, and *Canada's Best Drives*, published by Toyota Canada and the Canadian Tourism Commission. *Environments* published a special issue devoted entirely to biosphere reserves in Canada. *Canada's Best Drives* presented 15 "great" trips, two of which included biosphere reserves and two that included UNESCO natural World Heritage Sites.

## **VI. UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK IN CANADA**

### **Designation of UNESCO Associated Schools, Winnipeg (May 10)**

To translate the ideals of peace and international cooperation through education into action, UNESCO created the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) that now includes over 7,000 schools in 171 countries. Associated Schools promote UNESCO's ideals by conducting pilot projects, and by developing innovative educational approaches and materials to address local, regional and global issues.

On May 10, following a two-year pilot project, the Commission officially designated the first four ASPnet schools in Canada at a ceremony in Winnipeg with the Manitoba Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, Peter Bjornson. Entertainer and Juno award winner Al Simmons, a spokesperson for Associated Schools in Canada, also attended the event and provided an impromptu performance.

The designated schools declared May 9 - 13 "UNESCO Week" in their school and organized a series of special events, including the Poverty Walk Challenge, that raised funds for Winnipeg Harvest, a local food bank that specifically addresses child hunger and poverty from the perspective that "hungry children do not solely live in third world countries ... they also live next door." The ASP schools also raised money for tsunami relief in South East Asia and are working to integrate awareness and knowledge of human rights issues into their curriculum.

The designation ceremony received extensive media coverage on A Channel television and CBC Radio in Winnipeg. The official web site of the Government of Manitoba also featured the ceremony on its home page, including photos from the event.

### **Hafford Central School, Saskatchewan**

Located within the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, Hafford Central School became the first ASPNet school in Saskatchewan. Since 2000, the students at Hafford School have been involved with projects that included community planning for sustainability, and a study of ecological services provided by farmers. In 2003, the school was designated as an ASPnet “pilot school” and teachers have since been actively incorporating UNESCO-related subjects and themes in the curriculum.

The Biosphere Reserve also includes a Research Centre that contains documentation and visual materials on bird migrations and water levels, and has the potential to become a learning resource for students.

### **Spokepersons for ASPnet**

The Commission’s pamphlet, *Spokepersons for ASPnet* (2003), was included in the book *Layout Workbook* by Kristen Cullen as an example of a “layout that works.” The asymmetric design, the use of different typeface, and the visual appeal of the pamphlet were all cited as unique components that contributed to the success of the Commission’s publication.

Kirsten Cullen teaches graphic design at the University of Cincinnati and has written a series of books that cover the fundamental areas of the graphic design business. The *Layout Workbook* was written as a guide for students, designers and professionals to demonstrate and explain what constitutes a successful design.

## **VII. UNESCO PATRONAGE**

The conferring of UNESCO “patronage” allows organizations to use the name and logo of UNESCO in association with a specific event or activity. Application is made by the Commission on behalf of the organization if the event or activity corresponds to, and will further, UNESCO’s goals and values. “Patronage” is honorary only, and does not involve any financial contribution from UNESCO. It does, however, provide profile for UNESCO and the “power of association” for the recipient.

In 2005, the following events received UNESCO patronage:

“The Dialogue of Civilizations? Islam and the West”, an international symposium organized by Laval University, Quebec, May 6 – 8.

“Journalisme et patrimoine mondial”, an international workshop held at Laval University, May 23 – 30.

“Culture.mondo”, an inaugural international roundtable of cultural portal authorities and experts, Canadian Pavilion, Expo 2005, in Aichi, Japan, June 7-8, organized by Culture.ca / Canada’s Cultural Gateway in collaboration with a Steering Committee of national cultural portal authorities from Australia, Belgium, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Festival mondial des arts pour la jeunesse, Montréal, September 20 – 30.

International Indigenous Youth Peace Village and Summit, organized by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, tentatively scheduled for the summer 2006.

## **MOVING FORWARD**

The coming year promises to be another very busy one for the Commission and some of the principle activities will include:

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Commission across Canada
- War Affected Children Conference, Winnipeg
- World Urban Forum, Vancouver
- XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto

The Commission will also play an active role in governance at UNESCO through participation in, and support for the Canadian delegations to:

- UNESCO Executive Board
- International Bureau of Education (IBE)
- Intergovernmental Council for UNESCO's Information for All Programme

Finally, we will continue to consult Canadians and contribute to the development of Canada's position on key UNESCO policy and programme documents such as:

- Draft Programme and Budget, 2007-2008 (34 C/5)
- Draft Medium-Term Strategy, 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

## Annex I

### Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

**President** Max Wyman, Lions Bay, British Columbia

**Vice-President** Michèle S. Jean, Montreal (Quebec)

**Secretary-General** David A. Walden, Ottawa, Ontario

#### Chairs of the Sectoral Commissions

**Education** Arpi Hamalian, Montreal (Quebec)  
Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University

**Natural Sciences,  
Social and  
Human Sciences** Alex C. Michalos  
Director, Institute for Social Research and Evaluation  
Professor Emeritus, Political Science  
University of Northern British Columbia

**Culture,  
Communication  
and Information** François-Pierre Le Scouarnec, Montreal (Quebec)  
President, Podium Tech

**Members** Michel Agnaïeff, Montreal (Quebec)  
Past President

Lillian Allen, Toronto, Ontario  
Poet and author

John Hobday, Ottawa, Ontario  
Director, Canada Council for the Arts

Ferry de Kerckhove  
Director-General, International Organizations Bureau  
Foreign Affairs Canada

Vicki Mather, Edmonton, Alberta  
Executive Director, The Society of Safe and Caring Schools and  
Communities

Claude Moreau, Montreal (Quebec)  
Director-General, Centre international de résolution de conflits et de  
médiation (C.I.R.C.M.)

David Thauberger, Regina Saskatchewan  
Board Member, Canada Council for the Arts

Raymond Th  berge, Toronto, Ontario  
Director-General, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

Artur Wilczynski, Gatineau (Quebec)  
Director, International Relations and Outreach  
Department of Canadian Heritage

Gregor Wolbring, Calgary, Alberta  
Adjunct Professor, University of Calgary

**Youth Observer** Wei Hsi Hu, Edmonton, Alberta

## **Annex II**

### **Secretariat of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

David A. Walden	Secretary-General
Katherine Berg	Special Advisor to the Secretary-General
Alysouk Lynhiavu	Public Affairs Officer UNESCO Associated School Project Coordinator
Hélène Pollex	Administrative Coordinator and Assistant to the Secretary-General

#### **Programme Officers**

Elisabeth Barot	Social and Human Sciences
Mathias Bizimana	Culture and World Heritage
Pauline Dugré	Communication and Information
Kathleen Meagher	Education
Dominique Potvin	Natural Sciences
Cynthia Lacasse	Junior Programme Officer, Youth

#### **Administrative Assistants**

Francine Boland	Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences
Mélanie Charbonneau	Education
Marie-Tonine Moreau	Culture, Communication and Information
Alexis Philiptchenko	Finance and Administration

#### **Student Intern**

Charles Benoit	(May - August)
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## Annex III

### Honorary Members of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

#### ***Former Ambassadors of Canada to UNESCO***

Ian Christie Clark, Ottawa, Ontario  
Jacques Demers, Gatineau (Quebec)

#### ***Past Presidents of the Commission***

L.H. Cragg, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Vianney Décarie, Montreal (Quebec)  
Guy Bourgeault, Duvernay, Quebec  
Roseann Runte, Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A.  
Michel Agnaieff, Montreal (Quebec)

#### ***Former Vice-Presidents of the Commission***

Marshall Wm. Conley, Halifax, Nova Scotia

#### ***Former Secretaries-General***

Lewis Perinbam, Vancouver, British Columbia  
Claude Lussier, Ottawa, Ontario  
Shirley L. Thomson, Ottawa, Ontario  
Francine Fournier, Montreal (Quebec)  
Jacques-Victor Morin, Montreal (Quebec)  
Louis Patenaude, Montreal (Quebec)

#### ***Canadians who have made a significant contribution to the work of UNESCO***

Albert Millaire, Montreal (Quebec)  
Kim Phuc, Ajax, Ontario  
Senator Douglas Roche, Edmonton, Alberta  
Swee-Hin Toh, Australia  
Oscar Peterson, Oakville, Ontario  
Paul Gérin-Lajoie, Montreal (Quebec)  
Yvon Charbonneau, Montreal (Quebec) and Paris (France)  
Norma Walmsley, Wakefield (Quebec)

Pursuant to Article 3.2.3 of the Constitution of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Honorary Members are “Individuals recognized by the Executive Committee for their outstanding contribution and dedication to the attainment of UNESCO ideals and objectives.” Honorary membership is conferred for life.

## Annex IV

### UNESCO Chairs in Canada

#### **ORBICOM Network**

Secretary-General  
Claude-Yves Charron  
Université du Québec à Montréal (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair in Communication and International Development at UQAM**

(Communication)  
Jean-Paul Lafrance  
Département des communications  
Université du Québec à Montréal (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage (Culture)**

Cyril Simard  
Institut d'études sur les patrimoines  
Université Laval (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair in Studies of Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democratic Society (Social Sciences and Humanities)**

Josiane Boulad-Ayoub  
Département de philosophie  
Université du Québec à Montréal (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability (Education)**

Charles Hopkins  
York University, Ontario

#### **UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development (Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities)**

Louis Guay  
Département de sociologie  
Université Laval (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair on Landscape and Environment (Social Sciences and Humanities)**

Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec  
Université de Montréal (Quebec)

#### **UNESCO Chair in Environment and Sustainable Development (Natural Sciences)**

Claude Hilaire-Marcel and Marc Lucotte  
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
Université du Québec à Montréal (Quebec)