



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## **Axel Meisen appointed President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

**Québec City, May 8, 2010.** At its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in Québec from May 6 – 8, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO appointed Dr. Axel Meisen, C.M., FCAE. as President for an initial two-year term.

Dr. Meisen currently holds the inaugural Chair in Foresight at Alberta Innovates: Technology Futures (formerly the Alberta Research Council). He has contributed 38 years of service to post-secondary education in Canada and abroad, rising to the position of President of Memorial University of Newfoundland (1999 – 2007), the largest university in Atlantic Canada. He spent the earlier part of his career at the University of British Columbia where he held the positions of Professor of Chemical Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, which includes Engineering, Nursing and Architecture.

Dr. Meisen has played major roles in international projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in seven countries, including the development of a new humanities-focused professional university in Peru, the introduction of cooperative education programs into Latin America, and a mutual recognition agreement related to accredited engineering programs involving Canada, USA, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Hong Kong. He is presently President of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, has served on the Board of the Edmonton Opera Association, and was instrumental in the creation of a new opera, Ann and Seamus, that has been performed nationally and internationally by Shallaway, the acclaimed youth choir of Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Meisen was born in Europe and has lived and worked in Québec, British Columbia, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Alberta. He currently lives in Edmonton.

At this same meeting Dr. Christina Cameron, Professor in the School of Architecture, and Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage at the University of Montreal, was appointed as Vice-President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

*The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates under the aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Its role is to act as a forum for governments and civil society, and to mobilize the participation of Canadian organizations and committed individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the only member of the United Nations System to have National Commissions performing this role in each of its Member States.*

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**Source:** Alysouk Lynhiavu  
Public Affairs Officer  
Canadian Commission for UNESCO  
613.566.4414 / 1.800.263.5588, ext. 4532