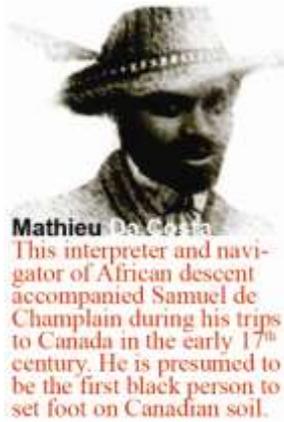




**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**



The Mathieu Da Costa Challenge: Partnership between the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Ottawa, 20 February 2012. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), is once again pleased to announce a travelling exhibition of works by young Canadians aged 9 to 18. These works were produced within the framework of the “Mathieu Da Costa Challenge” which was held annually between 1996 and 2011 by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Over the years, this competition encouraged thousands of youth to learn about the contributions that people from diverse cultural backgrounds have made to Canada. The pieces of writing and artwork showcased in the exhibit demonstrate how cultural diversity has shaped Canadian history and society.

In 2012, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO joined forces to disseminate the written pieces and artworks of the young award-winners and semi-finalists from the final year of the contest which took place in 2011. Twenty-two pieces will be traveling to five cities, all members of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination and to three schools, all members of the UNESCO Associated Schools network in Canada. The artwork and written pieces will be exhibited in Ottawa in June 2012.

The travelling exhibition will be presented:

February 10th to February 23rd in **Gatineau**, Québec, February 27th to March 9th in **Thunder Bay**, Ontario, March 13th to March 23rd at Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau in **Winnipeg**, Manitoba, April 10th to 20th at Olds Junior Senior High School¹ in **Olds**, Alberta, April 24th to May 4th at St-Benedict School in **Leduc**, Alberta, May 8th to 18th at École Francophone d’Airdrie in **Airdrie**, Alberta, May 22nd to June 1st in **Vancouver**, British Columbia and finally, in June (TBD) in **Ottawa**, Ontario.

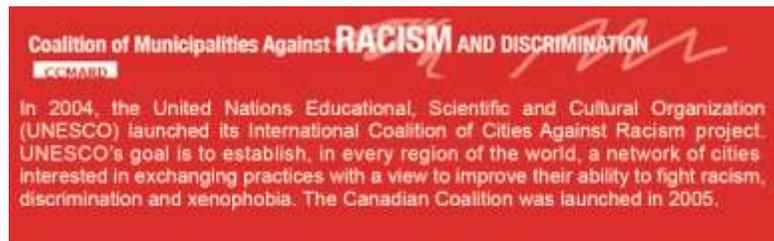
¹ Please contact schools directly to find out when the exhibit can be viewed by the general public.

After 15 years of the public's participation and support, CIC would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge. Their dedication and efforts to promote multiculturalism have made a positive contribution to this country.

Visit the Teachers and Youth Web Corner on CIC's website for many fun activities to help youth learn about multiculturalism, citizenship and immigration: www.multiculturalism.gc.ca/learn

-30-

Source : Marie-Christine Lecompte
**Programme Officer, Youth
National Coordinator,
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)**
Canadian Commission for UNESCO
Tel.: 613.566.4414/1.800.263.5588, ext. 5567
marie-christine.lecompte@unesco.ca



Founded in 1953, the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), commonly referred to as UNESCO Associated Schools, is a global network of more than 9000 educational institutions in 180 countries. Member institutions – ranging from pre-schools, primary, secondary and vocational schools to teacher training institutions - work in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education in practice. Since 2001, the Canadian Network has doubled in size revealing the interest and support it has achieved.

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.