



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
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**WORLD TEACHERS' DAY 2006 CELEBRATES THE CONTRIBUTION OF
TEACHERS TO QUALITY EDUCATION**

Ottawa, October 5, 2006 In over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day on October 5, 2006, celebrates the role of teachers and their crucial contribution to learning and social development.

The joint message for World Teachers' Day 2006 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) underlined their commitment to an education of high quality to "reduce poverty and to help ensure a better life for all, including respect for the basic rights of children." The joint message emphasized that "teachers are the heart of the education system" and that investment in training, support for teachers and respect for the teaching profession are essential to meet our education challenges.

This year, World Teachers' Day commemorates the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the *Joint ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers*. The historic Recommendation, approved on October 5, 1966, focused on the preparation and employment conditions of teachers, the participation of teachers in educational decisions, and the measures that should be taken in each country to promote quality teaching and learning. Quality education includes an emphasis on learner development, learning conditions and the role of education in promoting responsible citizenship.

David A. Walden, the Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, stressed that "the annual World Teachers' Day celebration is an opportunity to focus on the key role teachers play in achieving quality education for all children and adults. We pay tribute today to the teachers in Canada and around the world who, through their invaluable efforts at every level of education, are building a sustainable future for all."

UNESCO is the only organization within the United Nations system with a mandate for education. The right to education is a fundamental human right and equal access to education is central to UNESCO's mandate and activities. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO acts as a consultative forum for governments and civil society, and mobilizes the participation of Canadian organizations and committed individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture, and communication and information.

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