



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

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# ANNUAL REPORT *of the* SECRETARY-GENERAL

2008-2009



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The Canadian Commission operates under  
the aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts.

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## MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The role of National Commissions for UNESCO is to involve government departments and agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture, communication and information, in its activities. To do so, National Commissions may participate in UNESCO's activities or undertake their own initiatives or activities related to the general objectives of UNESCO (Article I of the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO, 1978).

The Annual Report covers the period 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009, and is therefore set against the backdrop of the serious economic challenges that are being experienced by the world today. UNESCO, and the entire United Nations' system, continue to face what are sometimes referred to as the "three "F"s" - the food, fuel and financial crises - and with them increased pressures to maintain levels of programme activity and support during a period of incremental challenges. In all of this, however, UNESCO maintains, and increasingly relies upon, one of its principal comparative advantages that has no equivalent in the United Nations system: the network of National Commissions.

Tasked with assignments and responsibilities by their governments, National Commissions which by their very nature are focal points for creativity and intellectual exchanges, represent a collective strength and a vital link between UNESCO and civil society. Their interdisciplinary profile, collective diversity and disparate knowledge, provide them with a special ability to give expression to the Organization's objectives through concrete action.

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 are particularly appreciative of the unqualified support of our host organization, the Canada Council for the Arts.

As this Report demonstrates, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO has remained active and resolute in its work to advance UNESCO's work in education, the sciences, culture and communication, both in Canada and around the world. We continue to solidify and expand our existing networks, while also working with new partners in innovative ways to achieve the ideals of UNESCO.



David A. Walden  
Secretary-General

## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), one of the 19 specialized agencies of the United Nations system, was established in London, England, on 16 November 1945. Canada was one of the 26 founding members.

UNESCO headquarters are situated in Paris, France. It is comprised of 193 Member States and has regional and liaison offices in a number of countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade represents the Government of Canada at UNESCO through its Permanent Delegation.

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.

Achievement of the ideals and mandate of UNESCO demands cooperation 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."

National Commissions are the creation of Member States and their status derives from legislation or an executive instrument. Section 8(2) of the Canada Council Act, adopted on 28 March 1957, 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 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. An Order in Council (Privy Council 2006-0601) approved on 23 June 2006 confirmed the Commission's mandate and amended the composition of the Executive Committee.

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 Commission's Executive Committee consists of 17 members whose mandate is to act in the name of the membership by setting out and approving the general policy and programme orientations of the Commission.

The Executive Committee met three times this year, twice at the Annual General meeting in May and again in November. At the May meeting, the Executive Committee welcomed the presence of Gilbert Laurin, Canada's Ambassador to UNESCO, and Michel Audet, the Representative of the Government of Québec at UNESCO. It received an update on the work of the Membership Committee, as well as confirmation of the re-appointment of the President and Vice-President of the Commission by the Board of the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Executive Committee also discussed the current situation of UNESCO Chairs in Canada. They agreed that because of growing interest in these Chairs, UNESCO's Guidelines should be reviewed and policies and procedures specific to Chairs in Canada should be developed. The November meeting considered the first draft of the Guidelines for UNESCO Chairs in Canada prepared by the Secretariat, and several suggestions were made for ways to improve the documents.

Executive Committee member Paul Black made a presentation about Canada's most recently designated World Heritage Site, Joggins Fossil Cliffs, and new members were approved for both Sectoral Commissions in Natural, Human and Social Sciences and in Culture, Communication and Information. The meeting also provided an opportunity for discussion and input about ways to ensure active participation of the Commission's members in the consultations on UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5).

### UNESCO Executive Board

The Executive Board of UNESCO consists of 58 Member States elected by the General Conference and is responsible for the implementation of the programme adopted by the General Conference. The Board held two meetings during this period, one in April and a second in October 2008.

The 179<sup>th</sup> session, held in April, was the first meeting of the Board in the current biennium. It therefore dealt with a number of specific issues related to decisions made at the General Conference such as intersectoral platforms and the move of the Foresight Office from the Social and Human Sciences Sector to the Bureau of Strategic Planning, the ongoing question of the visibility of UNESCO, the Education for All Global Action Plan, activities to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a proposal to designate 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry. One new initiative was the decision to direct the Secretariat to begin work to develop a strategy for technical and vocational education - the first time such a strategy has been developed at UNESCO.

The 180<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board was dominated by two related themes:

- 1) the debate about the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5), which will be adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference (3 - 23 October 2009); and,
- 2) the process for selecting the next Director-General of UNESCO.

The meeting also took place during the deepening world financial crisis and links were often made to the financial crisis, the world food crisis, and the energy crisis.

Following the distribution of the Questionnaire on the next Draft Programme and Budget in the spring of 2008 and the five regional consultations of National Commissions for UNESCO in June and July, this was the first opportunity for the Executive Board to debate the proposals. The Secretariat then began work to prepare the detailed Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011. It will then become the subject of further consultation, amendment and adoption at the 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference in October 2009.

The term of the current Director-General ends on 14 November 2009. In summary, the process for selecting the Director-General is as follows: at least six months before the expiration of the term of the Director-General, the Executive Board invites Member States to submit the names and c.v.'s of candidates; the Board then interviews all candidates and selects one candidate by secret ballot; the Chairman of the Board submits, for approval, the name of the person selected to the General Conference; and, the General Conference votes on the nomination. As of 31 March, the Governments of Lithuania, Bulgaria and Egypt had presented candidates.

## **II- INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES**

### **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Program**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Program (IFAP) was held in Paris from April 2 - 4. The Council's discussions focused on the IFAP strategic plan, which proposed the phasing-out of the Council and the Program over the next six years. Member States requested the postponement of the deadline to provide an opportunity to identify other options for reorienting the Program before its complete elimination due to lack of financial and human resources. Canada was represented by Dominique Levasseur of the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO and Canadian representative on the Council, and by Pauline Dugré, Communication and Information Program Officer at the Commission.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO**

During the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) held in Paris, 9 - 13 June, the Council examined the outcome of the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference (October 2007), including the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4), with particular reference as to how these relate to the implementation of the Seventh Phase of IHP. The Council also oversaw follow-up actions to the Report of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III (Natural and Social and Human Sciences respectively), reviewed progress on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the last meeting of the IHP Council, and reviewed proposals for the establishment of water-related centers under the auspices of UNESCO. Recent initiatives such as Water and Cultural Diversity, the role of IHP in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and IHP involvement in the UNESCO Strategy on Climate Change were also discussed.

Dr. Fred Wrona, Director, Aquatic Ecosystem Impacts Research Division, at Environment Canada participated as an observer at this meeting.

### **41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission was held at UNESCO, Paris, from 24 June to 1 July. Dr. Wendy Watson Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister Science, at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) led the Canadian delegation comprised of representatives from DFO and Environment Canada. Dr. Savithri Narayanan, Director-General, Ocean Sciences - Canadian Hydrological Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, continues to serve as Vice-Chair of the IOC.

Key points of interest for Canada included the future of the IOC, follow-up to the Eighth Session of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, ways to address the impacts of climate change and variability on sea level, safeguarding marine ecosystem health, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IOC, and replacement of the IOC Executive Secretary.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and Joint Session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)**

UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee (IBC) met at UNESCO on 28 - 29 October, followed by a Joint Session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) on 30 and 31 October. The IBC is comprised of 36 independent experts appointed by the Director-General, while the IGBC consists of representatives of 36 Member States elected by the General Conference. The Committees work together to produce opinions, recommendations and proposals about the ethical challenges related to scientific and technological advances.

Two main topics were discussed during the meetings: the principle of social responsibility as set forth in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005), and the issue of human cloning and international governance. The IBC pioneered the debate on cloning, and in doing so laid the foundations of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997), which condemns reproductive cloning of human beings as contrary to human dignity. More than 50 countries have since passed laws banning this practice. Some scientists, however, are now urging a different approach to therapeutic cloning and an IBC working group has been examining this issue to determine whether the latest scientific, ethical, social, political and legal advances warrant a new international normative instrument. While the Committees may make recommendations in this regard, only the General Conference - where all Member States participate - can decide if a new instrument is required. The next meeting of the General Conference will be held in October 2009.

The President of the Commission and past-President of the IBC, Michèle S. Jean, represented the Commission, and representatives of Health Canada attended the meeting as observers.

### **III- CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

#### **Director-General's Consultation and 15<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial and Statutory Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Europe and North America**

Part of UNESCO's consultation process for the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (C/5) includes regional consultations of National Commissions. This year's consultation in the Europe and North America Region was organized by the National Commissions in the self-described "Benelux troika" - Belgium (Flanders), Netherlands, and Luxembourg - and took place in The Hague and Antwerp. Representatives of 42 National Commissions from the region, as well as observers from other regions, participated in the meetings.

The meeting used the World Café method to identify UNESCO's programme priorities in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011, as opposed to specifically addressing each section of the Questionnaire as had been done in the past. This resulted in a list of 57 "priorities" which were then ranked by each National Commission through a system of point allocation. On the basis of this ranking procedure, 24 priorities were considered of particular importance of which the first five were: strengthening Education for Sustainable Development; promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue; increased efforts to promote arts education as part of quality education; promotion, effective implementation and monitoring of existing normative instruments, and the promotion of gender equality across all programme activities. A complete copy of the Report is available in Executive Board document 180 EX/ 21 Part (1)A on UNESCO's web site ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

The Quadrennial Conference portion of the meeting included a "marketplace" or "poster session" where National Commissions shared their experiences in the implementation of UNESCO programme activities. At the request of the organizers, the Canadian Commission made two presentations during these sessions: one on youth involvement, and the other on the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. The Commission was represented by the President and the Secretary-General. The Secretary General was also a member of the Preparatory Committee.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights, Nantes, France**

The Forum of Nantes was created in 2004 to support the development of networks to protect, promote and implement human rights by strengthening relationships between political leaders, NGO's, academics, and representatives of international organizations, including organizing a meeting every two years.

This year, over 2500 participants from more than 100 countries met from 30 June to 3 July for four days of debates devoted to human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the struggle against racism and all forms of discrimination around the world. During the opening ceremony of the Forum, UNESCO launched the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, in the presence of representatives of six regional coalitions.

Mr. Alok Mukherjee, Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, and a member of the pan-Canadian working group for the development of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination, participated in a round table discussion on behalf of the working group. In his presentation, Mr. Mukherjee noted that in every province of Canada the municipal police have a civilian oversight body such as a police services board or a commission that is independent of the municipal government. Composed of local representatives from civil society, these Boards are in charge of ensuring that the local police act in accordance with the laws and the public interest.

### **World Conservation Congress**

The World Conservation Congress organized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was held from 5 - 14 October in Barcelona, Spain. Two of the presentations on the agenda were directly related to UNESCO networks in Canada.

Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and Board member for the Ucluelet First Nation, Larry Baird, gave a presentation on the UNESCO Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve during the session on Protected Areas and Sustainability.

The second presentation was made by Geneviève Nadeau, who was also a participant in the Youth Component of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage

Committee. Entitled *New Generation, New Challenges for the Conservation of Natural Heritage* her presentation, given at the Young Leaders & Protected Areas Workshop, focused on the roles and perspectives of youth about the conservation of natural heritage.

This is the first time that the Commission has been linked to the World Conservation Congress and this was the result of another fruitful collaboration with Parks Canada. The Commission was responsible for the selection of candidates, while Parks Canada provided the funding for Ms. Nadeau to participate in this session. The IUCN also serves as an expert advisory body to the World Heritage Committee and provides technical assessments of nominations for designation of natural World Heritage Sites.

### **The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management**

Organized by UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, and held on the Island of Capri, Italy, from 13 - 16 October, this symposium addressed ways that hydrologists can contribute to the planning and management of freshwater projects, including managing existing systems faced with new socio-political situations. Hydrologists and water resource managers also discussed the need to pay greater attention to the environmental, social and economic aspects in the planning and management of such projects, as well as the sustainability of water resource systems.

The Commission supported the participation of Michael Blackstock (Ama Goodim Gyet), a member of the Gitksan house of Geel, British Columbia, who was invited to speak at the symposium. Mr. Blackstock is a professional writer, visual artist, and forester, and an active member of UNESCO's expert advisory group on Water and Cultural Diversity. His presentation, entitled *Perspectives Blue Ecology and Climate Change* addressed the functional and spiritual roles of water, and sought to instill both respect and science-based understanding in younger generations and in the development of mitigation strategies.

## UNESCO Regional Meeting on Youth Networks and Policies

The UNESCO Regional Meeting on Youth Networks and Policies took place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from 15 - 19 October under the theme *Building the present and future of the Americas*. The meeting explored the creation of the Americas Youth Network, a recommendation resulting from the 1<sup>st</sup> Americas Youth Forum held in 2007 in Acapulco, Mexico.

Founder and coordinator of the Réseau citoyen de solidarité Iciéla and member of the Commission's Youth Advisory Group, Jean-Sébastien Dufresne, was selected by the Commission to participate in the event. Two Canadian organizations, the Office Québec Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ) and TakingITGlobal, were also invited by UNESCO to participate in the meeting. TakingITGlobal was represented by Kimia Ghomeshi, who was one of the two Canadian participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Americas Youth Forum (2007). To prepare for the meeting and begin the discussions, all participants engaged in an online dialogue that was launched three weeks before the start of the event.

There were 84 participants and observers at the meeting, representing 30 countries and 33 organizations across the Americas. During the UNESCO Regional Meeting, the delegates signed a Charter and adopted two official declarations: one on the state of youth policies in the region, and another related to the potential and the challenges of the networks of the region. The event also saw the official launch of the Americas Youth Network.

## World Urban Forum 4

More than 50% of the world's population now lives in urban areas, and UNESCO has been cooperating with the United Nations Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) since 2002 to explore the socio-economic consequences, such as over-population, poverty, and access to safe drinking water.

The Fourth World Urban Forum was held in Nanjing, China, from 3 - 6 November with the theme *Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development* that was addressed through six sub-themes: socially harmonious cities, economically

harmonious cities, environmentally harmonious cities, spatially harmonious cities, historically harmonious cities, and "generationally" harmonious cities.

The Commission, in partnership with Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism and Human Rights Branch and the Aboriginal Affairs Branch), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Metropolis Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor, organized a workshop entitled "Strategies and practices for inclusive, welcoming communities." During the workshop, diverse practitioners examined socio-cultural challenges for residents, migrants, and newcomers to urban communities. A key objective was to generate participatory learning and share knowledge about innovative approaches to more socially harmonious cities (sub-theme 4).

The Commission supported the participation of John Reilly of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion of the City of Edmonton, to draw attention to, and share, lessons learned by Canadian partners of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and how member municipalities are promoting ethno-cultural harmony in Canada's increasingly multiethnic cities. He also made presentations at two Networking Events, one organized by UNESCO that focused on educating for sustainable cities and the other hosted by Canadian Heritage that highlighted ways to create a welcoming atmosphere for all residents of the city.

## 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Conference on Education

The International Conference on Education (ICE) is a major international forum for education policy dialogue among Ministers of Education and other stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society) that was held in Geneva from 25 - 28 November. It was organized by the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the UNESCO institute that specializes in assisting Member States to achieve quality Education for All through innovative curriculum development and implementation. Canada is an elected member of the IBE Council and Raymond Théberge, Director-General of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, represents Canada on this Council.

The theme of the session was *Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future*. In this context, inclusive education is seen as a process that transforms schools and other centres of learning to meet the needs of all children—including minority populations, those affected by HIV and AIDS, and those with disabilities and learning difficulties. The conference demonstrated that while there was general agreement about the concept of inclusive education, in practice it was often still associated exclusively with disability and special needs education that involved the integration of children into mainstream schools.

There was also widespread concern about the social, economic, political and cultural factors that result in exclusion and the need to address these by focusing on the causes of exclusion both within and outside the classroom. The Conference therefore addressed the needs of the estimated 72 million children who are not in school, the high rates of repetition and drop-out, the relevance of what is being taught, and the approximately 774 million adults who still lack basic literacy skills - more than 75% of whom live in only fifteen countries.

The Canadian Delegation was led by Kelly Lamrock, Minister of Education, New Brunswick, and President of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. He was accompanied by Benoit Pelletier, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Québec, and Jody Carr, a Member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Canadian delegation also included representatives from various ministries in New Brunswick and Québec, of the Canadian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO in Paris and the Office of United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. The Commission also facilitated the participation of Lise Bastien, Director, First Nations Education Council, as a member of the Delegation, and also agreed to fund the participation of a delegate from the South.

#### **Pan-European CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference**

Organized by the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning, the Pan-European CONFINTEA VI (International Conference on Adult Learning) Preparatory Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, from

3 - 5 December with the theme *Adult Learning for Solidarity in a Context of Mobility, Competition and Change*. This meeting was one of five regional preparatory conference organized by UNESCO between September 2008 and January 2009.

The objectives of the Europe Region Conference were to identify and discuss effective policies and practices in a series of plenary and parallel panel discussions, to explore key issues, trends and challenges in Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in the region, to develop and to adopt recommendations, strategies and benchmarks to renew policies and action in ALE.

The Canadian delegation was led by Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ontario, and included representatives from the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Québec.

Ms. Fougère was elected as the Chair of the drafting committee responsible for formulating the final recommendations of the conference. These regional recommendations will be incorporated into national strategies and serve as a basis for ensuring follow-up to the regional conference and implementation at both national and regional levels. They also represent the contribution of the Europe Region Preparatory Meeting to CONFINTEA VI that will be held in Belém, Brazil, from 19 - 22 May 2009. The theme of CONFINTEA VI is *Living and Learning for a Viable Future - the Power of Adult Learning*, whereby sustainable development is interpreted as incorporating a social, economic, ecological and cultural dimension.

#### **UNESCO-MAB/UNEP-GEF Regional Project for the Management and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dryland Biosphere Reserves of West Africa**

Following the UNESCO-MAB/UNEP-GEF "regional project for the management and sustainable use of biodiversity in the dryland biosphere reserves of West Africa," UNESCO coordinated a mission in collaboration with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and France's MAB National Committee to Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger from 1 - 15 December.

The main objective was to build on the promising results of this regional initiative to catalyze and strengthen local and national support to the development of Biosphere Reserves, to increase the standing and visibility of the engaged partner organizations and to strengthen international collaboration among the world network of Biosphere Reserves, in particular between the Penjari (Benin), the transboundary 'W' (Burkina Faso-Benin-Niger), Mont Ventoux (France) and Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserves (Quebec, Canada). Identified areas of common interest and collaboration include the development of sustainable development charters for Biosphere Reserves, including the attribution scheme of Biosphere Reserve logos to its signatory groups, and improving exchange and communication about Biosphere Reserve issues within countries and among Member States, including through educational exchanges and web platforms allowing for direct communication.

Following the workshop on *Dialogue and Partnerships with the Private Sector: toward model regions of sustainable development* organized as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (Madrid, February 2008), Dominique Potvin, Programme Officer, Natural Sciences, and Jean Philippe Messier, Director, Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve (Québec) were invited by UNESCO to discuss the Canadian approach to Biosphere Reserves. The Commission also contributed to the production of Radio France Internationale web-based and audio documentaries on West African Biosphere Reserves.

### **UNESCO Commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

On 10 - 11 December, the UNESCO Education Sector organized a round table *Putting human rights into practice: the role of education* at its Paris headquarters to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how Member States put human rights education into practice, exchange good practices and innovative policies on human rights education, identify priority areas of action to further develop/improve human rights education, and promote partnership at the national, regional and international level. Over 100 individuals participated in the meeting, including representatives of Ministries of

Education, National Commissions for UNESCO, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, research institutions and universities.

Cassie Palamar of the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission participated in a panel discussion on the theme of *Links between formal and non-formal education*. Her presentation focused on non-formal educational strategies to build a human rights culture, drawing on the experiences of Human Rights Commissions and their partners in Canada. Other presentations identified strategies to overcome challenges to awareness and empowerment, discussed how to get families involved in human rights education, and explored whether human rights education for children differed from that for adults.

### **Workshop on Operational Capacity Building in African National Commissions for UNESCO**

At the invitation of the UNESCO Secretariat and the German Commission for UNESCO, the Secretary-General participated in a *workshop on operational capacity building for National Commissions for UNESCO in West Africa* in Bamako, Mali, from 18 - 20 February. While there, he also attended a second workshop organized and financed by the Government of Germany, on trans-boundary Biosphere Reserves (part of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme) in West Africa. The latter workshop was the result of a financial commitment by the Government of Germany at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in 2008 of 500 million Euros between 2009 and 2012 for the protection of forests and ecosystems.

The National Commissions' workshop brought together the Secretaries-General of 10 French-speaking countries in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo, as well as representatives of the UNESCO National Commissions Section, Sector for External Relations and Cooperation in Paris and Field Offices in Mali, Senegal, Ghana, and Cameroon, and the German Commission for UNESCO. These West African countries are among the poorest in the world where, according to the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index, more than 50% of the population lives in absolute poverty with an annual income equivalent to less than \$1 per day.

These countries also tend to be characterized by ongoing civil conflicts and, as a result, they are heavily reliant on foreign aid financially, in capacity-building, and for technical assistance.

The Secretary-General acted as a resource person and made three presentations during the workshop: one on the role, mandate, structure, operational capacity and visibility of National Commissions, another on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and a third on partnerships. The African National Commissions are eager to become more active in the implementation of UNESCO's activities in their respective countries but face structural constraints as they are part of a government ministry, usually Education. Despite the fact that the Minister is often also the President of the Commission, they receive little or no support from their countries and therefore turn to the UNESCO Secretariat and developed countries for expertise and assistance with capacity building.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

Organized every three years by the World Water Council, the World Water Forum is the main water-related event in the world, aiming at firmly establishing water on the international agenda. Under the theme *Bridging Divides for Water*, the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey, 16 - 22 March.

The Commission supported the participation of Darlene Sanderson, who has recently completed a PhD focused on indigenous perspectives on water in the areas of health, education, natural law, and the environment. Ms. Sanderson serves as the Secretariat of the Indigenous World Forum on Water and Peace, and her participation in the World Water Forum allowed her to suggest strategies and solutions there while further advancing the planning process for the 2010 Indigenous World Forum. The Indigenous World Forum on Water and Peace will provide directions for the future that are based on teachings from the past. Professor Slobodan Simonovic of the University of Waterloo, and a member of the Commission, was invited by UNESCO to officially launch his new book *Managing Water Resources: Methods and Tools for a Systems Approach* (UNESCO Publishing in collaboration with Earthscan) at the Forum.

#### **World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development - Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade**

The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) - Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade - was held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 March - 2 April 2009. UNESCO and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in collaboration with the German Commission for UNESCO, organized this event that brought together some 700 representatives of UNESCO's Member States, experts in the field of Education for Sustainable Development, United Nations agencies, organizations from civil society, youth and the private sector. The Conference consisted in a high-level meeting, plenary sessions, workshops, special events and exhibits presenting successful ESD projects. At the mid-point of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 - 2014), the Conference provided an opportunity to highlight the relevance of ESD to education, promote international dialogue on ESD, carry out a stock taking of the implementation of the Decade, and to develop strategies for the future.

The Commission had a booth in the exhibit area profiling Canadian work to promote ESD, including initiatives led by Canadian participants at the Conference. It also supported the participation of David Bell, Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future and Co-Chair of ESD Canada and of Christian Payeur, Director of Professional and Social Action Services, Centrale des syndicats du Québec. Dominique Potvin, represented the Commission and moderated one of the main 12 thematic sessions of the Congress, focusing on Biosphere Reserves as learning areas for sustainable development.

## IV- INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN CANADA

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee was held in Québec from 2 - 10 July in conjunction with the celebrations of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Québec. Grand Chief Max Gros-Louis of the Huron-Wendat First Nation opened the ceremony with a purification ritual, followed by addresses by Christina Cameron, Chairperson of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session, Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yaï, Chairman of UNESCO's Executive Board, Georges N. Anastassopoulos, the President of the General Conference, John Baird, the Minister of the Environment, Jean Charest, the Premier of Québec, and Régis Labeaume, the Mayor of Quebec City. UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Her Royal Highness, Princess Firyal of Jordan was also in attendance. The Secretary-General introduced the Youth Forum.

During the session, the Committee reviewed the state of conservation of the 30 World Heritage sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and inscribed 19 new cultural sites and eight new natural sites on the World Heritage List, including Joggins Fossil Cliffs in Nova Scotia. The List now comprises 878 properties, consisting of 679 cultural sites, 147 natural sites and 25 mixed sites in 145 Member States.

Over 1,000 representatives of Member States, heritage experts, non governmental organizations and media attended this session, making it one of the largest meetings of the World Heritage Committee to date.

### Youth Component of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee

The youth component, organized in conjunction with the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, brought together 30 participants: 15 from across Canada and 15 from countries representing the five geographical regions of the United Nations.

For three weeks, the youth aged 18 to 25 participated in different training and awareness workshops on World Heritage and related issues (conservation, responsible tourism, environment, sustainable development, climate

change, etc.) The participants were also able to increase their knowledge of the history and unique characteristics of certain Canadian sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List during a four-day educational trip to either Alberta or Newfoundland and Labrador and on study tours of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and the Historic District of Old Québec.

For the first time ever, the participants in the World Heritage Committee's youth component were able to attend working sessions of the Committee and to learn more about its operation, rules of procedure and nomination process. They also learned about issues related to the conservation and protection of World Heritage. A mentoring programme was also introduced to facilitate the learning process about this type of international meeting. Through this programme 25 of the 30 participants were paired with country delegations or with advisory bodies to promote a better understanding of the sessions and the often technical language used in each session.

During the programme, the youth developed different projects aimed at assuring the continuity of the event once it was over. The interactive web site, *Six Billion People, One Common Heritage*, was launched, thanks to the National Film Board's Citizen Shift Website, where the participants contributed by submitting texts, photos and videos illustrating their experience.

The youth also produced a video on World Heritage based on their experience that was presented at the opening ceremony of the World Heritage Committee. Copies have since been distributed to different partners in different regions around the world. Two 55-minute long documentaries (one in French and one in English) were produced and were subsequently broadcast on Canal Savoir television in 2009.

Finally, the participants were asked to prepare a project that they would like to develop within their community to share what they had learned with as many people as possible. For the first time, thanks to a partnership with Hostelling International, the Hostelling International Christina Cameron Youth Award was given to three projects illustrating the highest potential for reinvestment in the community. The recipients chosen by the youth were: Ansoumane Sané of Senegal; Taryn Barry of Edmonton; and Hari Wibowo of Indonesia.

The youth component was organized in conjunction with Parks Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO with the support of Canadian Heritage, the Canadian International Development Agency and many other partners from the public and private sectors.

### **Second World Congress of the *Coordination autochtone francophone***

Organized by the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador (AFNQL), this congress held in Sainte-Foy, Québec was part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Francophonie Summit and brought together representatives of different French-speaking Aboriginal peoples from every continent (Africa, North and South America and the Pacific). The theme of the congress was *The Rights of French-Speaking Aboriginal Peoples* and participants were able to address questions concerning (i) the protection of Aboriginal languages and the cultural diversity of the French-speaking communities, (ii) the impact of climate change on the lives of Aboriginal peoples, and (iii) Aboriginal women and the concept of equality.

The Commission participated in the event as an observer and was thus able to promote UNESCO's priorities with respect to languages, cultural diversity, sustainable development and questions of gender. The Commission also made a financial contribution that allowed a representative from a developing country to participate. In addition to Aboriginal delegates, representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Ministère des relations internationales - Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones, Rights and Democracy, and Amnesty International attended the event as observers.

### **III<sup>es</sup> Rencontres internationales francophones de bioéthique - La bioéthique : un nouvel espace de gouvernance, de diversité et de partage dans les pays de la francophonie**

The III<sup>es</sup> Rencontres internationales francophones de bioéthique was held 21 - 22 October in Québec with the theme *La bioéthique : un nouvel espace de gouvernance, de diversité et de partage dans les pays de la francophonie* in conjunction with the XII<sup>e</sup> Sommet de la Francophonie. The *First Rencontres internationales francophones de bioéthique* was held in Moncton, New Brunswick, in 1999, and the second in Bucharest, Romania, in 2006.

The meeting addressed issues related to ethics in research, the importance of bioethics, and governance of research at the international, national, regional and local levels as well as in a North-South context. Ms. Sabina Colombo, Programme Specialist in Bioethics from the UNESCO Secretariat and Dr. Aïssatou Touré (Senegal), Vice-President of the International Bioethics Committee, both participated in the meeting and provided insights about UNESCO's work in the field of bioethics. The meeting also sought to reinforce relations among the network of national ethics committees from francophone countries and to raise awareness about the importance of international agreements for improved governance of bioethics.

The President of the Commission, Michèle S. Jean, participated actively in both the organization of the meeting and the meeting itself. Over 120 participants from 20 countries in the Francophonie, as well as Mexico and Japan, attended.

The III<sup>es</sup> *Rencontres internationales francophones de bioéthique* was held under the patronage of UNESCO and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), and was organized by the Canadian Commission, the Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO, the Commission de l'éthique de la science et de la technologie (CEST) Québec, and the Association internationale droit, éthique et science. The meeting was sponsored by Health Canada, the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics, the Government of Québec, Génome Québec, the Consul General of France in Québec, the National Council on Ethics in Human Research, and the International Institute of Research in Ethics and Biomedicine.

### **International Colloquium on Cultural Mediation, Montréal**

On 4 - 5 December, at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Culture pour tous hosted an international colloquium on the evolution of cultural democratization practices in Canada and elsewhere in the world. Thirty experts from Canada, Spain, the United States, France and Great Britain shared their views on a wide range of cultural democratization practices, from audience development initiatives to sophisticated techniques of participatory and community art.

Although cultural mediation reflects specific characteristics of each region or country in which it is practiced, it is clear that governments have come to view this process as a powerful tool, not only to counter the cultural exclusion of segments of the population, but also as a means of innovation in the development of interactive approaches between cultural organizations, artists and citizens. Starting from the premise that cultural mediation can play a meaningful and relevant role in the current cultural context, participants in this international colloquium discussed ways and means to enhance its status as a field of professional investigation and research.

The Canada Council Art Bank, the Inter-Arts Office, the Arts Promotion Office and the Commission all participated in this event given the ongoing concern of the Canada Council for the Arts and its partners in the development of new approaches to engage the public in the arts in Canada.

## **V- CONSULTING CANADIANS**

### **Consultation on the next Draft Programme and Budget of UNESCO (35 C/5)**

In April the UNESCO Secretariat distributed the Questionnaire on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) to elicit the views and comments from Member States and non-governmental organizations on the priorities and issues that should be addressed when preparing the budget for 2010-2011. The Questionnaire sought input about sectoral programme priorities, delivery of the programme (which includes National Commissions), improving UNESCO's visibility, and extrabudgetary resources.

The Commission again coordinated the consultation on behalf of the Government of Canada, although it sought to have a more targeted approach than in previous years. Following discussions with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, including Ambassador Gilbert Laurin, it was decided that this year Canada's response should clearly identify the source of the response to each question rather than be a synthesis of views of federal and provincial government departments and representatives of civil society.

The document was compiled and forwarded to UNESCO via Foreign Affairs and International Trade in July. A synthesis

and summary of replies received from 59 Member States was then prepared and considered at the 180<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board in October. The summary of the responses is available in the Executive Board document 180 EX/21 Part 1 (B) available on the UNESCO web site ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

### **Sectoral Commission, Education**

The Sectoral Commission, Education, met on 4 April and focused on providing members with an update on programme activities and events that had taken place since the last meeting that included a detailed report on the participation of Canada at the UNESCO General Conference in 2007. Members also exchanged information about activities and events that had taken place within their communities and areas of expertise, particularly as they related to the programme and budget of UNESCO for 2008-2009. Some of the issues raised included preparation for the International Conference on Education (ICE), the International Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VI), and the celebration of the International Adult Learners Week in Canada.

### **Sectoral Commission, Natural, Social and Human Sciences**

The Sectoral Commission, Natural, Social and Human Sciences, met on 19 November. Implementation of the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5) and the Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4) were the key focus, with particular emphasis on the intersectoral platforms. Kevin Fitzgibbons, Director of Innovation, Science and Technology at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade provided an update on governmental perspectives on international priorities and interests, and a representative of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics made a presentation about its recent activities. Further participation of members in UNESCO priorities was encouraged through activities such as the International Year of Astronomy 2009, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Iles Rencontres internationales francophones de bioéthique, and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The work of UNESCO networks in Canada such as Biosphere Reserves and the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination were also presented and discussed.

## **Sectoral Commission, Culture, Communication and Information**

The Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information met on 2 December. Danika Billie Littlechild was confirmed in her position as Chair and Pierre Giguère, representing ORBICOM, was designated as Vice-Chair.

In total, nine new members joined the Sectoral Commission. The members were informed and then discussed different conventions adopted in Culture. There was also a discussion on the new strategy of the Information for All Programme and the relevance for Canada to develop a national information policy. The members also had the opportunity to learn more about the activities of the UNESCO Chairs in Canada as well as the Canada Research Chair in Heritage at Laval University. The Secretary-General also made a presentation on the 180<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO Executive Board and the follow-up activities.

### **Consultation on the Information for All Programme Draft Strategic Plan**

A consultation was conducted on the Information for All Programme (IFAP) Draft Strategic Plan to determine whether the new orientation given to the programme was acceptable from a Canadian point of view or not. Canadian Heritage, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) participated in the face to face consultation. The result of the process was sent to the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO for its consideration.

### **Consultation on the Charter on Digital Heritage**

The Commission undertook a consultation on the Charter on Digital Heritage that was adopted in 2003 by the General Conference. The objective of the consultation is to measure the progress made in the implementation of the Charter and to determine if it is necessary to prepare another standard-setting instrument - such as a Recommendation - to better protect the preservation of digital heritage.

The Commission contacted Library and Archives Canada, Canadian Heritage, the Canadian Association of Libraries, the Association of Canadian Archivists, the

National Film Board, the AV Trust, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and several museums and individuals to participate in the process. The result of the consultation was submitted to the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO in April.

### **Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines**

UNESCO organized a series of consultation meetings on the WSIS action lines related to its mandate on the occasion of World Information Society Day, which takes place on 17 May every year. The goal of the consultation sessions was to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector to present a progress report on the activities in relation to each of the action lines for which UNESCO is responsible. The result of these consultations have been inconclusive, but UNESCO continues to work to establish mechanisms that will make the process more effective. The continued success of these consultations needs to be assessed however in the context that three years have passed since the World Summit in Tunis.

### **UNESCO Questionnaires and Country Reports**

Since the spring of 2008, UNESCO has undertaken an extensive series of consultations with Member States in relation to four World Conferences in education taking place between November 2008 and July 2009, and in preparation for other major upcoming meetings including the General Conference in October 2009. The questionnaires have addressed diverse subjects such as the Status of the Artist, Copyright and Piracy, follow up to the World Conference on Science (1999) and the World Conference on Higher Education (1999), Arts Education, the Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage, the World Conference in Education with its theme of inclusive education, the International Conference on Adult Education, the World Conference on Higher Education, and the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

The role of National Commissions is to involve government departments and agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals, in its activities including coordinating consultations about the implementation of UNESCO's programme activities within their respective countries. In the past, the Commission has worked in partnership with federal

government departments, including Canadian Heritage, Environment Canada and Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) to prepare these reports. A change in policy at UNESCO has resulted in the current round of questionnaires and requests for country reports being sent directly to the Commission, however, which has required the Commission to take a lead role in the co-ordination of responses. The volume and complexity of the reports has also meant that government departments have not been able to meet UNESCO's often short deadlines for responses. The Commission is now working with Foreign Affairs and CMEC to both prepare responses and to seek to modify UNESCO's consultative process.

## PROMOTING UNESCO'S GOALS AND VALUES IN CANADA: PARTNERSHIPS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### *14<sup>e</sup> rassemblement national du Conseil Québécois du patrimoine vivant*

The 14<sup>e</sup> rassemblement national du Conseil Québécois du patrimoine vivant was held at Trois-Rivières from 4 - 6 April. Organized within the framework of a wide consultation on the revision of Québec's Cultural Property Act, participants representing intangible arts and culture groups welcomed the Quebec government's willingness to extend the concept of cultural heritage to include intangible cultural heritage. They also adopted a Declaration on the Living Heritage that was subsequently presented to the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine of Quebec. The concepts and definitions contained in the Declaration were inspired by the UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### Literacy Network, Montréal

The Commission was invited to participate in a seminar, *Colloque sur l'alphabétisation en français à l'heure des réseaux et des communautés d'échanges* in Montréal. The seminar was organized by the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français* (FCAF) and the *Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine* (CDEACF) to establish a network of Francophone researchers and practitioners, to examine the most appropriate models of research networks, and make an inventory of research on French literacy. Speakers included Paul Bélanger, University of Québec in Montréal; Suzanne Benoit, President of La Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français; Rosalie Ndejuru, Director-General, Le Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine; and Danielle Charron, Deputy Coordinator, Adult Knowledge Learning Centre. Michèle S. Jean, President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, represented the Commission at this seminar.

### Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity

The international symposium *Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity* was organized by the Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities at Simon Fraser University and held in Ottawa from 29 April - 1 May. The symposium brought participants together to exchange ideas and share practices in cultural planning and investment strategies for cultural infrastructure and cultural districts, collaborative approaches to enhancing cultural vitality, and creative potential.

The Commission organized a session entitled *Living Together in Creative Cities* that focused on the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. The session included Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair in Built Heritage at the University of Montreal as Chair, with Jim Gurnett, Executive Director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and Douglas Riske, Executive Director of the Manitoba Arts Council, as speakers. In their presentations they addressed the role of creative cultural spaces in promoting interaction and participation, and how these spaces can facilitate intercultural dialogue.

The session was presented in the context of Commitment 10 of the Common Commitments that municipalities agree to when they become members of the Coalition: "promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the Municipality."

### **Youth Meeting - Annual General Meeting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Thirty members of the Commission's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) met prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a one-day meeting with two main objectives: to introduce UNESCO, the Commission and the youth network to the members, many of whom were new to the Group, and to share information through presentations by several members of the YAG who presented their organization and activities to their peers.

Participants also had the chance to learn more about organizations, such as TakingITGlobal, the 411 Initiative for Change, Oxfam Québec, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, Five Minutes to Midnight, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, Africa SOMA, the United Native Nations, the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the AIDS Committee Toronto. They were introduced to youth-related initiatives such as the steps required to establish a local YAG chapter, the development of an action and cooperation committee on education and environment, the project War Toys to Peace Art, community schools teams in Vancouver and the role of cooperatives in communities, as well as issues such as UNESCO's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, implications for teacher training programs in Canada, and the role of media for environmental issues.

In order to give participants a better understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities arising from being involved with the Commission, Danika B. Littlechild shared her experiences with the participants. In addition, the four participants who attended the two UNESCO Youth Forums held in 2007 in Paris and Mexico discussed their role with the attendees. This allowed the participants to gain a better understanding of the use that is made of their comments and the input they provide during the Commission's consultation processes.

### **Roundtable on Skills and Learning**

Sponsored by the Certified General Accountants-Canada and organized by the Public Policy Forum, the *Summit on Skills and Learning* was the culmination of a series of eight regional roundtables held across Canada to assess how existing programs, policies and initiatives are working, and those skills and learning elements that need further attention. It brought together experts from the federal and provincial governments, the private sector, community-based organizations, professional associations, labour unions, and the academic community to discuss the public policy implications of skills and learning challenges, and to develop a set of National Recommendations in Skills and Learning.

The Secretary-General gave the keynote address on international challenges to skills and learning. His presentation provided an overview of the work of UNESCO in education and skills development in fragile states, the impact of HIV/AIDS and role of education in prevention and mitigation, the importance of quality education, inequities of access and gender disparity, and the work that is now being done at UNESCO to develop a strategy for technical and vocational education.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health Research Conference**

The Commission was a partner in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health Research Conference in Toronto that focused on the theme *Convergence of Arts and Science: Global Health Perspectives*. The Conference, which also received the patronage of UNESCO, was organized by the Centre of International Health of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. The Conference took a multidisciplinary approach to examining the links between art, culture and science on the one hand, and global health issues on the other. Keynote speaker Dr. James Orbinski, University of Toronto, who had been Head of Mission in Rwanda for Doctors without Borders during the 1994 genocide, spoke about how the transformative process of writing helped him deal with the experience afterward.

Larry O'Farrell, UNESCO Chair-holder in Arts and Learning at the Faculty of Education, Queen's University, and Katherine Berg, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, took part in a panel discussion that debated how organization leaders can foster and stimulate creative responses to global health challenges. The Conference also examined issues such as technology's role in transferring creative knowledge, imagination and research, and medicine and creativity.

### **Cultural Heritage and Tourism Symposium**

Organized by the Culture and Heritage Institute of Centennial College, Scarborough, the symposium brought together professionals from various fields of culture and tourism to examine challenges in heritage preservation and to propose sustainable tourism strategies. Presentations were made on different models of managing and preserving heritage sites in Canada and internationally, including private, public and combined public-private models. Other sessions dealt with grassroots initiatives and preservation of nautical heritage in Canada's forts, ports and canals. Sponsors included the Government of Ontario, Tourism Toronto, Parks Canada, Via Rail and the Consulate General of Portugal. Katherine Berg made a presentation on UNESCO's role in the protection and promotion of World Heritage.

### **Colloquium of the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec**

The *Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec* (FCSQ) comprises 61 school boards across Québec and has been promoting education and defending the interests of its members since 1947.

In June, the FCSQ hosted a colloquium with the theme *Un grand coup de cœur pour l'école publique*. This event was to foster discussion on the mission of a school board in the community, not only to ensure the educational success of students, but also to improve the quality of life of people and to contribute to the social and economic development of Quebec.

Given its membership on the steering committee for the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Quebec, the FCSQ requested that the Canadian Commission for UNESCO facilitate a workshop on the subject. The National Coordinator and the Provincial

Coordinator, Véronique Brouillette, made presentations to approximately 100 educators and representatives of organizations active in education. Two students and their teacher from l'École secondaire La Poudrière, a ASPnet school, spoke about their solar oven project, an initiative that had been launched in Guatemala earlier in the year. This energy efficient oven heats up water and helps to reduce wood consumption for cooking meals.

### **Canadian Teachers' Federation Annual General Meeting**

The Commission was invited to attend the Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF) 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in Moncton, New Brunswick, from 10 - 12 July. The theme of the meeting was *Education... a Sea of Knowledge to Discover*, and was hosted by the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (AEFNB). The President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Mary-Lou Donnelly, was elected President designate.

The main agenda item was how to address the issue of cyber-bullying in schools, and a resolution was passed to adopt a national policy on cyber conduct and cyber-bullying. CTF speaks for 220,000 teachers in Canada as their pan-Canadian voice on education and related social issues.

### **Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics Student Program and Teacher Workshops**

During July and August, the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics (PI), Waterloo, again held its annual International Summer School for Young Physicists (ISSYP) under the patronage of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Perimeter Institute was founded in 1999 by Mike Lazaridis, inventor of the Blackberry and President and Co-CEO of Research In Motion (RIM). PI has since established itself as an international focal point of research in foundational theoretical physics.

Through its two camps (22 July - 2 August and 8 - 20 August), the International Summer School for Young Physicists (ISSYP) received 80 highly motivated students (16 - 17 years of age) from across Canada and around the world who are passionate about mathematics and physics. In addition, the Einstein Plus Teacher workshops (2 - 8 July and 10 - 16 July) aimed to enhance educators' personal interest, understanding and enthusiasm

for teaching modern physics and equip them with strategies and useful in-class modules for sharing this field of endeavour with their students.

The Commission actively promoted these enrichment events among international networks including National Commissions, UNESCO institutes and regional offices, and ASP schools. International participation objectives continue to improve, thereby allowing for increased intercultural dialogue.

In the future, PI will continue to enhance its programs and products for maximum global reach and impact. The Einstein Plus program, for example, will focus on “training the trainers” who can return home with multiple in-class modules to share with local teachers thereby enhancing the benefits of the Einstein Plus program and, ultimately, inspiring youth around the world with cutting edge ideas in the world of research, discovery and innovation.

### **Colloquium of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education**

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP), an international non-governmental organization, was founded in 1948. It is represented in more than 70 countries and works with other organizations on a regular basis to promote both the well-being of children up to 8 years of age and family support initiatives. OMEP is also active in the field of early childhood education and has maintained close relations with UNESCO since its creation. This year, the organization celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Canadian OMEP Committee (OMEP-Canada) its 50<sup>th</sup>.

To celebrate these anniversaries, OMEP hosted a world-wide seminar in Québec City from 5 - 8 August, around the theme *Nourrir la paix avec les enfants*, as part of the activities organized to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 26 of the Declaration stipulates that education is a fundamental right, that it fosters understanding and friendship among all nations, and that it furthers the development of activities for the maintenance of peace. The seminar attracted more than 200 researchers, educators and practitioners who discussed the world of play, culture and art in round table sessions and in workshops.

The President of the Commission, Michèle S. Jean, was the keynote speaker at this event. Her presentation focused on the importance of achieving the six Dakar Goals through the Education for All Program as well as the Millennium Development Goals. With respect to the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on Education held in Geneva in November 2008, Ms. Jean expressed the wish that the seminar would provide an opportunity to promote practices in the areas of policy development and inclusive educational programs for children.

Kim Phuc, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for a culture of peace and spokesperson for the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Canada, also attended the seminar as a special guest. She gave a presentation on her role as a UNESCO ambassador and her painful experience during the Vietnam War.

### **Rideau Canal Festival**

The Commission was a partner in the first Rideau Canal Festival that celebrated the Rideau Canal as Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site, from the Kingston Fortifications to Ottawa. The Festival was conceived as an eco-friendly event with activities for all ages including a World Heritage Flotilla, an environmental fair and speakers' series, and tours of the Canal. The Commission's President, Michèle S. Jean, spoke at the opening ceremony on 1 August along with Mayor Larry O'Brien of Ottawa, and Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada Agency.

The Ecosphere Environmental Fair, held as part of the Festival's goal to create a Zerofootprint festival model, was attended by the Honourable John Baird, then Minister of the Environment which includes Parks Canada, and the Honourable Stockwell Day, then Minister of Public Security.

### **Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM) International Summer School**

The fifth edition of the Institut du Nouveau Monde's international summer school was held in Québec City from 12 - 16 August 2008, under the patronage of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Over 1,000 participants between the ages of 15 and 25 attended lectures and took part in workshops and round table discussions about citizen engagement.

The School provided the opportunity for young people to share their ideas, express their opinions and discuss topics including democracy, human rights, the media, and intercultural dialogue with decision-makers and committed public figures.

To encourage dialogue among participants, the School presented more than ten activities called *Itineraries*. Topics that were addressed included the Millennium Development Goals, First Nations and Inuit, and the Francophonie. Inspired by the discussions, the youth proposed more than 100 ideas for "action projects".

Within the context of the School, Québec's Youth Declaration: Call to Commitment was proclaimed on 12 August, International Youth Day. Initiated by the INM in partnership with Oxfam Québec, the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIO) and the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress, the Declaration invites youth all over the world to unite around the principles and values that they want to promote on a global scale. The Declaration, signed by some 5,000 individuals, also calls for the engagement of citizens of all generations and asks each person who signs it to personally commit to taking concrete action to make the world a better place.

### **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Congress**

The Commission participated in IFLA's World Library and Information Congress held in Québec City in August. The Congress addressed major questions of concern to the library community, and in particular the question of digitalization, which cannot be separated from questions of access. Abdul-Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at UNESCO, was one of the guest speakers and presented UNESCO's activities related to libraries emphasizing the close partnership between UNESCO and IFLA. Mr. Khan also stressed the role of National Commissions and specifically noted the excellent work of the Canadian Commission.

### **Lecture by Jean-Yves Empereur**

Jean-Yves Empereur, world-renowned underwater archaeologist and Egyptologist, returned to Ottawa to present an illustrated lecture at Library and Archives Canada on *The Quest for Cleopatra: In Search of*

*the Lost City, Recent Discoveries in Alexandria*. The Secretary General introduced Dr. Empereur, noting that UNESCO's 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage would be coming into force in January. It had also been recently announced that UNESCO had established an International Scientific Committee to help prepare for an innovative underwater museum in the Bay of Alexandria, Egypt. The Bay contains rich archaeological remains, including Cleopatra's Palace and the fabled Alexandria Lighthouse.

The Commission was a partner in the event, along with the Embassies of France and Egypt, the Alliance française, the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies and the Archaeological Institute of America.

### **Canadian Delegation/NGO Preparatory Meeting for CONFINTEA VI**

The Commission, in collaboration with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), organized an "enlarged" meeting of the Canadian delegation to the Europe/North America Region preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) held in Budapest, Hungary, from 3 - 5 December.

The consultation meeting was held at the CMEC Secretariat in Toronto on 30 - 31 October and was attended by representatives of pan-Canadian non governmental organizations that were not members of the Canadian delegation, as well as the members of the Delegation. The meeting allowed for an exchange of information about the state of adult learning and education in Canada, and this information was then used in the development of Canadian positions and interventions at the Budapest meeting.

### **YouthScape Gathering**

The *YouthScape Gathering: Celebrating Youth-Driven Community Development* was organized by the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) and Child and Youth Friendly Calgary (CYFC) from 14 - 17 January in Banff, Alberta, to celebrate youth and the role they play in building stronger communities across Canada.

The first half of the meeting brought together representatives engaged in the YouthScape project to

broaden the engagement of youth in the cities of Halifax, Thunder Bay, Rivière des Prairies (Montréal), Calgary and Victoria and partners of the initiatives, Senator Landon Pearson, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the J.W McConnell Family Foundation, United Way of Calgary and Area and TakingITGlobal. The meeting provided an occasion for all to share their experiences, their stories and the challenges they face while providing a platform for intergenerational dialogue and exchange of good practices.

During the second half of the meeting, different individuals representing youth-led and youth-focused organizations joined the group to learn about the Youth-Scape projects, and to share their experiences with youth engagement, the development of youth-friendly initiatives, and new partnerships. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO moderated a session on the use of information and communication technologies to maximise networking, organised by TakingITGlobal and YouthCore.

YouthScape engages young people, especially those who are seen as excluded or disengaged, in community development projects and partnerships to create stronger communities. It also takes into consideration the results of research done throughout the Growing Up in Cities (GUIC) UNESCO-SHS research action project, in Canada and abroad.

### **Africa-Water Series of Thematic Lectures: The North-South Platform of Exchanges and Collaboration within the Water Sector**

As part of its 2008-2009 annual activities, Africa-Water organized a series of four thematic lectures under the patronage of the Commission. The series began on 5 November and was held at different Canadian universities: the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) on 5 November, the University of Ottawa on 4 December, the École Polytechnique de Montréal on 6 April 2009 and the INRS-Centre Eau-Terre et Environnement in Québec City on 7 April 2009.

This series of thematic lectures had two major objectives: to sensitize university communities, research centres and other Canadian institutions and organizations operating in the water sector to the value of using scientific approaches in the search for solutions to water-related

problems that arise in Africa, and to prepare the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference, "Collaborer en Afrique : les nouvelles approches dans le secteur de l'eau", that will take place in Libreville, Gabon in 2009. The Commission supported the participation of Gordon Young, former coordinator of the World Water Assessment Programme, at the event held in Ottawa on 4 December.

### **Launch of the College of Sustainability, Dalhousie University**

On 21 January Dalhousie University launched the College of Sustainability that will offer an interdisciplinary Environment, Sustainability and Society program beginning in September 2009. The only one of its kind in Canada, the program consists of problem-based classes within the university and community-based experiential learning opportunities. Students therefore are able to take courses in diverse disciplines connected to sustainability, and to work with municipal, provincial and federal governments, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The Secretary-General participated in the launch with Dalhousie University President Tom Traves, Professor Steven Mannell, Director of the College of Sustainability, John Crace, a Halifax architect, and Alison Kroper, a fourth-year Environmental Science student. Over 350 people attended the event.

The College of Sustainability has already received international recognition as it is one of only 25 projects to be included in the Education for Sustainable Development Projects Exhibition at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development being held in Bonn, Germany from 31 March - 2 April. The launch of the College also coincides with the mid-point of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 - 2014).

## **National Education for Sustainable Development Expert Council (NESDEC)**

Approximately 30 members of the National Education for Sustainable Development Expert Council (NESDEC) participated in a two-day planning meeting in Toronto, 30 - 31 January. The meeting focused on updating a situation analysis, developing strategies to address key issues, and developing action plans with identified deliverables for the upcoming year.

Meeting participants renamed NESDEC to ESD Canada in the hope to make the acronym more appealing. Provincial groups and sub-committees (communications, fundraising, innovation and research) shared key developments over the past year and plans for the year ahead. It was agreed that particular efforts needed to be placed on further engaging governments and policy-makers, Aboriginal groups, youth, schools, school boards and curriculum developers.

## **Canadian Launch of the Global Monitoring Report**

In collaboration with the Canadian Global Campaign for Education, the Commission co-hosted the Canadian launch of the 2009 Global Monitoring Report, *Overcoming Inequality: Why Governance Matters* at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau. The Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report is published annually by UNESCO and reports on the progress made toward the achievement of the six EFA Goals adopted by 163 countries in Dakar in 2000.

The Director of the Global Monitoring Report Team, Kevin Watkins, presented the major findings of this year's report that "offers a warning to governments, donors and the international community." Based on current trends, universal primary education will not be achieved by 2015 and accordingly, several of the other Millennium Development Goals will not be met. The Report argues that ongoing disparities based on wealth, gender, geographical location, and ethnicity present major barriers to progress in education.

Mr. Watkins' presentation was followed by a panel discussion on the importance of governance. Panellists included the Honourable Kelly Lamrock, Minister of Education for New Brunswick and President of the Council of Ministers of Education (Canada), Nora Fyles,

Senior Advisor in Education, Canadian International Development Agency, Prachi Srivastava, Professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, and Kevin Watkins.

The launch was attended by federal and provincial government officials, Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions in Canada, representatives of United Nations delegations, and non governmental organizations.

## **West End Learning Unlimited**

The Secretary-General was invited to give the initial lecture in a six-part lecture series on archaeology-related subjects organized by West End Learning Unlimited, an adult learning organization in Ottawa. His lecture entitled *Who Owns What: The International Response to Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property* addressed UNESCO's various conventions and declarations to combat looting, illicit trafficking, and destruction of cultural property during armed conflict. Approximately 170 people attended the lecture followed by a question and answer period.

## **Canadian Reports to UNESCO**

Again this year, the Commission worked closely with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to prepare two major national reports on education: the National Report on the Development and the State of the Art of Adult Learning in preparation for the Preparatory Conference for CONFITEA VI in December 2008 and the international conference in Brazil in 2009, as well as the National Report on the Development of Education (comprising two sub-reports) for the International Conference on Education in November 2008. The Commission's role consists of soliciting input from governmental and non-governmental partners, reviewing the contents of the draft reports, and preparing final drafts for translation.

## **États généraux sur l'avenir du patrimoine franco-ontarien**

With the support of the Government of Canada, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, and of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, the idea of holding the *États généraux sur l'avenir du patrimoine franco-ontarien* arose from the joint efforts of

the Regroupement des organismes du patrimoine franco-ontarien (ROPFO), the Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie (SFOHG) and the Centre franco-ontarien de folklore (CFOF).

The Commission contributed to the development of the thematic orientations for this event, including the transmission of the Franco-Ontarian cultural heritage to future generations; the preservation of the religious built heritage; the challenge of describing the state of heritage areas and the pooling of research studies, data gathering and inventories; 400 years of French presence in Ontario; heritage as an instrument of economic and tourism development; heritage as a bridge to other cultures and spaces. The Commission's involvement offered a unique opportunity to both inform delegates of the various UNESCO conventions dealing with material and intangible heritage, as well as to highlight the major role Canada has played in implementing the conventions it has ratified.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted on 10 December 1948, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. The anniversary of its adoption is celebrated each year on 10 December which the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed Human Rights Day. This year the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration was celebrated from 10 December 2007 to 10 December 2008. UNESCO actively promoted this anniversary and called upon National Commissions to undertake activities throughout the year to raise awareness among the general public about the Universal Declaration.

The following are some of the activities undertaken by the Commission.

#### ***i) 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting***

Held in Saskatoon in May, the theme of the Commission's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was *Rights and Responsibilities: New Challenges for Learning and Action*. Approximately 200 people from across Canada attended the meeting that consisted of formal presentations, workshops, and an excursion to the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve.

The keynote speaker was Marilou McPhedran, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, who spoke on "Sixty Years of making rights from wrongs - the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and its treaties." A panel discussion featured James (Sakej) Youngblood Henderson of the Native Law Centre of Canada who provided an "Indigenous perspective on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," Francine Pelletier, a free-lance journalist who spoke about freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and Raymond Thériage, Director-General of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada who addressed "the evolution of the right to education since the adoption of the Declaration."

The meeting also included a poster session entitled *Diverse Perspectives on Human Rights* and a signing ceremony of the Declaration to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination by His Worship Donald J. Atchison, Mayor of Saskatoon.

#### ***ii) 20 June - World Refugee Day***

The Commission joined with the Representation to Canada of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in organizing an event at Ottawa City Hall in recognition of World Refugee Day 2008, and in the context of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. A citizenship ceremony was part of the celebrations to mark the Day that began with a proclamation by Ottawa Councillor Diane Holmes and a flag raising ceremony in front of City Hall. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, presided over the citizenship ceremony, administering the Oath of Citizenship and presenting the Certificates of Citizenship to the new Canadians. The Secretary-General made remarks on behalf of the Commission and Hy Shelow, Senior Protection Officer spoke on behalf of the Canadian High Commission for UNHCR. A program followed the official ceremony in the public area of City Hall, with testimonials from former refugees and cultural performances.

This occasion marked the first time that the Commission has collaborated with the office of the UNHCR in Canada.

### *iii) The Thousand Words of Photojournalism*

The exhibition entitled *The Thousand Words of Photojournalism* was organized by the Commission in collaboration with the Canadian Newspaper Association, and travelled to cities across Canada: to Oshawa in June, Saskatoon in August, Saint John, New Brunswick, in September, Ottawa and Windsor in October, Lethbridge, Alberta, in November, and Québec City in January.

The exhibit presents some 50 photos from over 17 daily newspapers and news agencies across the country.

### *iv) Training Package for Human Rights Educators*

The Commission worked with Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) in the development of a training package for human rights educators. The purpose of the kit is to train students in law, international development and journalism to give other students a better understanding of human rights and to encourage them to promote human rights through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights. Many of these youth are members of JHR groups in various universities where chapters of the organization have been established.

### *v) 4<sup>e</sup> Séminaire nordique autochtone*

From 11 - 18 August, the Secretary-General participated in the Northern Aboriginal Seminar at Rivière George in Northern Québec, approximately half-way between Schefferville and Ungava Bay. This year's seminar was co-chaired by Marie Léger of Rights and Democracy in Montréal and Roméo Saganash of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) with the theme *Aboriginal Perspectives on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Commission and held in an encampment of traditional teepees on the tundra on the ancestral lands of the Innu Nation of Québec and Labrador.

The seminar brought together an impressive group of participants and speakers including a federal Member of Parliament and representatives of Hydro Québec, Tourisme Québec, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian Boreal Initiative, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, environmental activists, lawyers, the editor of the publication *Géo Plein Air*, and members

of the Innu Nation. Together, they explored questions of human rights in the context of the Universal Declaration and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), as well as land claims including the James Bay Agreement, mineral rights in the North, sustainable tourism, protection of the boreal forest, hydro-electric development, and climate change. The seminar was honoured this year by the presence of Chief Réal McKenzie of the Band Council of the Innu Nation of Matimekush Lac-John in the Schefferville area.

### *vi) Sixty Years of Human Rights Education*

An exhibition entitled *Sixty Years of Human Rights Education* was organized at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December. UNESCO invited Member States to participate in this event by providing educational material developed and used in their country. The Commission requested and received human rights educational material from the British Columbia Ministry of Education, the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, and the Conseil des Syndicats de Québec that was then sent to UNESCO and included in the exhibition.

### *vii) Adult Learning and Human Rights Poster Competition*

Adult education and lifelong learning have long been a focus of the Commission's work, and this year the Commission worked with the Adult Knowledge Learning Centre located at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Canada Council's Aboriginal Arts Secretariat, and its Equity Office to promote a poster competition dedicated to adult learning and human rights.

The Adult Knowledge Learning Centre focuses on both formal and informal adult learning, and a coordinated pan-Canadian culture of adult learning to create a better understanding of the role of lifelong learning in creating economic productivity, social equity, and civic engagement. Included among its targeted areas of interest are literacy, seniors learning, and arts and culture. In the context of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Learning Centre hosted an open design competition for a bilingual poster that links adult learning and human rights.

Representatives from the arts, international development, and adult learning communities selected three winning designs from portfolios submitted by 60 diverse artists from across the country. The posters make a dynamic visual connection between human rights and learning and the winning designs were submitted by David Coates of Vancouver, Sergio Serrano of Edmonton, and Andrew Lewis of Brentwood Bay, British Columbia.

*viii) Commemoration Event with the Canada Council for the Arts*

To mark the conclusion of the year-long celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Commission in partnership with the Canada Council's Equity Office and the Aboriginal Arts Secretariat, organized a luncheon event for staff of the Council. Senator Donald S. Oliver of Nova Scotia was the keynote speaker and spoke about the evolution in minority rights in international law and Canadian law.

To reinforce the linkages between human rights, freedom of expression and artistic expression, two artists - Taqralik Partridge and Alan Shain - also spoke about the interrelation between human rights and their artistic practice. Robert Sirman, Director of the Canada Council, made introductory remarks that drew attention to the importance of raising awareness about human rights both within arts councils and the arts community.

## UNESCO NETWORKS AND PROGRAMMES IN CANADA

### I. UNESCO/UNITWIN CHAIRS PROGRAMME

#### Canadian Arts and Learning Symposium

The Commission worked in partnership with the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning to organize the Canadian Arts and Learning Symposium held at the Faculty of Education at Queen's University, Kingston. The symposium continued the follow-up in Canada to the 2006 World Conference on Arts Education in Lisbon, Portugal, while also contributing to Canada's preparation for the next world conference in Seoul, Korea, in 2010. The theme of the symposium was *Network Building within the Canadian Arts and Learning Communities*. It built on past efforts and strengthened the Canadian network of stakeholders in arts and learning, including teachers, artists, students, researchers, policy makers and administrators, with a view to promoting the value of arts and learning and its benefits not only to education, but also to fostering social cohesion and mutual understanding.

The Commission was extensively involved in this symposium: the Secretary General moderated two panels on networks and network building, Past President Max Wyman was a member of the Symposium Steering Committee along with Katherine Berg, and Mr. Wyman also made opening remarks at the Symposium. Robert Sirman, Director of the Canada Council for the Arts, also attended and spoke at the dinner honouring Walter Pitman for his contribution to arts and learning.

### II. CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

The Commission continued to actively work to promote the Coalition and to expand its membership, which now includes 30 municipalities across Canada.

Within the framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Metropolis Conference held in Halifax from 3 - 6 April, a workshop was organized that focused on the four Common Commitments in the 10 Point Action Plan that address the role of the municipality as a guardian of the public interest:

- 1) increase vigilance against systemic and individual

racism and discrimination; 2) monitor racism and discrimination in the community; 3) inform and support individuals who experience racism and discrimination; and, 4) support policing services in their efforts to be exemplary institutions in combating racism and discrimination.

The session was chaired by Barbara Hall, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and examined the nature of partnerships required to support policing services in their efforts to combat racism and discrimination. The workshop examined how human rights commissions, municipal administrations, police services boards, and civil society organizations can work together to achieve this objective. Representatives of the cities of Toronto, Gatineau, Edmonton and Montréal all participated in this workshop. Follow-up meetings were held with the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Police Boards and it is hoped that it will now become a formal partner in the Coalition.

The Commission also used the occasion of the Metropolis Conference to collaborate with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission to provide an information session on the Coalition. The Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation all participated in this information session.

Work is continuing to expand the Coalition in provinces that are under-represented and meetings were held with the Executive Director of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, and officials of the City of Winnipeg. The Commission will increasingly orient the work of the Coalition toward the realization of the Canada Council's Strategic Direction 3, "Enhance the Council's leadership role in promoting equity as a critical priority in fulfilling Canada's artistic aspirations" by encouraging municipalities to include artistic practices in the Action Plans they are required to develop - and to publicly report on - as a member of the Coalition. A first step was made at the conference *The Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity* held in Ottawa at the end of April where the Commission organized a session *Living Together in Creative Cities* that included Jim Gurnett, Executive Director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and Douglas Riske, Executive Director of the Manitoba Arts Council.

The Commission also organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Signatory Municipalities of the Coalition in conjunction with a meeting of the Canadian Metropolis held in Calgary in mid-March. Metropolis is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity, and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world.

To date, the Coalition has been "self-governing" but, having grown to include 30 municipalities in nine provinces, it has reached a critical point in its development where it needs both a "home" and coordination of its activities. To assist it in the transition to the next level, the Commission has been working with a consultant to help develop a strategic plan. This work provided the focus of the Calgary meeting where issues such as key principles, structure and governance were discussed and refined. Nineteen municipalities were represented at the meeting, including some that are not yet members of the Coalition, as well as the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the National Association of Friendship Centres, provincial human rights commissions, federal government departments and non-governmental organizations.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General travelled to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to participate with the Mayor of Prince Albert in the official signing ceremony for the newest member of the Coalition. The ceremony included the Honourable Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Darryl Hickie, Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing of Saskatchewan, Judge David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, Chief Lawrence Joseph, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Vice Chief Don Deranger, Prince Albert Grand Council, Robert Doucette, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and His Worship Jim Scarrow, Mayor of the City of Prince Albert.

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

#### International Adult Learners' Week

At the General Conference in 1999, UNESCO's Member States passed a resolution to create an annual international Adult Learners' Week. The week was launched in 2000, and is now celebrated in over 40 countries through events that promote adult learning in all its forms (formal, informal and non-formal learning). Since 2002, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and over 40 non-governmental organizations across Canada has been recognizing and celebrating International Adult Learners' Week.

##### *i) Consultation Meeting with Canadian Partners*

A consultation meeting was held in Ottawa on 19 September with the purpose of providing members with an opportunity to exchange information, network and discuss activities and events to mark International Adult Learners Week (IALW) 2009. It was agreed that the 2009 celebration would again take place during the first week of March, and that the theme of the meeting would reflect the fact that the International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) will be held in May 2009. It was also agreed that a magazine would again be produced but that the target audience needed to be better defined, and that more emphasis would be placed on engaging the media in the celebration of IALW, with particular emphasis on both national and community media.

##### *ii) International Adult Learners' Week 2009*

In 2009, the Week in Canada was held from 2 - 8 March, although organizations were encouraged to celebrate adult learning throughout the year and many did so. In addition to celebrating adult learners and underscoring the importance of lifelong learning, the Week this year is placing special emphasis on the Sixth International Conference on Adult Learning (CONFINTEA VI), which will take place in Belém, Brazil, 19 - 22 May 2009. The conference, which takes place every 10 - 12 years, is organized by UNESCO. This year's theme, *Living and Learning for a Viable Future - the Power of Adult*

*Learning*, will focus on the contributions of adult learning to sustainable development. The Conference will explore policies, structures and financing that promote lifelong and non-formal learning.

The Commission, following consultation with its partners in June, produced 20,000 copies of a magazine-style publication entitled *The Power of Learning* for distribution across Canada to celebrate the week. In addition to providing information about the Week and about CONFINTEA VI, the magazine includes learners' stories as told by the learners themselves. The Commission also created a web page dedicated to the Week that included the magazine in electronic format, downloadable posters that organizations can use to promote their events, and additional learners' stories.

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

##### *i) 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress: ReGeneration 2008*

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress, *ReGeneration 2008*, was held in Québec City from 10 - 20 August as part of the celebration of the City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It brought together 525 participants from 108 countries under the banner "A Celebration of Youth-led Development." Through workshops, plenary sessions, cultural activities and action-oriented projects in 37 communities across Québec, the participants were able to reflect on the Millennium Development Goals and then develop their own competencies in the areas of sustainable development, the environment, humanitarian action, education and the fight against poverty.

As a partner in the event, the Commission presented two workshops. The first, given by Yasmine Charara, a member of the Commission's Youth Advisory Group and President of Oxfam Québec's youth program, dealt with the role of young people in matters relating to the right to a quality education. Within the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), the second workshop was presented by Simone Hanchet, also a member of the Commission's Youth Advisory Group and a Masters student in public policy at Concordia University. She engaged in a discussion with young people about differences between countries' environmental needs (drinking water, climate change, etc.) and examined how

different communities can fulfil these needs through local educational projects.

The World Youth Walk was held in conjunction with the event that brought together nearly 1,000 youth and was organized as part of the Congress to celebrate International Youth Day, 12 August.

The Congress was organized by Peace Child International, World Youth Congress 2008 and TakingITGlobal.

#### *ii) Choose the Future - Education for Sustainable Development Conference*

Held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 26 - 28 November, this Conference brought together educators who want to include the principles of sustainable development in the school curriculum, as well as business leaders, NGO's and representatives of governments who want to involve their employees and stakeholders in sustainable practices.

Included in the Conference programme was the presentation of the 2008 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards. These awards, developed by the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, recognized and honoured people, projects, and ideas that successfully turned the principles and guidelines of sustainable development into concrete, lasting achievements.

The Conference was organized by the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (MESDWG), that brings together stakeholders from the formal, non-formal, and informal education sectors to further develop, communicate and promote ESD in Manitoba. The MESDWG was created in 2005 jointly by Learning for a Sustainable Future, Environment Canada, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, and Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy. The Science Teachers Association of Manitoba (STAM) was a major sponsor of this Conference, and the Commission was an official supporter. Several members and partners of the Commission were also extensively involved, including Executive Committee member Heather Creech who made a presentation on current trends in ESD research.

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

World Press Freedom Day was celebrated on May 2 at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa with more than 180 people in attendance. Two *La Presse* journalists, Gilles Toupin and Joël Denis Bellavance, received the Canadian Press Freedom award from the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom. The recipients were awarded the prize for refusing to name their sources in the case of a suspected terrorist with links to Al-Qaeda. Russian cartoonist Ivan Anchukov won the International Editorial Cartoon Competition. The guest speaker was Patrick Brown, CBC and SRC correspondent for Asia.

Celebrations were overshadowed by the death, a day earlier, of Spencer Moore, Chair of the event's organizing committee and founder of the celebration of World Freedom Day with the National Press Club of Canada.

#### **IV. AWARDS AND HONOURS**

##### **2008 Canada-Wide Science Fair**

The Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), organized by the Youth Science Foundation, is the largest extra-curricular youth activity related to science and technology in the country. Each year, it brings together some 450 top young scientists who have been chosen from nearly 100 regional science and technology fairs held across Canada.

The Commission again sponsored the "Canadian Commission for UNESCO Award for Science for Peace and Development" for an outstanding project addressing science in the service of humanity (including basic human needs, the environment and sustainable development, peace and conflict resolution, science education, science and policy or science and ethics). This year's winner was Ghufuran Siddiqui, a grade 10 student from Sarnia, Ontario, for his project *Biofixation of CO<sub>2</sub> Using Coccolithophorid Algae*.

The increase in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide is considered to be one of the main causes of global warming. Using the criteria of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is estimated that 10 - 15% of the gases emitted from the burning of coal take the form of carbon dioxide.

Microalgae can contribute to the reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide by absorbing this gas, which it then uses as a carbon source.

As the winner of the Commission's award, Ghufuran Siddiqui will participate in the Expo-Sciences Internationale (ESI), an event organised by MILSET (French acronym for the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology), to be held in July 2009 in Tunisia. MILSET is an international association of youth science organisations that promote youth engagement in science through non-competitive science project exhibitions. Held every two years, MILSET brings together youth from over 70 countries. Hamid Jorjani, Chair of the Sectoral Commission for the Social, Human and Natural Sciences, represented the Commission on the jury and at the awards ceremony.

### **UNESCO-L'OREAL Partnership For Women in Science**

For the first time, a Canadian Scientist was one of the five international recipients of the L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Award For Women in Science (North America). Dr. Eugenia Kumacheva, Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto, received the award for the design and development of new materials with many applications including targeted drug delivery for cancer treatments and materials for high density optical data storage. The mission of the programme is to change the face of science and support the advancement of women in the scientific field. The announcement was made on the occasion of World Science Day, November 10. Michèle S. Jean, President of the Commission and active promoter of the programme in Canada participated at the Awards Ceremony with Dr. Kumacheva and L'Oreal Canada in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 5 March. Each Laureate received 100,000 US in recognition of her contribution to science. With the support of the Commission, a ceremony to honour the Canadian winners of the L'Oreal Canada mentor and research excellence fellowships took place at the Montréal Science Centre on 16 October. The event was part of the annual gala of the Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS).

The Research Excellence Fellowships (valued at \$20,000 each), which support exceptional post-doctoral research projects, were awarded to Julie Laferrière (Molecular

Oncology) of McGill University and Heather MacDonald (Bone Health and Osteoporosis) of the University of Calgary. April Khademi (Biomedical) of the University of Toronto and Heather McFarlane (Cell Biology) of the University of British Columbia received the Mentor Fellowships.

Michèle S. Jean, President of the Commission and a member of the jury, and Javier San Juan, President and CEO of L'Oreal Canada presented the awards to the laureates.

### **UNESCO - Vocations Patrimoine Fellowships**

In October it was announced that Jane Brewer of Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador, had been awarded a UNESCO Vocations-Patrimoine Fellowship in the form of a two-year grant to study at Brandenburg Technical University. Ms Brewer works for Parks Canada at Gros Morne National Park World Heritage Site and will use the study grant to increase her knowledge of the World Heritage Convention to help Parks Canada identify strategies to increase public awareness of, and engagement in, World Heritage sites. Ms Brewer will focus on the various communities within Gros Morne National Park World Heritage Site - including local residents, the tourism industry, and youth. The purpose of the fellowships is to help site managers handle threats faced by World Heritage, including environmental degradation, climate change, development and mass tourism. As part of their training, the recipients of the Fellowships work both in academic institutions and in the field. The Fellowships are the result of a partnership between UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and Vocations Patrimoine, which is supported by the multinational groups AXA and MAZARS, The Headley Trust, and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The Fellowships were awarded by the Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura, in a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters on 22 October.

## V. MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB)

### Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and Clayoquot Sound Annual General Meetings, British Columbia

Mount Arrowsmith and Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserves, both on Vancouver Island, co hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) from 5 - 11 June. The business meeting focused on the CBRA Business Plan and federal funding, and rejected the idea of developing a geographical-based system plan for Biosphere Reserves in Canada. The public portion of the meeting included updates on the 2007 Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves, application of the new directives for the use of the UNESCO logo, and national collaboration projects including adaptation to climate change, carbon sequestration and eco-tourism.

Meriem Bouamrane of the UNESCO MAB Secretariat participated in these meetings and by doing so allowed for the development of closer linkages between the Canadian and the international network. For the first time, a meeting among First Nations of Canadian Biosphere Reserves was also held in the context of the AGM.

### Periodic Reviews of Canadian Biosphere Reserves

The UNESCO Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves requires each biosphere reserve to be reviewed every 10 years. Periodic reviews are intended to be helpful to the Biosphere Reserves, to national MAB committees, and to UNESCO by providing an occasion to consider whether the original application of the concept is still relevant and forward-looking, or if it should be modified in light of accomplishments within the Biosphere Reserve, new issues, or new opportunities. The reviews also provide an occasion to report on the experience of making the Biosphere Reserve concept work in practice and to provide useful information about their activities, accomplishments over the previous 10 years, problems and experiences encountered, and prospects for the future.

The review of Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve (Québec) was carried out by Maureen Reed of the University of Saskatchewan and Hélène Gignac from the

Lac St. Pierre Biosphere Reserve, while Rebecca Pollock, a Ph.D. candidate at Trent University, and Valerie Pankratz, Executive Director, Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, led the Waterton Biosphere Reserve (Alberta) review. The Commission submitted both reviews to UNESCO in September.

## VI. WORLD HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee approved the designation of Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Nova Scotia, as Canada's newest World Heritage Site at its meeting in Québec City in July. The Joggins Fossil Cliffs are a 689 hectare palaeontological site along the coast of Nova Scotia and have been described as the "Coal Age Galapagos," due to their wealth of fossils from the Carboniferous period (354 to 290 million years ago). The cliffs continue to yield new and important fossils, including an array of early reptiles and amphibians as well as the earliest land snails. The preserved plants and animals document the period in Earth's history when animals first evolved from the water onto land. Joggins is even mentioned by Charles Darwin in *The Origin of Species* (1859) who used the site to illustrate that the fossil record is inherently incomplete despite the richness of the deposits there.

UNESCO's Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) is the international instrument for the identification, protection and preservation of world heritage. The World Heritage List, established by the Convention, recognizes that some sites, either natural or cultural, are of "outstanding universal value" and therefore the responsibility of the international community as a whole. Canada now has 15 World Heritage Sites. Joggins is the second site in Nova Scotia (the Old Town of Lunenburg was the first.)

## VII. ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK (ASP)

### Manitoba

The National Coordinator of UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) attended the meeting of the Manitoba network's steering committee in October 2008. The launching of a national website was one of the key agenda items discussed. ASPnet secretariats in Manitoba, Alberta, Quebec and New Brunswick are currently working on developing the website structure.

While there, the Coordinator visited the Munroe school.

### New Brunswick

A plaque ceremony was organized in Moncton by the Champlain school on 21 September. This event, which brought together more than 200 students and their parents, coincided with celebrations of the International Day of Peace proclaimed by the United Nations in 2001. Representatives of the City of Moncton and the New Brunswick Department of Education were in attendance. The National Coordinator conveyed a message of peace on behalf of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The National Coordinator also visited the Blanche-Bourgeois school in the town of Cocagne to attend a ceremony where the New Brunswick Minister of the Environment, Roland Haché, awarded the Environmental Leadership Award to the school.

### Ontario

Plaque ceremonies were organized by Sean Liipere of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Reserve Association at the Bruce Peninsula District School and the St. Edmunds Public School, two Associated Schools located within Canada's Bruce Peninsula National Park. The event was held in Tobermory in with Member of Parliament Larry Miller in attendance. More than 300 students, parents and grand-parents participated in the celebrations. The National Coordinator spoke to the students present for the occasion. Mr. Miller also raised the United Nations flag to mark the addition of the two schools to the Canadian UNESCO Associated Schools Network.

The National Coordinator acts as the Provincial Coordinator in the absence of a coordinator designated by the Government of Ontario.

### Quebec

#### *i) Plaque ceremony at the Collège Bourget, Rigaud, June 16, 2008*

Collège Bourget authorities organized a plaque ceremony attended by Member of Parliament Meili Faille and more than 300 students and parents. To mark the end of the school year, the Collège illustrated the four pillars of education through displays at information booths on various countries and on current issues (wars, the food crisis, sports and education). The National Coordinator for the ASPnet spoke to the students and their parents.

#### *ii) Five new schools*

The Quebec Associated Schools Program Network's secretariat announced the addition of five new Quebec schools to the Network. The number of associated schools in Quebec is expected to increase from five to ten by the end of 2008.

### Yukon

The National Coordinator travelled to Whitehorse, Yukon, at the invitation of the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon and the authorities of the Emilie-Tremblay school. Following meetings with teachers and students at the school and with school board members, the President of the CSFY, André Bourcier, wrote to Patrick Rouble, Minister of Education for the Yukon, recommending the addition of the school to the ASPnet and the appointment of Lorraine Taillefer, Executive Director of the CSFY, to the position of ASPnet Coordinator for the Territory. The Department of Education is holding consultations on these recommendations with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. A decision is expected early in 2009.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

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

- The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development
- The World Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI)
- The World Conference on Higher Education
- The 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO
- Strategic planning for the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination
- Coordination of the Environmental Audit of the Canada Council for the Arts
- Coordination of responses to UNESCO questionnaires

## ANNEX I

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Michèle S. Jean, Montréal (Québec) Visiting Scholar, Public Law Research Centre Faculty of Law, University of Montréal
Vice-President	Martha B. Stone, Ottawa, Ontario Senior Partner, Information Scientist, Moenston Associates
Secretary-General	David A. Walden, Ottawa, Ontario

### CHAIRS OF THE SECTORAL COMMISSIONS

Education	Cecille DePass, Calgary, Alberta (2006 - September 2008) Associate Professor, University of Calgary
Natural, Social and Human Sciences	Hamid Jorjani, Ottawa, Ontario Director, International Research, University of Ottawa
Culture, Communication and Information	Danika Billie Littlechild, Victoria, British Columbia Barrister & Solicitor
Past President	Max Wyman, Lions Bay, British Columbia Mayor of Lions Bay
Members	David J. Angell, Ottawa, Ontario Director-General, International Organizations Bureau Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  Marie Battiste, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (2006 - March 2009) Academic Director, Professor Aboriginal Education Research Centre University of Saskatchewan  Paul F. Black, Halifax, Nova Scotia Senior Consultant, MT&L Public Relations  René Bouchard, Gatineau (Québec) Director-General, International Affairs Canadian Heritage

Heather Creech, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Knowledge Networks Director  
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Susan M. Knight, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Board Member, Canada Council for the Arts

Robert Sirman, Ottawa, Ontario  
Director, Canada Council for the Arts

Raymond Théberge, Toronto, Ontario  
Director-General, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

Éric Thérout, Québec (Québec)  
Directeur général des Affaires multilatérales  
et des engagements internationaux  
Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec

## ANNEX II

### SECRETARIAT

David A. Walden	Secretary-General
Katherine Berg	Special Advisor to the Secretary-General
Alysouk Lynhiavu	Public Affairs Officer and Coordinator, UNESCO Associated Schools Network, National Secretariat
Hélène Pollex	Administrative Coordinator and Assistant to the Secretary-General

### PROGRAMME OFFICERS

Education	Shery Alexander Heinis (January - December 2008) Elisabeth Barot (February 2009 - )
Natural Sciences	Dominique Potvin
Social and Human Sciences	Elisabeth Barot (January 2008 - January 2009) Cynthia Lacasse (February 2009 - )
Culture and World Heritage	Mathias Bizimana
Communication and Information	Pauline Dugré
Youth	Cynthia Lacasse (April 2008 - January 2009)

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Natural, Social and Human Sciences	Francine Boland (January - August 2008) Tatiana Lermontov (September 2008 - )
Education	Nicole Fieger (January - September 2008) Eliane Daoud (October 2008 - )
Culture, Communication and Information	Marie-Tonine Moreau
Finance and Administration	Alexis Philiptchenko

### SUMMER STUDENTS

Eliane Daoud (May - September 2008)
Olena Decock (May - August 2008)

## ANNEX III

### HONOURARY MEMBERS

#### Former Ambassadors of Canada to UNESCO

Yvon Charbonneau, Montréal, Québec  
Ian Christie Clark, Ottawa, Ontario  
Jacques Demers, Montréal, Québec  
Louis Hamel, Gatineau, Québec

#### Past Presidents of the Commission

Michel Agnaïeff, Montréal, Québec  
Guy Bourgeault, Duvernay, Québec  
L.H. Cragg, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Vianney Décarie, Montréal, Québec  
Roseann Runte, Ottawa, ON

#### Former Vice-Presidents of the Commission

Marshall Wm. Conley, Halifax, Nova Scotia

#### Former Secretaries-General

Francine Fournier, Montréal, Québec  
Viviane Launay, Outremont, Québec  
Louis Patenaude, Montréal, Québec  
Shirley L. Thomson, Ottawa, Ontario

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

Paul Gérin-Lajoie, Montréal, Québec  
Albert Millaire, Montréal, Québec  
Phan Thi Kim Phuc, Ajax, Ontario  
Senator Douglas Roche, Edmonton, Alberta  
Swee-Hin Toh, Adelaide, Australia  
Norma Walmsley, Wakefield, Québec

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

## ANNEX IV

### UNESCO CHAIRS IN CANADA

UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning	Larry O'Farrell Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
ORBICOM Network	Claude-Yves Charron Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec)
UNESCO- Bell Chair for Communication and International Development at UQAM	Magda Fusaro Department of Management and Technology Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec) Jean-Paul Lafrance Département des communications Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec)
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage	Claude Dubé Institut d'études sur les patrimoines Université Laval (Québec)
UNESCO Chair in Studies of Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democratic Society	Josiane Boulad-Ayoub Département de philosophie Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec)
UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability	Charles Hopkins York University, Toronto, Ontario
UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development	Philippe Le Prestre Institut Hydro-Québec en environnement, développement et société Université Laval (Québec)
UNESCO Chair on Landscape and Environment	Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec Université de Montréal (Québec)
UNESCO Chair in Environment and Sustainable Development	Laurent Lepage Institut des sciences de l'environnement de l'UQAM (Québec)

## ANNEX V

### UNESCO WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN CANADA

New Brunswick	Fundy
Nova Scotia	Southwest Nova
Québec	Manicouagan-Uapishka Mont St. Hilaire Charlevoix Lac Saint-Pierre
Ontario	Long Point The Niagara Escarpment Frontenac Arch Georgian Bay Littoral
Manitoba	Riding Mountain
Saskatchewan	Redberry Lake
Alberta	Waterton
British Columbia	Clayoquot Sound Mount Arrowsmith

## ANNEX VI

### UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN CANADA

Newfoundland and Labrador	L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site Gros Morne National Park
Nova Scotia	Old Town Lunenburg Joggins Fossil Cliffs
Québec	Historic District of Old Québec Miguasha National Park
Ontario	Rideau Canal
Alberta	Dinosaur Provincial Park Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Wood Buffalo National Park (Alberta and Northwest Territories) Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Alberta and British Columbia)
British Columbia	SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island) Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek (Yukon and British Columbia)
Northwest Territories	Nahanni National Park Reserve Wood Buffalo National Park
Yukon	Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek Yukon and British Columbia