



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
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Canadian Commission for UNESCO Applauds Participants in International Adult Learners' Week 2010

Ottawa, March 1, 2010 — The Canadian Commission for UNESCO invites all of its partners and adult learners across Canada to join in celebrating International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) 2010, from March 1 to 7.

Adult learning festivals and literacy events across the country share a common purpose — to spotlight the benefits of lifelong learning, which not only expands opportunities for individuals, but helps to build sound economy.

A wide range of events during the week will raise the profile of adult learners; encourage individuals to take advantage of a vast array of learning choices; and demonstrate the power of adult learning as an instrument for change.

David A. Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, offers congratulations to the Commission's many partners who work in support of IALW and adult learning — including governments at all levels, non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, educators and learners.

"Increased participation in International Adult Learners' Week has opened up dynamic new directions for collaboration in adult learning, and for a greater exchange of knowledge and resources," Mr. Walden said. "Together we are reaching out to all sectors of society, broadening the opportunities for adult learners and for a vibrant, sustainable society."

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

As part of the IALW 2010 celebration, the Commission has prepared a special publication, titled *Opening up the Possibilities*, which reports on key ideas and issues from CONFINTEA. The magazine also features success stories by adult learners in Canada, as well as ideas and perspectives of partners in the adult learning community.

IALW participants are encouraged to provide information about their local activities for posting on the Commission's website. By sharing details about their activities, organizations offer inspiration and ideas to other groups for future events — and year-round.

Information about IALW 2010, as well as a copy of the magazine, *Opening up the Possibilities*, can be found at:

www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx

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