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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Canadian Commission for UNESCO Announces
International Adult Learners' Week 2009**

Week-long celebration will highlight achievements of adult learners

Ottawa, February 13, 2009. The Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, David A. Walden, announced today that International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) 2009 in Canada will be held from March 2 through 8.

Celebrated in over 40 countries, IALW showcases adult learners and promotes lifelong learning in all its forms. While it has taken the lead role in coordinating the Week, the Canadian Commission relies on its partners across the country to mobilize and organize local campaigns and celebrations that promote the importance of adult literacy, and the idea of lifelong learning which embraces sustainable development and promotes democracy, justice and equity

In addition to celebrating adult learners and underscoring the importance of lifelong learning, the Week this year will place special emphasis on the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI), which will take place in Belém, Brazil, May 19-22, 2009. Organized by UNESCO, this global conference, with the 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.

"We are pleased to be working with many government and non-governmental partners in this pan-Canadian celebration," Mr. Walden said. These include governments at all levels, the education community, literacy and human rights organizations and other community-based groups and individuals committed to lifelong learning. "Together, we are building on successes of past International Adult Learners' Weeks and, and by reaffirming our support for lifelong learning, recognizing the contribution inclusive learning can make to an equitable and just society," he added.

Information and updates on International Adult Learners' Week 2009 will soon be available on the Canadian Commission for UNESCO web site at:
<http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx>

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Source:

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