



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

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Annual Report of the Secretary-General

2012 – 2013

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Canada Council
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du Canada

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates under the general authority of the Canada Council for the Arts.

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List of Abbreviations

36 C/5 UNESCO Programme and Budget, 2012-2013	CCMARD Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination	HFNL –ICH Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador – Intangible Cultural Heritage Office	LDC Least Developed Country	UNAC United Nations As- sociation in Canada
37 C/4 UNESCO Medium- Term Strategy, 2014-2021	CCU Canadian Commission for UNESCO	IBC International Bio- ethics Committee	MAB Man and the Bio- sphere Programme	UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (The Earth Summit)
37 C/5 UNESCO Programme and Budget, 2014-2017	CCWPF Canadian Commit- tee for World Press Freedom	ICC International Coordinating Committee	MDG Millennium Development Goals	UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
ACCC Association of Canadian Com- munity Colleges	CMEC Council of Minis- ters of Education, Canada	IGBC Intergovern- mental Bioethics Committee	MILSET International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
ACDE Association of Canadian Deans of Education	COMEST World Com- mission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology	IALW International Adult Learners’ Week	MLA Main Line of Ac- tion	UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ACS Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec	CONFINTEA International Conference on Adult Education	ICCAR International Coalition of Cities against Racism	MOST Management of Social Transfor- mations	UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
ADG Assistant Director-General	CRIEC Chaire de recher- che en immigra- tion, ethnicité et citoyenneté	IEE Independent Ex- ternal Evaluation	MOW Memory of the World Programme	UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Com- missioner for Refugees
AGM Annual General Meeting	CRRF Canadian Race Relations Foundation	IFAP Information for All Programme	Natcom National Commis- sion for UNESCO	UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
AQEC Association québécoise en éthique clinique	ECCAR European Coalition of Cities against Racism	IGF Internet Gover- nance Forum	NGO Non-Governmen- tal Organization	UNITWIN University Twinning and Networking
ASPnet Associated Schools Project Network	EFA Education for All	IOC Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Devel- opment 2012	UQAM University of Quebec in Montréal
CAPLA Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment	ESD Education for Sustainable Development	IOS Internal Oversight Service	SSHRC Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	YAG Youth Advisory Group
CASHRA Canadian As- sociation of Statu- tory Human Rights Agencies	EuroMAB Europe Region Network of Bio- sphere Reserves and Man and the Biosphere National Committees	JCOMM Joint World Meteorological Organization/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology	TVET Technical and Vo- cational Education and Training	
CBRA Canadian Biosphere Re- serves Association			UIS UNESCO Institute for Statistics	
			UN United Nations	



Message of the President

The *Annual Report of the Secretary-General* provides not only an opportunity to report on the wide-ranging activities in which the Canadian Commission for UNESCO has engaged over the past year, but it also permits observations from the perspective of its Executive Committee and my role as president of the Commission.

In everyday discourse, the term 'leader' is often used casually and sometimes without great merit. However, this is not so for our Commission and, in particular, for Mr. David Walden who has led the Commission as Secretary-General for the past thirteen years. He has contributed creatively and pragmatically to the work of the Commission, drawing on and recognizing the work of the Commission's staff and its many supporters. For this, we owe him our deep appreciation and I would like to express it, in particular, on behalf of the Commission's Executive Committee.

Like all effective leaders, Mr. Walden has not only been instrumental in positioning the Commission's work for today and tomorrow, but also for the longer term. I particularly draw your attention to the document "Reflections on Future Directions of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 2012 - 2017", which is referenced in the Governance Section of the Annual Report and which may be found on the Commission's website at www.unesco.ca. This document will provide strategic guidance to the Commission in future years.

As Mr. Walden embarks on new ventures, we wish him well and I would like to welcome our new Secretary-General, Ms Myriam Montrat. She assumed her responsibilities in February of this year and is joining the Commission at a time when UNESCO is once again facing major challenges. These challenges include living up to UNESCO's founding tenets, particularly "*that the wide diffusion of*



culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern", as stated in UNESCO's Constitution. They also include many organizational and financial challenges. Ms Montrat has the background and motivation to lead the Commission's contribution to help master these challenges and we look forward to the leadership she will bring.

In conclusion, I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the Commission and its Executive Committee as well as the Commission's countless supporters and friends. Without them, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO could not be successful in its service to the citizens of Canada and the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Axel Meisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Axel Meisen,
C.M., Ph.D., P.Eng., EurIng, FCAE
President,
Canadian Commission for UNESCO



Reflections of the Outgoing Secretary- General, 1999-2013

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2012-2013. This is the 14th Report prepared during my tenure as Secretary-General, and is also my last as, after almost 35 years of public service, including over 13 years as Secretary-General, I have decided to retire.

Annual reports by their very nature are reflective documents that illustrate the challenges and successes of the previous year, and this report is no exception. I would also, however, like to take this opportunity to offer some reflections on the Commission during the time that I had the privilege of serving as Secretary-General.

I joined the Commission in October 1999, some three weeks before UNESCO's 31st General Conference. While I had previously represented Canada on and chaired a UNESCO intergovernmental committee, there is nothing that prepares a fledgling Secretary-General for a General Conference: 3000 people coming together for three weeks of meetings, six days per week, to adopt UNESCO's programme and budget which directs the work of UNESCO and the National Commission. Although daunting at the time, it was an excellent way to begin and to meet and establish a presence with colleagues from other National Commissions, the UNESCO Secretariat, and, of course, the members of Canada's Permanent Delegation in Paris.

In 1999 the Commission was still recovering from the Government's Program Review of the mid-1990s when it experienced personnel and budget cuts of over 50%. Some six months before my arrival, in response to this situation and the challenges and opportunities to rebuild and reorient the Commission that it presented, the Commission had adopted a strategic plan, Refreshing the Spirit, at the An-

nual General Meeting. Implementing the plan was the priority and transforming its ideas into reality was the foundation for re-orienting the work of the Commission. In doing so, I benefitted from the unqualified support of the Commission's Executive Committee and, equally importantly, that of the late Dr. Shirley Thomson, then Director of the Canada Council for the Arts and a former Secretary-General, who generously provided additional human and financial resources to rebuild the Commission.

Governance has been an abiding interest of mine, and Canada's Ambassadors (I had the privilege of working with six Canadian Ambassadors) and members of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO have generously supported and encouraged my active participation in consultations, meetings, and working groups whose goal was to improve governance at UNESCO. Whether it was the relations between the three organs of UNESCO (General Conference, Executive Board, and the Secretariat), participating in the development of directives for the use of UNESCO's logo, chairing a working group to identify ways to improve meetings of National Commissions, or most recently preparing submissions to, and participating in meetings of, the Tripartite Working Group (the Secretariat, Permanent Delegations and National Commissions), the Canadian Commission has been given a strong voice and the opportunity to share our experience with the world. This is not the case with most other National Commissions, and it is a relationship that must be nurtured and never taken for granted.

We also made a conscious effort to diversify the Commission and to represent the different programme sectors in its leadership and governance. Since 1999, the President has come from the



education, culture, social sciences, and natural sciences sectors respectively, while the expertise of Vice-Presidents has been in the social sciences, communication and information, and culture. All the while this has been reinforced by the expertise of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Sectoral Commissions in Education, the Natural, Social and Human Sciences, and Culture, Communication and Information, some of whom subsequently became the President or Vice-President.

In a curious series of coincidences, my time as Secretary-General has been greatly influenced by the letter “M.” The Presidents and Vice-Presidents respectively with whom I worked were Michel Agnaieff and Marshall W. Conley, followed by Max Wyman and Michèle Stanton-Jean, then Michèle Stanton-Jean and Martha Stone, and finally Axel Meisen and Christina M. Cameron. To all of them, I owe a debt of gratitude for their support, guidance, and, at times, patience, that can never be repaid.

In recent months I have been asked many times what I consider to be the Commission’s greatest accomplishment during my time as Secretary-General. This is a difficult question to answer because the Commission has constantly evolved and we are often so busy “getting the job done” that we don’t spend time thinking about our legacy. There is no doubt however that recognition of the Commission as a world leader in youth engagement, the launch of the Associated Schools Project Network in Canada, the expansion of the networks of UNESCO Chairs and Biosphere Reserves, the establishment and success of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination, and playing a role in having the first Canadian archival col-

lections included in the International Register of the Memory of the World, are just some of the many highlights.

The camaraderie of, and opportunity to work with, my fellow Secretaries-General, not only in the Europe Region but also in other geographic regions, must also be included on the list of highlights. Whenever and wherever we met, and regardless of the period of time that had elapsed since we last saw each other, we always met as friends and colleagues with common interests and values, and the same shared determination.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the incredible team in the Secretariat of the Commission who supported, inspired and challenged me – in a good way – to be innovative and creative in the ways that we accomplished our mandate. The successes that we have enjoyed during the past 13 years are the result of our shared vision, but equally their commitment, hard work, and willingness to translate sometimes abstract ideas into reality.

As Secretary-General, I have had the opportunity to work with, and learn from, officials at different levels of government, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and academics, not only in Canada but around the world. It has been a privilege to do so, and I would like to thank everyone for your support, and for helping to make the world a better place through the work of the Commission and UNESCO.

January 2013

David A. Walden,
Secretary-General

Message of the Secretary-General

It is with great pleasure and much pride that I take up my position as the Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. I cannot imagine a more interesting or motivating mandate than that of promoting peace in the world by bringing people together through dialogue, education, culture, science, communication and information. Therefore it is with great humility and enthusiasm that I commit to undertake these new challenges and advance the activities of UNESCO among Canadians while promoting the knowledge, concerns and values of Canadians on the international scene.

To this end, the Commission will continue to work with governments and civil society to promote inclusion, the dissemination of knowledge, intergenerational dialogue, the protection of cultural and natural heritage and the involvement of youth in UNESCO's fields of expertise. Furthermore, freedom of expression remains a key issue and a subject of stimulating debate for all societies, Canada included. This question is all the more topical as new technolo-

gies and Web 2.0 radically transform the way we communicate, offering new opportunities as well as new challenges for consideration.

Following the example of UNESCO, the Canadian Commission is taking advantage of this period of transformation to examine and position itself strategically for the future, in order to better serve Canadians. I am delighted to join the Canadian Commission at this turning point and to be able to contribute to shaping its future orientations.



Myriam Montrat,
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 November 16, 1945. Canada was one of the 26 founding members.

UNESCO headquarters are situated in Paris, France. UNESCO is comprised of 195 Member States and has regional and liaison offices in a number of countries. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada 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 Organization's policies and adopt its 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 co-operation 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."

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, com-

munication 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). UNESCO is the only organization in the United Nations system that has National Commissions.

National Commissions are therefore 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 March 28, 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 June 23, 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.

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.

Achievement of the ideals and mandate of UNESCO demands co-operation on the widest possible scale within Member States.

Advisory Activities:

Supporting Canada's Contribution to UNESCO



GOVERNANCE

52ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Commission held its 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ottawa from May 10–12, 2012. Approximately 180 people attended and contributed to a foresight exercise on “Reflections on Future Directions of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 2012–2017.”

The discussions focused on three questions to help provide guidance on the strategic directions the Commission should take to fulfill its mandate, and to contribute to the realization of the Canada Council's Strategic Plan:

- 1) the major forces impacting the Commission and its environment and their implications,
- 2) general directions the Commission should consider to address these major forces, and
- 3) how best to engage our existing and future partners.

In ongoing consultation with the Commission's membership a document with proposed strategic directions has since been prepared, and will be presented to the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, attended the meeting, addressed a plenary session, and participated actively in the discus-

sions. His address focused on the current global political situation and how this affects the work of UNESCO, the financial challenges being faced by the Organization, and the meetings of the World Heritage Committee in St. Petersburg and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, better known as “Rio + 20” in Rio de Janeiro.

Michèle Stanton-Jean, Representative of the Government of Québec in the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO (and Past President of the Canadian Commission) also attended and presented Québec's priorities at UNESCO.



Group discussion on “Reflections on Future Directions of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 2012–2017.”

190TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO

The 190th session of the Executive Board was held at UNESCO from October 8–18, 2012. The principal topic of discussion was the preliminary proposals for the draft Medium-Term Strategy, 2014–2022, and the draft Programme and Budget, 2014–2017. In response to ongoing calls for reform the Director-General had

proposed a significant change in both the structure and approach to work of the Organization, but members of the Board did not approve all of these proposals.

Through the work of the “Consensus Group” (which replaced the drafting group at previous Board meetings) it was recommended that the orientations in the Medium-Term Strategy should be:

- increasing UNESCO’s focus;
- positioning UNESCO closer to its field operations;
- strengthening its participation in the United Nations system; and
- developing new, and strengthening existing, partnerships.

The Board also approved a number of feasibility studies for UNESCO prizes; considered the possibility of creating a Global Campus and the right to grant doctoral degrees by the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (Delft, Netherlands); the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on the protection and promotion of museums and collections; and, similarly, whether it was desirable to have a standard-setting instrument on preservation and access to documentary heritage.

The Board approved the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy that includes separate strategies for engaging with the private sector, bilateral government donors, media companies, NGOs, parliamentarians, Associated Schools, and UNESCO Clubs; endorsed greater involvement by NGOs in the work of UNESCO in the context of a future comprehensive partnership strategy; and recommended to the General Conference that it adopt a resolution in support of proclaiming 2015 as the International Year of Light.

The President, Axel Meisen, and the Secretary-General, represented the Commission in the Canadian Delegation to this meeting of the Executive Board.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee consists of 17 members including those drawn from government departments and agencies, and Chairs of the Sectoral Commissions. Three members are designated by the AGM. The President, Vice-President and Secretary-General comprise its Bureau. The Executive Committee sets out the general policy direction of the Commission, approves membership in the Commission and Sectoral Commissions, and provides advice to governments.

The Executive Committee met three times in 2012: twice at the AGM in May and again in November. At the meeting held immediately prior to the AGM, it approved the composition of the Membership Committee as well as its recommendation to admit as members one institutional member, one individual member and three organizations designated by UNESCO (one Biosphere Reserve and two new UNESCO Chairs in Canada). It also received the report of the Nominating Committee that was subsequently presented to and approved by the members of the Commission at the AGM. The appointment of new Chairs of the Sectoral Commission in the Social, Human, and Natural Sciences and the Sectoral Commission in Communication and Information were also approved.

At the meeting held at the conclusion of the AGM, the Executive Committee assessed the events and outcomes associated with the meeting, and developed a timeline and action plan for using the feedback gathered to develop the next version of the Strategic Directions document for the Commission.

In November the Executive reviewed the process for preparing UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy, 2014–2021 (37 C/4) and Programme and Budget for 2014–2017 (37 C/5) and Canada’s responses to the questionnaires for both documents, the outcomes of the meeting of National Commission and Member States, the Director-General’s preliminary proposals, the decision of the Executive Board at its October session, and the implica-

tions of all of these for the work of the Commission. It also provided additional feedback on the Commission's draft Strategic Directions document and discussed succession planning as a result of the impending retirement of the Secretary-General. Planning for the 53rd Annual General Meeting also began and it was agreed that the meeting would be held in Toronto in early May 2013.

to climate change. The document is available on UNESCO's website: www.unesdoc.unesco.org

24TH SESSION OF THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, PARIS, FRANCE

The 24th session of MAB-International Coordinating Council (ICC) was held at UNESCO from July 9–13, 2012, two weeks after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), thereby representing an important moment in the global sustainability agenda. Over 70 representatives from Member States, as well as five international organizations, participated as members or observers.

The agenda focused on improving the processes of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and programme management and planning in the context of the 2013 target for a network meeting addressing the Seville Strategy criteria. Highlights included planning for the evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan, rejection of a proposal for UNESCO to designate study sites for the MAB programme, proposals for revised nomination and periodic review forms, and the Strategy for 2014–2021. The ICC also approved the designation of new Biosphere Reserves and provided its reactions and recommendations in response to four Canadian periodic reviews. The request by the Lac St-Pierre Biosphere Reserve to expand the size of its transition zone fivefold was approved, resulting in a new total area of 6,342 square kilometers.

Canadian participation in the meeting included Michèle Stanton-Jean, Representative of the Quebec Government in the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO, Dominique Levasseur, Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO, and Jean-Philippe L. Messier, Chair, Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and member of the Canadian MAB Committee of the Commission.

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY (COMEST), PARIS, FRANCE

The Extra-Ordinary Session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), took place from July 2–4, 2012 shortly after the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). This session focused on four areas:

- 1) Ethics and Climate Change;
- 2) Science Ethics;
- 3) Development Ethics; and
- 4) Ethics of Nanotechnologies and Converging Technologies.

Marie-Hélène Parizeau, a professor in Laval University's Faculty of Philosophy and Holder of the Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Environmental Ethics attended the meeting as a member of COMEST. Representatives of various bodies concerned, such as the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, also participated.

Members of the Committee issued a *Statement on issues relevant to consideration of the desirability of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation*

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S
CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER
STATES AND NATIONAL
COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO IN
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
ON THE PREPARATION OF THE
MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY,
2014–2021 (37 C/4), AND THE
DRAFT PROGRAMME AND
BUDGET, 2014–2017 (37 /5),
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA**

Part of UNESCO's consultation process for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and Programme and Budget (C/5) has historically included regional consultations of National Commissions. Following a decision by the Executive Board, this year's consultation included representatives of Member States as well as National Commissions. The meeting of the Europe and North America Region was organized by the National Commissions of Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, and was held in Bratislava from September 9–13, 2012. Representatives of 44 Member States and National Commissions from the region attended, as well as observers from the Faroe Islands and Botswana.

Participants discussed the role of National Commissions in the new planning cycle of UNESCO that will see the Medium-Term Strategy move from a six-year to an eight-year period, and the Programme and Budget moving from a biennial to a quadrennial cycle, beginning in 2014. It also addressed the proposals of the Director-General to reduce the number of programme sectors in the Secretariat and the number of Major Programmes, and to adopt a new approach based on cross-cutting thematic areas. Concern was expressed about the apparent reduced emphasis on freedom of expression and the elimination of "communication and information" from the proposed mission statement.

Group discussions were also held on specific subject areas: peace, intercultural dialogue and human rights, youth; UNESCO's major programmes; Intersectoral Platforms; Category II Institutes and Centres; and freedom of expression and freedom of the media. The President, Axel Meisen, and

the Secretary-General represented the Commission at this meeting and facilitated the session on Intersectoral Platforms in the context of improving internal cooperation within the UNESCO Secretariat.

The Final Report of the meeting is available on UNESCO's web site:

www.unesco.org

19TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IBC) AND JOINT SESSION OF THE IBC AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC), PARIS, FRANCE

The 19th Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the Joint Session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), were held from September 11–14. The meetings focused on two main topics: the issue of traditional medicine and its ethical implications, and the principle of non-discrimination and non-stigmatization set forth in Article 11 of the UNESCO *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* (2005).

The IBC is an independent body of experts that includes Thérèse Leroux, a law professor in the University of Montréal's Faculty of Law and a researcher with its Centre de recherche en droit public. The IGBC is comprised of 36 Member States elected by the UNESCO General Conference. Canada has been a member of the IGBC since 2011.

"UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES: THE ROLE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT," INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP, UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE ANDALUCIA, BAEZA, SPAIN

Co-organized by the Universidad Internacional de Andalucía and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a workshop on "UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: the Role of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development" was held in Baeza, Spain from October 1–3. The purpose of the workshop was to reflect on the

principles and achievements of this UNESCO network and to identify and recommend improvements to the programme.

Dominique Potvin, Programme Officer, Natural Sciences, was invited to give the opening address and to introduce the Man and the Biosphere Programme and Biosphere Reserves on behalf of Ms. Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO, who was unable to attend. Ms Potvin also presented the approach to the programme in Canada, including recent developments, priorities and structure. The international perspective was complemented by speakers from the USA, Mexico, and Morocco. Specific orientations of Spanish Biosphere Reserves were discussed by protected areas managers, professors and students. Participants also addressed emerging challenges and future undertakings, led by a presentation by Dr. Engelbert Ruoss, former Director of the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice. A summary and conclusions document is being prepared for UNESCO, MAB committees and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

TRIPARTITE WORKING GROUP, PARIS, FRANCE

The Open-Ended Tripartite Working Group for the Review of the Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO was created in response to recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation of UNESCO and the resulting Review of Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO in 2011. Prepared by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) and a private consultant, the Review found many examples of positive cooperation between the Secretariat and National Commissions. At the same time, it recommended that the role of National Commissions needed to be "reviewed and revitalized."

The first meeting of the working group was held at UNESCO on October 19, 2012 and was attended by over 120 participants. It focused on the six recommendations of the Review of Cooperation with Na-

tional Commissions, with particular emphasis on the recommendation that addressed the evolving role of National Commissions. Most participants felt that the coordination of the network of National Commissions could be strengthened, but that this coordination should not be done by the UNESCO Secretariat. Similar arguments were made with respect to partnerships with the private sector, although it was agreed that there was a need for more and better sharing of existing information, particularly good practices. There was also general agreement that because of the wide diversity in the composition of National Commissions and the diversity of approaches they take in implementing their mandate, it will be difficult to develop common approaches even within the same geographic region.

Canada was represented by Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO, the Secretary-General, Yasemin Heinbecker, Counsellor and Deputy-Permanent Delegate, Dominique Levasseur, Senior Programme Officer, and Michèle Stanton-Jean, Representative of the Government of Québec, Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO.

7TH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

The 7th annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held from November 5–9, 2012 with the theme "Internet Governance for Sustainable, Human, Economic and Social Development." Each year the IGF brings together



Opening
of the Inter-
net Gover-
nance Forum
in Baku,
Azerbaijan

more than 1,500 participants from over 100 countries, representing governments, the private sector, civil society, the Internet community, the media and international organizations, to discuss the challenges of Internet governance. The IGF was created following the two World Summits on the Information Society held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005). Pauline Dugré, Programme Officer, Communication and Information, represented the Commission at this meeting.

25TH EDITION OF LES ENTRETIENS DU CENTRE JACQUES CARTIER, LYON, FRANCE

Les Entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier is a major annual international gathering that addresses four main areas: economics/politics, science, society, and culture. The purpose of the gatherings is to stimulate discussion and generate new ideas among the participants. The 27 separate symposia constituting this year's event addressed various related themes including health, diversity, and information technology.

One of the symposia, "Immigration et diversité ethnoculturelle: Espaces urbains et communauté politique," was jointly organized by French researchers and Micheline Labelle, a Professor of Sociology and the Holder of the Research Chair on Immigration, Ethnicity and Citizenship (CRIEC) at the University of Quebec at Montréal. At this symposium, Ms. Labelle, who is also a member of the Commission's Sectoral Commission in Natural, Social and Human Sciences, presented a paper entitled "Multiculturalisme, interculturalisme, superdiversité... "Réflexions sur les dimensions idéologiques et politiques des modèles d'intégration."

As part of this symposium, Cynthia Lacasse, Programme Officer, Social and Human Sciences, also participated in a panel discussion on "the city and diversity" where she shared the experience of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN CANADA

7TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, TORONTO

The International Network associated with the UNESCO Chair on Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability at York University, Toronto, was launched in 2000 with 30 teacher education institutions from 28 countries. The Network first met in Toronto (2000), then in South Africa (2002), Sweden (2004), Finland (2006), Turkey (2008), and France (2010). The Network met again in 2012 at York University in Toronto from May 16–20, 2012 and the meeting was attended by over 100 participants from 30 countries. A second part of the meeting with an additional 100 people from a further 70 countries was held the following week in Finland.

The meeting brought together teachers and staff from Ministries of Education to discuss reorienting teacher education to address sustainability. The thematic focus for the meeting was climate change education for sustainable development (ESD) and consisted of plenary sessions, workshops and discussion groups. Other topics included were ESD in teacher education, the purposes of education, ESD pedagogies, and creating and maintaining local/national networks of teaching education institutions. The final day of the conference focused on quality education and measuring student engagement as an indicator of quality.

The Secretary-General gave the keynote address at the opening of the conference on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Canada. In his address, he traced how this had evolved from non-governmental organizations to ministries of education, and from environmental concerns to a wider vision of sustainable development that includes economic and social components and principles such as democracy, human rights and gender equity.

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MONTRÉAL

The Creative Cities Network was launched by UNESCO in 2004 to enhance the creative, social and economic impact of cultural industries and to promote cultural diversity and sustainable urban development. The network is structured around seven themes – literature, cinema, music, crafts and folk art, design, media arts, and gastronomy.

The Annual General Meeting of the Network was held in Montréal from May 21–24, 2012. Over 100 delegates from 34 cities worldwide attended the meeting to address issues related to the future development of the rapidly-growing Network, and to talk about the initiatives and co-operative projects that unite these cities. The meeting also offered an opportunity for the international delegates to meet their Montréal counterparts and key players in the fields of handicrafts and popular art, digital art, film, design, food, literature and music.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor of Montréal, Gérald Tremblay, accompanied by City Counselor and Executive Committee Member Responsible for Culture, Heritage, Design and the Status of Women, Helen Fotopulos. Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, represented the Director-General, and the Canadian Com-

mission for UNESCO was one of the sponsors of the meeting.

Montréal has been a member of the Network since 2006 as a UNESCO City of Design.

The meeting also offered an opportunity for the international delegates to meet their Montréal counterparts and key players in the fields of handicrafts and popular art, digital art, film, design, food, literature and music.

THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD IN THE DIGITAL AGE: DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, VANCOUVER

Jointly organized by UNESCO and the University of British Columbia, *Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation* was held in Vancouver from September 26–28, 2012. The conference attracted 500 participants from around the world to discuss how to preserve digital heritage. The Commission’s President, Axel Meisen, as well as Secretary-General, both spoke on the opening day of the conference, and Pauline Dugré, Programme Officer, Communication and Information served as a member of the organizing committee. Ten members of the Commission’s Youth Advisory Group (YAG) also participated as volunteers.

The title of the conference derives from UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme that preserves, protects, and makes accessible the world’s significant documentary heritage. It therefore explored the main issues affecting the creation and preservation of digital documentary heritage so that there will be “memory of the world” in the future.

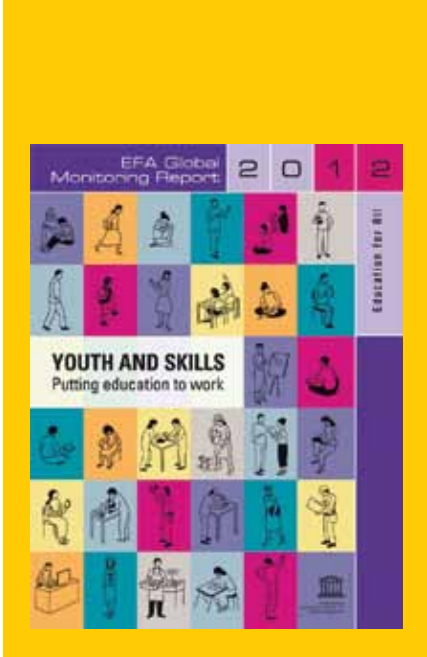
Following the conference, a declaration was submitted for approval and potential amendment by the participants prior to its official adoption by the UNESCO Executive Board at its meeting in April 2013.

The conference was hosted by the University of British Columbia with support from UNESCO, Microsoft, Google, the University of Toronto, the University of Alberta, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and the Government of Québec.

It therefore explored the main issues affecting the creation and preservation of digital documentary heritage so that there will be “memory of the world” in the future.



The Secretary-General, David A. Walden, welcoming participants at the conference. Photo: Maria Liouliou, UNESCO



CANADIAN LAUNCH OF THE 2012 UNESCO GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT ON EDUCATION FOR ALL, OTTAWA

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. In collaboration with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), the Commission co-hosted the Canadian launch of the 2012 Global Monitoring Report, Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work at the WUSC International Forum “Youth Leading Change: Aspirations to Action” on November 1, 2012 in Ottawa.

The number of youth globally is rising rapidly with one in six people now in the 15-24 age group, comprising 1.2 billion people. At the same time, one in eight youth is unemployed. The third goal of Education for All is to ensure that young people have the opportunity to acquire skills and, ultimately, to have the opportunity to find work, earn a living, contribute to their communities and societies, and help to make their countries prosper in the

global economy. The Report documents the ongoing need for basic literacy and numeracy skills among youth, the urgency to develop young people’s technical skills, and concern over donor fatigue as the funding gap continues to widen.

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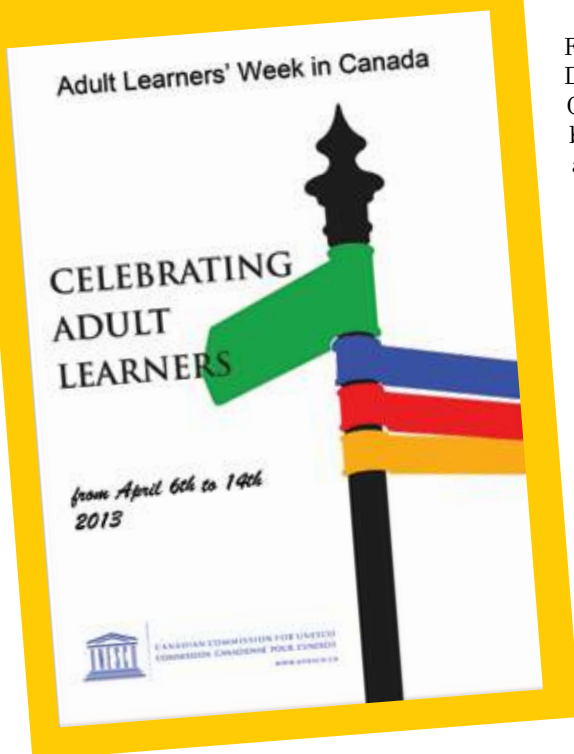
Speakers at the event were Albert Motivans, Head, Education Indicators and Data Analysis at the UNESCO Institute of Statistics located in Montréal, Paul Brennan, Vice-President, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Guy Bessette, Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian International Development Agency, and the Secretary-General. Over 350 of WUSC’s institutional and student members, alumni and partners, as well as members of the international development and policy community, participated in the event.

CONSULTING CANADIANS

CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL ADULT LEARNERS WEEK (IALW) 2013, OTTAWA

This meeting was held on September 14, 2012 to plan IALW 2013, and was attended by an increased number of representatives of provincial ministries and their partners. A presentation by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) on Canada’s report following the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VI) generated considerable interest among participants working to document supply and demand in the field of adult learning. Participants also agreed that the stakeholders in continuing education need to use the IALW planning process to expand the number of partners involved.

Member States of UNESCO had also been asked to provide progress reports on developments in adult learning since 2009 and in literacy since 2006. The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, in collaboration with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Commission, prepared Canada’s response to these requests in a detailed report entitled *Adult Learning and Education* that documents progress in adult education and literacy policies, governance, financing, participation and quality. The report, produced in cooperation with the Commission, is available on the CMEC website: www.cmec.ca



CANADIAN LAUNCH OF GUIDELINES PREPARED BY THE UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN COOPERATION WITH THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Produced by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) in Hamburg, Germany, the Guidelines on recognizing, validating and assessing qualifications in both formal and informal learning were launched in Canada at a webinar organized by the Commission in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA). All CAPLA members received an invitation with the result that more than 90 people participated on-line. Elisabeth Barot, Programme Officer, Education, and Madhu Singh of the UIL both made presentations and these, an audio version of the webinar, and the Guidelines, are available on the CAPLA website: www.capla.ca.

The webinar demonstrated that this technology is an effective means of quickly disseminating both information and documents and receiving instant feedback.

Following the webinar the Director of the UIL, Arn Carlsen, was invited to be a keynote speaker at a plenary session at CAPLA's annual conference in Halifax from October 21–24, attended by more than 200 people. Several opportunities to learn more about the Guidelines were available during the conference: Mr. Carlsen participated on an international panel attended by 36 countries (30 in-person and 6 on-line). Elisabeth Barot was a member of a panel entitled "Moving Forward on the Recognition of Prior Learning Guidelines

and Standards in Canada" that was attended by more than 60 people, and also participated in the meeting of the Strategic Advisory Panel on the Recognition of Prior Learning that brought together representatives from each of the provinces and territories.

The publication of the UIL Guidelines is timely as CAPLA is in the process of defining its standards and unifying principles.



Promoting UNESCO's Goals and Values in Canada

PARTNERSHIPS, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

'TRIBAL PARKS' – LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS – CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AND PARKS CANADA, OTTAWA AND GATINEAU

An information and discussion session was held on May 7 for staff of the Commission and the Canada Council for the Arts to provide an opportunity to learn about the eco-cultural innovations in Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Mr. Eli Enns of Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and Ecotrust Canada, and an emerging leader in fostering successful collaboration between First Nations and environmental groups, focused on the importance of Qwii-qwiq-sap (pronounced Quay-quick-sup in the Nuu-chah-nulth language and meaning 'transformation'). He also spoke about the "Standing Tree to Standing Home" initiative which is a direct response to the need for appropriate housing using local materials and favouring culturally-appropriate architecture. This initiative represents several key values and principles of the broader Tribal Parks initiative as it reduces raw log exports and creates employment in Clayoquot Sound.

At the invitation of the Protected Area Establishment and Conservation Directorate at Parks Canada, a second

The "Standing Tree to Standing Home" initiative is a direct response to the need for appropriate housing using local materials and favouring culturally-appropriate architecture.

informal presentation and discussion was held on May 8 on "Parks Canada & Tribal Parks in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Social Innovation and Contiguous Protected Areas." At this session Eli Enns and Dominique Potvin, Programme Officer, Natural Sciences, presented complementarities between the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and the mandate of Parks Canada.

Through both events, approximately 60 representatives of Parks Canada and the Canada Council for the Arts gained familiarity with specific Canadian initiatives in areas recognized by UNESCO and which, through Canadian leadership, contribute to advancing objectives of the Organization.

"FOSTERING INNOVATION IN CANADIAN BIOETHICS," MONTREAL

Organized by the Association québécoise en éthique clinique (AQEC) and its partners, the Canadian Bioethics Society's 23rd Annual Conference was held in Montréal from May 31– June 2 on the theme "Fostering Innovation in Canadian Bioethics." The conference, which brought together over 400 researchers, health administrators, students, ethics committee members and philosophers was an opportunity to discuss and reflect on many topics, including the development of new theoretical, practical and pedagogical approaches to bioethics, as well as their applications in health and the public domain. Françoise Baylis, Holder of the Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Philosophy at Dalhousie University and a member of the Sectoral Commission in Natural, Social and Human Sciences, presented a paper on "Eggs and Embryos for Research." The Canadian Commission was a partner in the event.



CASHRA 2012 Conference –
Graffiti Gallery, artists
Chad Reeves and Fred Thomas

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATUTORY HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WINNIPEG

The 2013 Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) Annual Conference was hosted by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission from June 17–19. Organized under the theme “*Are We There Yet?*,” the Conference brought together more than 250 human rights workers, advocates and leaders from across Canada interested in building welcoming, inclusive and discrimination-free communities and workplaces.

The Program focused on celebrating human rights successes and identifying areas where further development, advocacy or change are needed to achieve equality for all individuals in Canada. Among the topics discussed were social and economic rights, systemic discrimination, bullying and harassment. Plenary sessions were also held on the topics of engaging the Aboriginal community and using social media to promote human rights.

Copies of the Summary Brochure of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) Toolkit were distributed to participants to help provide an opportunity for individuals from across Canada to learn, share and dialogue about discrimination in the community and in workplaces. These brochures, prepared by the Commission, present examples of good practices from the network. A link to the complete publication was also included on the Conference’s website.

SYMPOSIUM ON CULTURAL AND HERITAGE TOURISM

The Culture and Heritage Institute (CHI), based at Centennial College in Toronto, has hosted an annual symposium since 2007 and has established itself as a centre for facilitating discussions with a focus on cultural and heritage tourism topics and issues. The symposium features leading industry experts and heritage professionals with attendance and participation from government officials, community representatives, industry professionals, and students.

This year, the symposium was held on June 4–5 and was entitled “Travel Tales: Inspiring stories and learning from global voyages.” The objectives of this year’s edition included the fostering of youth engagement in cultural and heritage tourism. As a contribution to the symposium, the Commission coordinated the participation of two of its Youth Advisory Group members, Chris Royle and Ronan MacParland, as guest panelists.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR — INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Established in 1984 to preserve the architectural heritage of the province, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador was chosen in 2008 to lead and implement the province’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Strategy. Its mission is to safeguard and sustain the Intangible Cultural Heritage of

This accreditation gives international recognition to the work of the Heritage Foundation in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Newfoundland and Labrador for present and future generations, as a vital part of the identities of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and as a valuable collection of unique knowledge and customs. This is achieved through policies that support initiatives that celebrate, record, disseminate and promote living heritage and help to build bridges between diverse cultural groups within and outside Newfoundland and Labrador.

In November 2010, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador – Intangible Cultural Heritage (HFNL-ICH) Office was recommended for accreditation as an advisory organization to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The decision to recommend the HFNL-ICH Office was made at the 5th Session of the Committee in Nairobi, Kenya.

In 2012, the expertise of The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador was acknowledged by the General Assembly of States Parties to the UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* when it was accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage under Article 9 of the Convention. This accreditation gives international recognition to the work of the Heritage Foundation in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As an accredited organization, the Foundation may be called upon to assist the Committee, especially in the annual inscription of intangible cultural heritage on the Urgent Safeguarding List and the Representative List, in the selection of best safeguarding practices and in the granting of financial assistance for safeguarding programmes.

THE HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL HERITAGE SUMMIT, MONTRÉAL

"Heritage Conservation in Canada: What's Working and What Needs to Change" was the theme of this Summit, which was organized from October 11–13 by the Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) in cooperation with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, the Canadian Forum for Public Research on Heritage, and the Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage, University of Montréal.

The HCF used the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, which is the most widely ratified international treaty in the world for preserving cultural and natural heritage, to prepare a summary report on progress in Canada, and to lay the foundation for heritage conservation in the future at a time when government priorities are radically changing due to the economic situation. The Summit was also an opportunity to take stock, revisit assumptions and set priorities to make heritage an immediate concern at the local, provincial and national levels.

Nearly 300 delegates representing heritage organizations, advocates, architects, municipal planners, developers, public policy makers, and property owners from across the country attended the Summit as a first step toward creating a new vision and action plan for the heritage movement in Canada. The meeting concluded that conservation must move beyond protection and become synonymous with innovation, and that heritage advocates must move beyond buildings and include intangible cultural heritage. The Secretary-General spoke at the opening session and co-chaired one of the panels.

THE CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE SYMPOSIUM, HALIFAX

Attended by close to 100 participants from across Canada, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF)'s Awards of Excellence Symposium was held in Halifax from October 17–19 with staff of the Commission organizing two of the symposium's workshops.

The first workshop, which featured comparative perspectives and lessons learned on inclusive education strategies, was also an opportunity to present UNESCO's longstanding recommendation against discrimination in education as well as its new project entitled "Teaching Respect for All." The initiatives of several partners of the Commission were also highlighted, such as the Ontario Ministry of Education (which won a CRRF award in 2010 for its holistic inclusion work), the Accord on Indigenous Education, which was presented by a representative of the Mi'kmaq community as an indication of the importance of the collaboration between the Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE) and Aboriginal associations, and a lifelong learning programme with a particular focus on policy and Afro-centric research at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Elisabeth Barot, Programme Officer, Education, facilitated this workshop, which was attended by more than 50 people.

The second workshop featured examples of the work of member municipalities of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) to combat racism and discrimination affecting immigrants in the labour market.

The second workshop featured examples of the work of member municipalities of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) to combat racism and discrimination affecting immigrants in the labour market. Examples were drawn from experiences in Lethbridge, Alberta; Sherbrooke, Quebec; Stratford,

Prince Edward Island; and Halifax and Kings County, Nova Scotia. Chedly Belkhodja, a Professor of Political Science at the University of Moncton and the Co-Director of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre, opened the discussion with a description of immigration in municipalities in the Atlantic Provinces. Raymond Tynes, a Municipal Councillor from Truro, Nova Scotia, and an active member of CCMARD, moderated the session.

At the symposium, the CRRF also presented its 2012 Awards of Excellence recognizing best practices in the fight against racism in Canada. Recipients of an award or an honourable mention included the police services of the City of Victoria, the Immigrant Sector Council (ISCC) of Calgary, EQUITAS – International Centre for Human Rights Education and the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies of British Columbia, whose best practices were also highlighted in the *Toolkit for Municipalities, Organizations and Citizens* that the Commission prepared for the CCMARD.

"OCEANS OF POTENTIAL: A UN PERSPECTIVE ON CANADA'S LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES"

On the occasion of the visit to Canada of Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the Commission organized a presentation and discussion session on the work of the IOC on October 25, 2012. The session was attended by approximately 40 government and individual experts involved with ocean science.

Often referred to as UNESCO's "best kept secret," the IOC is the United Nation's focal point for oceans sciences, services and data exchange. It is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to promote marine science in all ocean basins and it responds to requirements deriving from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). It also coordinates pro-

grammes to prevent and reduce the impacts of natural marine hazards, to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to safeguard the health of ocean ecosystems, and to promote policies for ocean and coastal sustainability. The IOC also recently played a key role in the Oceans Compact, an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General that sets out a strategic vision on delivering the inter-agency “Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability” presented at Rio+20.

Dr. Watson-Wright’s presentation provided a general context for humanity’s strong dependence on oceans and the threats they are facing, and then focused on the role of the IOC and the contributions of Canada to the international oceans agenda. Canada continues to be a strong contributor to the IOC, including through the Joint Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) which provides oceans data in real time. The presentation was filmed and is accessible on-line through the Commission’s website: www.unesco.ca.

THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN BROAD STROKES EXHIBITION

Since 2001, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom (CCWPF) have organized an annual international editorial cartoon competition that coincides with the presentation of the CCWPF’s World Press Freedom Award to a Canadian journalist who has suffered in the cause of press freedom.

Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes, a travelling exhibition featuring the best editorial cartoons submitted to the international competition, was prepared in 2011. This year it continued its itinerary with showings in Saint John, New Brunswick; Thunder Bay and Oshawa, Ontario; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Calgary, Fort McMurray and Hobbema, Alberta.



A graduate from the University of Pernambuco in Brazil, Elizabeth Alves de França e Silva (Liz França) began her career in 2002 in “Jornal do Commercio”. Since then, she has drawn live caricatures and participated in exhibitions, fairs and comic strip festivals. She currently draws illustrations and cartoons in the art section of the newspaper “Folha de Pernambuco”.



“Power to the People: Citizens and Social Media,” 2012 Grand Prix, Liza França, Brazil

KIZUNA BOND PROJECT

The Commission was invited to participate in the Japanese Kizuna Bond project as an implementing partner. Through the project, 96 high school students aged 15- 18 from Canada and 96 students from Japan are invited to the other country for a two-week exchange programme consisting of a series of workshops, school visits, field trips, and volunteer work.

Canadian students from Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver had the opportunity to travel to Japan to deepen their knowledge of the impacts of climate change and the consequences of related natural and environmental disasters, while also learning about effective post-disaster recovery. Japanese students from disaster-affected areas travelled to Canada to examine similar issues in a Canadian context.

Students from both Japan and Canada also exchanged views and experiences about how to contribute to building a more sustainable and peaceful society, safeguarding tangible and intangible heritages, and promoting cultural diversity.

MATHEMATICS OF PLANET EARTH

Recognizing that our planet is facing a series of challenges linked to geophysical and human processes and for which knowledge of mathematical sciences is required for their understanding, more than 100 scientific societies, research and educational organizations joined together to create Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013. The goal of this initiative is to encourage research in solving fundamental questions about planet earth, to encourage educators to address these issues, and to inform the public about the essential role of mathematics in dealing with sustainability challenges.

Through the leadership of Dr. Christiane Rousseau, of the University of Montréal and Vice-President of the International Mathematical Union, the Canadian Mathematical Society played a key role in shaping the initiatives planned Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013. The Commission was pleased to be associated with these efforts and to obtain UNESCO patronage for the initiative.

The Canadian launch was held at the University of Montréal in December with a public roundtable on the topic of "What can mathematics do for the planet?" and a theatre play entitled "*Mathematical Science Investigation (MSI): The Anatomy of Integers and*

The goal of this initiative is to encourage research in solving fundamental questions about Planet Earth, to encourage educators to address these issues, and to inform the public about the essential role of mathematics in dealing with sustainability challenges.

Permutations." Pedagogical material is being developed and the annual "24 hours of Science" will have as its 2013 theme "We count on science." A virtual exhibition of educational modules was also inaugurated at UNESCO, Paris on March 5-8.





UNESCO Networks and Programmes in Canada

UNESCO CHAIRS

In June, 2012, the Commission organized a meeting of UNESCO Chairs at the University of Québec in Montréal that was well attended by Chair-holders. The meeting generated a number of ideas about how to consolidate the network by collaborating on a common project.

This year, the Commission also received letters of intent for five proposed UNESCO chair candidates. These proposals are currently under review.

UNEVOC

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC), located in Bonn, Germany, assists UNESCO's 195 Member States to strengthen and upgrade their systems for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). It is also the hub of the UNEVOC Network consisting of 282 specialized TVET institutions in 167 Member States.

In October, on the recommendation of the Commission, the UNEVOC Centre designated the Association of Canadian Community Colleges of Canada (ACCC) as the Canadian UNEVOC Knowledge Centre and coordinator of UNEVOC activities in Canada. In this context, the ACCC, and the International Centre in Bonn will collaborate to further the development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Latin America and the Caribbean.

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME (MAB)

GUIDELINES AND REVISED PROCESS FOR UNDERTAKING PERIODIC REVIEWS OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN CANADA

Biosphere Reserves are recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme as ecologically significant regions that promote sustainability and conservation by engaging all community stakeholders. Every 10 years, they are required to undertake a periodic review to ensure that the criteria outlined in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves are being met. In Canada, an additional focus has been placed on the learning and reflective opportunities provided by periodic reviews. As a result, the review now also serves as a means for renewed engagement of local authorities and stakeholders to act as a Biosphere Reserve.

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Over the past decade, the Canadian approach to periodic reviews has evolved to ensure that key questions are addressed in the report and that roles and responsibilities are equitable. An evaluation of the Canadian process was undertaken from January–April 2012 by the Commission, based on the contributions and comments from the Canadian MAB committee, representatives of Biosphere Reserves, and past reviews. Guidelines and a revised process

for undertaking periodic reviews in Canada have now been produced thereby improving clarity and transparency of the process and redistributing roles and responsibilities of the Biosphere Reserves being reviewed, reviewers, and the Commission. Canadian recommendations to improve the process for the designation of international Biosphere Reserves and the periodic review forms were also submitted to UNESCO.

In 2012 the periodic review of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve, Ontario, was undertaken and was the first to conform with several new requirements, including the provision of a self-study. The Commission serves as the continuous liaison between UNESCO and Biosphere Reserves in Canada, including recommendations provided by UNESCO and follow-up undertaken.

NETWORKING AND SOCIAL LEARNING STRATEGIES IN CANADIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES, AND CANADIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SASKATOON

As part of a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) on "Creating Networking and Social Learning Strategies in Canadian Biosphere Reserves," a meeting was organized on September 24–25, 2012 in Saskatoon by Maureen Reed, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, and a member of the Canadian Man and the Biosphere (MAB) committee. Representatives of Canadian Biosphere Reserves and project leaders met to share progress and document case studies of good practices in the areas of education and communication, sustainable tourism, and land management and ecological goods and services. The meeting was also used to establish upcoming priorities for the remainder of the project.

A half-day session on updates from the Commission was also added to the meeting where Stan Boychuck, Chair of the Canadian MAB Committee, and Dominique Potvin, Programme

Officer, Natural Sciences, provided contextual information about recent developments with respect to MAB. These included the EuroMAB 2013 meeting, new guidelines and processes for undertaking periodic reviews in Canada, new guidelines on the use of the UNESCO mixed logo, and general communications mechanisms. Two representatives of the Rhön Biosphere Reserve in Germany also attended to officially launch a brochure on their longstanding collaboration with Canadian Biosphere Reserves.

With the support of the Commission, the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association was able to hold its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with this meeting. The Canadian MAB committee also met on September 26 and heard an oral presentation about a proposed Biosphere Reserve from the Beaver Hills Initiatives, Alberta.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRONTENAC ARCH BIOSPHERE RESERVE, GANANOQUE

The 10th anniversary of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere (FAB) Network was celebrated in October at the Gananoque Firehall Theatre, Ontario, by approximately 150 people. A video about the FAB was launched during the event and highlighted key successes accomplished through networking by natural and historic conservation organizations, economic and social development groups, and educational and scientific communities located within this region of southeastern Ontario. Material developed by FAB was also showcased, including visitor maps on "art in the Arch," local foods, canoe routes and hiking trails (www.fabr.ca).

Dominique Potvin, Programme Officer, Natural Sciences represented the Commission and gave the opening address on the contributions of Biosphere Reserves in Canada and on future perspectives for the world network. The celebration contributed to raising the visibility of the FAB programme and to strengthening support for future activities, including the hosting of EuroMAB 2013.

EuroMAB 2013

EuroMAB – the Europe Region Network of Biosphere Reserves and MAB National Committees – is the largest and oldest of the MAB Regional Networks consisting of 52 countries, including Canada and the USA, and 284 Biosphere Reserves. Meetings of EuroMAB have taken place almost every two years since 1986.

EuroMAB is a network of 52 countries including Canada and the USA

In 2009, Charlevoix Biosphere Reserve and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association announced their interest in co-hosting EuroMAB 2013. This proposal was supported by the Commission and Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, and was subsequently accepted by UNESCO in 2011.

Since then, the resources required to organize the meeting have not been forthcoming and the Charlevoix Biosphere Reserve withdrew its offer to host the event. In response to strong expressions of support for EuroMAB 2013 to remain in Canada from both the international and Canadian MAB community, the Commission, in close partnership with the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, the Ministère des Relations internationales du Gouvernement du Québec, the Canadian MAB committee, and the involvement of Yves Gagnon, a member of the Commission's Executive Committee, have made considerable effort to ensure that this occurs.

A call for proposals to host EURO-MAB 2013 was sent to all Canadian Biosphere Reserves in October. A working group composed of representatives of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, the Commission, its MAB committee and UNESCO reviewed proposals to determine the best venue for the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting would be held in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve in October 2013.

CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

GOOD PRACTICES IN FIGHTING RACISM

In 2012 UNESCO launched "Fighting racism and discrimination: Identifying and sharing good practices in the International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR)." The Report features good practices from the International Coalition and these practices are also presented on the ICCAR webpage.

The expertise and dynamism of signatory municipalities to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) is well represented in the publication. From a total of 38 cities in the International Coalition featured in the Report, nine are members of CCMARD: Calgary, Gatineau, Halifax, Lethbridge, Montréal, Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Vancouver.

LANDSCAPE OF GRAND PRÉ
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

At the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation in June and July, the Landscape of Grand Pré was designated as Canada’s 16th World Heritage Site, and the third site in Nova Scotia.

The landscape of Grand-Pré consists of archaeological sites that date from the 17th to the 20th centuries, cultural landscapes, and commemorative sites associated with the homeland of the Acadian people. It is pre-eminently associated with their way of life, notably the diked marshland that Acadians reclaimed from the sea. The landscape is considered an exceptional example of the adaptation of the first European settlers to the conditions of the North American Atlantic coast. The site – marked by one of the most extreme tidal ranges in the world, averaging 11.6 m – is also inscribed as a memorial to Acadian way of life and deportation, known as the *Grand Dérangement*, which started in 1755 and the subsequent revival of Acadian society.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, the Commission collaborated with Parks Canada, all the managers of World Heritage Sites in Canada, provincial and territorial governments and several civil society organizations to develop a framework plan consisting of a number of national events as Canada’s contribution to the commemoration of this anniversary.

Parks Canada
is responsible in
Canada for the
World Heritage
Convention

Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site, inscribed on the list by UNESCO in 2012, photo Christophe Rivet



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES

The International Day for Monuments and Sites, which focussed on the theme of World Heritage, was celebrated on 18 April. The day was an opportunity for the Rideau Canal Festival, in collaboration with the Commission, to celebrate two landmark dates in the Canal’s history: the

Grand Pré – marked by one of the most extreme tidal ranges in the world, averaging 11.6 m – is also inscribed as a memorial to Acadian way of life and deportation

fifth anniversary of its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the 180th anniversary of its construction. For the occasion, a message from the Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, Peter Kent, was read by Larry Ostola, Vice-President of Parks Canada’s Heritage Conservation and Commemoration Directorate, inviting all Canadians to visit World Heritage sites in Canada.

This event also featured several special activities including: an exhibition of paintings of the 16 World Heritage Sites in Canada by Gilles Pelletier; gifts in the form of paintings of World Heritage Sites by students from an Ottawa school to the personalities in attendance, and; the presentation by the Rideau Canal Festival of its annual World Heritage Award to Christina Cameron, the Commission’s Vice-President, for her many contributions to heritage and conservation in Canada.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE OF HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Located in southern Alberta, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is one of the world’s oldest, largest and best preserved buffalo jumps. Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981, this year it celebrated both the 25th anniversary of its award-winning interpretive centre and the 40th-anniversary of the World Heritage Convention (1972).



Rideau Canal, photo by Laura Prazeres



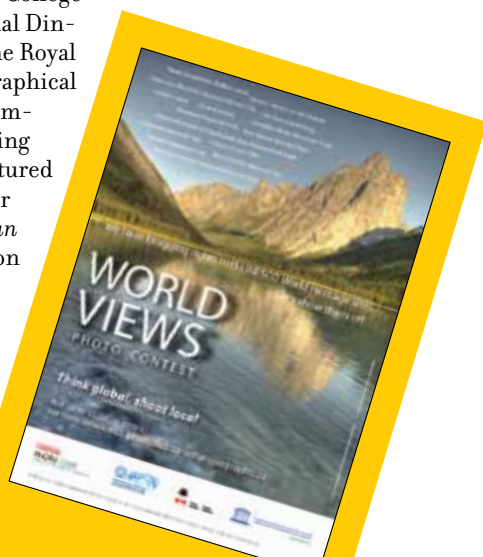
Dr. Axel Meisen and Blackfoot Confederacy representatives. Photo: Frank McTighe, The Macleod Gazette

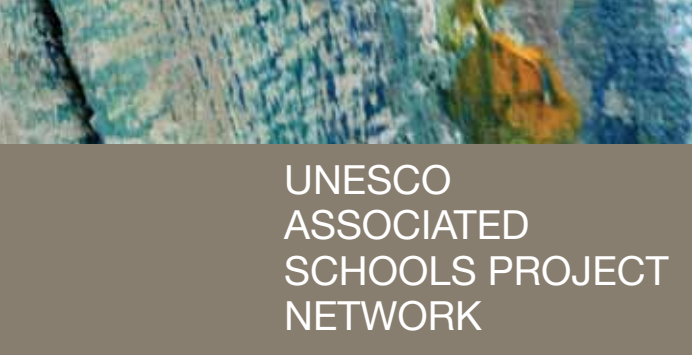
A day of celebrations was held on July 25, 2012 that included the unveiling of a bronze plaque with text in English, French, and Blackfoot commemorating the World Heritage Convention, and a day of drumming and dancing, highlighting the artistry of renowned hoop dancer Dallas Arcand. The day also marked the official opening of a new outdoor display on the World Heritage Plaza where visitors can learn about the World Heritage Convention and about the 16 Canadian sites currently inscribed on the World Heritage List. The President of the Commission, Axel Meisen, spoke about the situation of World Heritage Sites in Canada and globally, and paid tribute to the representatives of the Blackfoot Confederacy, local communities and the Province of Alberta for their stewardship of the site.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO CONTEST

Canadian Geographic magazine and Parks Canada, in collaboration with the Commission, organized a photo contest "World Views: Think Global, Shoot Local," celebrating Canada's 16 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Initiated as the centrepiece of the celebrations in Canada of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, the photo contest received over 700 entries representing almost all of Canada's sites.

The grand prize winner was Ms. Kirsty Goss for her photo of her daughter at Lake Minnewanka in Banff National Park. Ms. Goss was honoured at the College of Fellows Annual Dinner hosted by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society on November 7. The winning photos were featured in the November issue of *Canadian Geographic* and on its web site.





UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) is a community of committed schools engaged in fostering and delivering quality education for all in pursuit of peace, liberty, justice, and human development for a sustainable future. The Canadian network is coordinated with the assistance of the ASPnet National Coordinating Committee, led by Marie-Christine Lecompte, ASPnet National Coordinator and chaired by Robert Mazzotta of the Alberta Teacher's Association and Provincial Coordinator for the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Alberta. The Committee is also composed of the provincial coordinators from Manitoba, New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The Committee's principal role is to review the network's major directions, including the priorities for schools in Canada in the coming year, and the development of approaches to further strengthen the network. Activities in this regard include standardizing national forms and processes, adopting a revised ASPnet Canadian logo, and developing a network vision statement. The Committee continues to work on growth and communication strategies and partnerships with organizations that could benefit schools in the network.

"LEARNING TO CHANGE OUR WORLD TOGETHER" INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE, WINNIPEG

The UNESCO ASPnet Student Conference welcomed Canadian and international participants to the University of Winnipeg from December 10–13, 2012. Entitled "Learning to Change our World Together," the overarching objective of the conference was to pro-

mote education for democratic citizenship and human rights education. After successful workshops in Israel and Germany, it was the Commission's turn to host the third and final stage of this tri-national ASPnet project. The conference brought together more than 300 students and teachers from Canada, Germany, and the United States in transformative intercultural dialogue that it is hoped will lead to individual and collective action that contributes to a global culture of peace and human rights.

The opening ceremony honoured Malala Yousufzai, the young Pakistani girl and powerful advocate for girl's education, who was shot by the Taliban for asserting her right to education. It also included speeches by Mrs. Nancy Allan, Manitoba's Minister of Education, Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, President of the University of Winnipeg, and the Secretary-General of the Commission.

The students, teachers and invited guests addressed themes related to identity, diversity and worldviews, liberty and equality, and freedom of expression and opinion. Specific related topics included rights of Indigenous peoples, refugees and immigrants, human trafficking, rights of persons with disabilities, Education for All, and media. Students also addressed topics through case studies and group discussions, and participated in various activities

The students, teachers and invited guests addressed themes related to identity, diversity and worldviews, liberty and equality, and freedom of expression and opinion.

including an interactive play led by the Manitoba School Improvement Programme, and a human rights-themed movie night at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Teachers participated in separate teacher training workshops on education for human rights.

The Commission's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) actively participated in the event with 11 members serving as group facilitators, one made a presentation and one acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the Conference.

This event was made possible by the extensive work of the Conference Planning Committee based in Winnipeg and financial support from the Commission. The Committee, chaired by Estelle Lamoureux, was composed of numerous volunteers, including two members of the Youth Advisory Group in Winnipeg and members of the UNESCO Associated Schools network in Manitoba.

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH
CONFERENCE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, NEW YORK, USA

Organized annually by the United Nations Information Department, the 2012 United Nations Youth Conference on Human Rights was held at UN headquarters in New York from December 5–7 with *The Future We Want: a Better World through Human*

Rights as its theme. With the support of the Commission, Associated Schools in Canada have been taking part in this conference for the past five years. This year, 12 students from Associated Schools in Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan attended together with 300 students from across the United States.

EQUITAS PARTNERSHIP WITH
ASPNET SCHOOLS IN ALBERTA

On August 23, 2012, 11 people representing three schools in Alberta (Deer Meadow Middle School and Olds High School in Olds, and Queen Elizabeth High School in Edmonton) took part in a professional development session sponsored by the Alberta Teachers Association on behalf of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network. The session was



Learning
to Change
our World
Together
International
Student
Conference



TOP:
Winnipeg
ASPnet
(UNESCO
Schools
teachers)

BOTTOM:
Winnipeg
ASPnet
(UNESCO
students
honouring
Malala
Yousafazi)

held at Olds High School and was facilitated by Équitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education, a non-profit organization that advances equality, social justice and respect for human dignity through innovative education programs in Canada and around the world. Participants were introduced to Équitas' *Speaking Rights Toolkit*, which includes information about concepts and values of human rights as well as ice-breaker and thematic activities and links to other useful sources. The toolkit was designed to help teachers and others working with youth to integrate human rights concepts into all areas of school curriculum and other interactions with youth.

Participants will be following-up with Équitas in the spring 2013 to provide feedback on how they used the toolkit in their classes. This session served as a pilot project for the Associated Schools Network in Canada to develop partnerships with organizations that can benefit schools in the network.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION TOOLKIT

UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector recently launched a Freedom of Expression Kit for high school students and those in the first year of university. In 2012, four ASPnet schools in Canada were invited to test the kit. As a follow-up activity, the Commission, with the assistance of the Centre for Global Education based in Queen Elizabeth High School in Alberta, organized a web conference to connect participating schools with a staff member from the Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development in the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris.

Participating students and teachers as well as the Commission's ASPnet National Coordinator and Programme Officer, Communication and Information, took part in an hour-long online video discussion about the results from using the toolkit in classes and possible future related projects. Students also benefited from hearing about future activities of UNESCO's Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

RIDEAU CANAL FESTIVAL

Since its launch in 2008, the Rideau Canal Festival has presented "Connecting Children with World Heritage," a program that gives children the opportunity to explore the significance of the World Heritage designation of the Rideau Canal. The program focuses on two principles of the World Heritage Convention – promotion of heritage and cultural landmarks,

"Connecting Children with World Heritage," a program that gives children the opportunity to explore the significance of the World Heritage designation of the Rideau Canal, has been presented since 2008.

and conservation and preservation of those sites. This year, the Commission was pleased to support the World Heritage Day Camp – a program for students aged 4–9 years old – as part of the Connecting Children with World Heritage program. In addition, two of the Commission's Youth Advisory Group members in Ottawa hosted a kiosk throughout the event to provide information to passersby about World Heritage Sites in Canada and about the Commission.



YAG member at the Rideau Canal Festival, photo Laura Prazeres



Visit of
Manitoba-
based YAG
members in
Riding
Mountain
Biosphere
Reserve
(August 2012)
Photo: Megan
Prydun

MANITOBA YOUTH ADVISORY
GROUP

On August 7–8, 2012 two members of the Manitoba Youth Advisory Group (YAG), along with Eli Enns, Advisor to the Canadian MAB Committee and Co-founder of Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, organized a trip to Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve in Manitoba. The objective of the visit was to learn about this specific Biosphere Reserve and the role of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in general. During their visit, the youth met with the Director of the Biosphere Reserve, representatives from Parks Canada, and other key local players, to discuss its present initiatives, successes and challenges.

Both the Manitoba YAG and the Biosphere Reserve have agreed to work together to develop synergies and mutually-beneficial learning opportunities, and the possibility of extending their relationship to other UNESCO networks in Manitoba.



Awards and Honours

CANADA-WIDE SCIENCE FAIR 2012

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. This year's event took place in Charlottetown, PEI, from May 12–19, 2012.

The Commission again sponsored the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Award for Science for Peace and Development, presented 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 sci-

The Canada-Wide Science Fair brings together some 450 top young scientists who have been chosen from nearly 100 regional science and technology fairs held across Canada.

ence and ethics). Yassine Bouanane of Laval, Québec won a gold medal, the Senior Energy Challenge Award, and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Award, as well as entrance scholarships to five Canadian universities. For his project, *Soleil, où es-tu?* (*Sun, where are you?*), he developed a device that automatically orients solar panels perpendicular to the sun to maximize their energy output. Mr. Bouanane's device delivers 36.5% more energy than a standard solar panel under the same conditions. The award was presented by guest judge Professor Françoise Baylis, a member of the Commission's Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences.

The Commission's award will allow Mr. Bouanane to participate in the 14th annual MILSET Expo-Sciences International to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in September 2013. The Expo-Sciences International is a biennial event organized by MILSET (French acronym for the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology) which brings together young people from over 75 countries to exchange ideas and compare projects, and to instill a culture of science by fostering networking and international collaboration.

One month after the Canada Wide Science Fair, Mr. Bouanane was selected as a finalist in the second annual Google Science Fair. As one of the 15 global finalists, he travelled to Google headquarters in Mountain View, California, where he presented his project to a panel of acclaimed scientists, innovators, explorers and entrepreneurs from around the world.

10TH L'ORÉAL CANADA "FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE" NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY, OTTAWA

Since 1998, l'Oréal and UNESCO have worked in partnership to achieve their common goal of promoting women in science. This year, the 10th L'Oréal Canada for Women and Science Award Ceremony was held on November 22, 2012 at the Embassy of France in Ottawa. The Secretary-General represented the Commission and highlighted UNESCO's commitment to science, gender equity and inclusion.

Valued at \$20,000 each, Excellence in Research bursaries for Canadian women scientists considered to lead exceptional post-doctoral research projects in the life sciences were awarded to Jennifer Bruin, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences, Diabetes Research Group, University of British Columbia, and Célia



His Excellency Philippe Zeller, Ambassador of France to Canada, L. Joshua Leon, Director, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dalhousie University, David A. Walden, General Secretary, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, The Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, Célia Jeronimo, Chromatin and Genomic Expression Laboratory, Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, Laureates: Jennifer E. Bruin, Emily Choy, Grace Murphy, Delphine Senicourt, Scientific Affaires, L'Oréal Canada, Jennifer Flanagan, President and CEO of Actua, Javier San Juan, President and CEO at L'Oréal Canada.

Jeronimo, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Chromatin and Genomic Expression Laboratory, Clinical Research Institute of Montréal.

Mentoring Fellowships, valued at \$5,000 each and designed to encourage passion for the sciences with young girls aged 6–17, were also awarded to Emily Choy, PhD candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba and Grace Murphy, PhD candidate, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University.

Testimonials by international laureates of the UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science awards who carried out part of their research in Canadian universities in 2012 were shared with participants and confirmed the common challenges, passion and sense of purpose shared by women scientists around the world. Through this event, over 100 guests from the diplomatic, academic and science policy communities learned about the work of UNESCO and celebrated the contribution of Canadian women scientists.

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International/World Days, Weeks, Years

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, MAY 3

World Press Freedom Day was once again celebrated at a lunch in Ottawa on May 3, 2012 when this year's Press Freedom Award was presented to the Canadian Science Writers Association and the Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec (ACS) for their work in reporting the federal government's restrictions on federal scientists, which prevented or delayed the free communication of public science through the media. Awarded each year by the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom (CCWPF), the prize goes to an individual or group that has defended or advanced the cause of freedom of expression. The award includes a cash prize of \$2,000 and a certificate from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The CCWPF also presented two press freedom Honourable Mentions this year: one to Alain Gravel, host of Radio Canada's TV show, *Enquête*, who led the reporting on the ongoing scandal in the Quebec construction industry, including the alleged involvement of organized crime, and the other to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and political

cartoonist Guy Badeaux for organizing *Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes*, a travelling exhibition of international editorial cartoons.

More than 300 submissions from 40 countries were also received for the 12th International Editorial Cartoon Competition on the theme "Power to the People: Citizens and Social Media." The Grand Prize went to cartoonist Liza França (Brazil), second prize to Riber Hansson (Sweden), and third prize to Hicabi Demirci (Turkey).

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY, OCTOBER 5

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, the Commission participated in "Teachers' Talk" – an exploration of best practices and innovative approaches to teaching with the 2012 national recipients of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Guest speakers were Catherine Clark, host of *Beyond Politics*, the Secretary-General of the Commission, and Dr. Robert Thirsk, Canadian astronaut and Vice-President, Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In the Secretary General's absence, Katherine Berg, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, read his message congratulating the laureates and emphasizing that teachers need support from their communities to fulfill their responsibilities to students. Afterwards, panel discussions were held on various themes related to Early Childhood Education, building bridges between schools and communities, motivating students and innovations in programming. Elisabeth Barot, Programme Officer, Education, and Angèle Cyr, Officer, Public Affairs, also participated in the event.



Alain Gravel, host of the program "Enquête" of Radio-Canada television, received a press freedom Honourable Mention Award.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD, OCTOBER 11

The United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC), with support from the Commission, organized a launch in Ottawa of the International Day of the Girl Child, designated by the United Nations for October 11 of each year, starting in 2012. The Government of Canada, under the stewardship of the Honorable Rona Ambrose, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, led the international effort to have the Day proclaimed, with key support from Peru and Turkey. The purpose of the International Day, as stated in the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2011, is to recognize girls' rights and highlight the unique challenges girls face worldwide.

Approximately 100 people attended the event at the National Arts Centre. Senator Salma Ataullahjan, representing Minister Ambrose, stressed the need for international efforts to enable girls to realize their full potential. The struggles that girls face had been brought into sharp focus two days earlier by the attack on Malala Yousufzai, the young Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban for advocating for the right of girls to education. Senator Ataullahjan comes from the same region of Pakistan as Malala, which gave her remarks added meaning.

A group of students from secondary schools in the Ottawa-Carleton region read a Youth Statement expressing their commitment to gender equality and to raising awareness about access to basic human rights and the exercise of freedom of speech. Other speakers included Landon Pearson, a former Senator and long-time champion of the rights of the child, Robert Fox, Executive Director of OXFAM Canada, and Monique Brand, former UNAC Professional Placement Programme intern with UNHCR in India and UNICEF in Namibia. Katherine Berg, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, represented the Commission at the event.

WORLD DAY FOR AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE, OCTOBER 27

To commemorate the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Commission produced a video featuring a message from Marcel Caya, Chair of the ad hoc Committee for Canadian Memory of the World, which stressed the urgent need to preserve audiovisual heritage before it disappears. Experts estimate that we have approximately 10–15 years to digitally convert audiovisual heritage or it



Photo : NFB

will be lost. The theme of this year's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was "Audiovisual Heritage Memory? The Clock is Ticking."

Mr. Caya's message, which was filmed in the vaults of the Cinémathèque québécoise in Montréal, was subsequently posted on the YouTube sites of both the Canada Council for the Arts and the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL PHILOSOPHY DAY, NOVEMBER 15

Celebrated annually on the third Thursday in November, International Philosophy Day is an important occasion for UNESCO because philosophy provides the conceptual foundations for the principles and values on which world peace depends. It also serves as the basis of the organization's mandate—democracy, human rights, justice and equality. Many events and activities are organized each year by various educational institutions in Canada to celebrate the Day. The theme of International Philosophy Day in 2012 was "Future Generations."

La Traversée, an organization that coordinates a program for preventing violence and teaching philosophy to children, organized various activities to mark the Day. One of these activities was preparing more than 5,000 children participating in its program from 20 schools in the Marie-Victorin school board district in Montréal to read a book about peace. A number of questions from the young readers were then discussed in class during International Philosophy Day. These activities, which enabled the children to actively participate in increasing their own awareness of how important their actions are in developing values of social justice was an excellent complement to the "Future Generations" theme.

On November 15, a panel discussion was organized on the theme of preventing violence and teaching philosophy to children as a means of combating violence and fostering a culture of peace. Josiane Boulad-Ayoub, the UNESCO Chair-holder in Studies on the Philosophical Foundations of Justice and Democratic Society, was one of the panellists and also helped La Traversée to organize the day in cooperation with the Marie-Victorin School Board and the Commission.

During the past 10 years, close to 500 journalists have been killed, most of whom were not war reporters or victims of crossfire but instead were deliberately murdered, often in direct retaliation for their investigative reporting.

INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES TARGETING JOURNALISTS, NOVEMBER 23

The Commission and the Canadian Committee for Freedom of the Press organized an event in Ottawa on November 22, 2012 to thank the supporters of the International World Press Freedom Day and to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Targeting Journalists. At the event, the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which was adopted by the UN Chief Executives Board on 12 April, was presented to the approximately 30 participants.

During the past 10 years, close to 500 journalists have been killed, most of whom were not war reporters or victims of crossfire but instead were deliberately murdered, often in direct retaliation for their investigative reporting.

Public Affairs / Communications

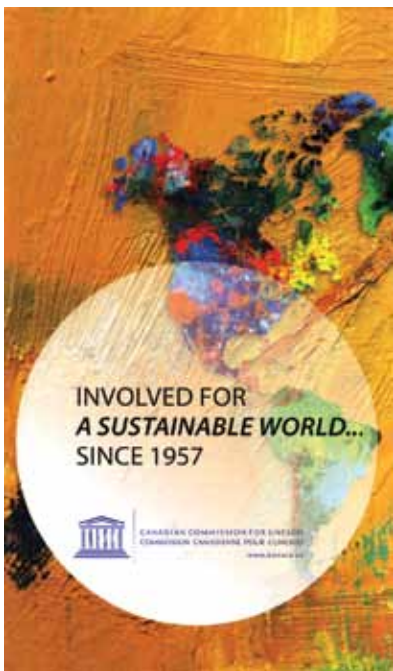


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This year the Commission undertook several communication initiatives to encourage support for UNESCO's values, actively engage the general public, and create greater synergy among and with its partners:

MAKING THE CANADIAN COMMISSION'S WEBSITE MORE DYNAMIC

This is a long-term, multi-phase initiative. The first phase, now complete, was to revamp the welcome page by including more visual elements, such as images and video. The second phase, currently underway, is to rewrite texts, in keeping with the culture of Web 2.0, i.e. in a less linear and more intuitive style. The third phase, slated for 2013, will involve completely redoing the site's architecture and developing a totally new design for its textual information and visual content.



USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In July 2012, the Secretary-General contributed a post entitled “The Chicken and the Egg: the Canada Council and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO” to the Canada Council’s blog. The Commission also organized a “tweet” space during its 52nd Annual General Meeting in May 2012, which allowed members to exchange comments about the discussions and presentations on the program. The Commission now makes regular use of Twitter to promote its activities and contributes regularly to the Canada Council’s Facebook page, while pursuing plans to have its own Facebook page in the near future.

USE OF VIDEO

The Commission produced a video for the International Day for Audio-visual Heritage, which was posted on its website and YouTube page, as well as on Twitter, the Canada Council’s Facebook page, and through various Canadian media arts organizations.

The Commission made a video of presentation by Wendy Watson-Wright, UNESCO’s Assistant Director General and Executive Secretary to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The video, “Oceans of Potential: a UN Perspective on Canada’s Leadership Opportunities,” is available on YouTube and the Commission’s website.

We also held our first “virtual meeting” of Sectoral Commissions that involved a presentation by the Secretary-General on the development of UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy, 2014–2021 and its programme and Budget, 2014–2017, as well as proposed changes that will result from the longer timeframes of these key documents. The presentation was followed by an interactive question and answer session. The meeting was also filmed and later made available on the Commission’s website.

The Commission is now preparing a video about the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in Canada.

LOGOS

With the help of an intern, the Commission drafted a number of documents with guidelines for using the logos of the Commission and the various networks associated with it, such as the Biosphere Reserves and the UNESCO Associated Schools in Canada. In the interests of uniformity as well as to ensure compliance with UNESCO directives for the use of the logo, the Commission redesigned all the logos of the Biosphere Reserves in Canada.

BROCHURE

In August 2012, the Commission produced a compact, attractive new brochure describing its mission and presence in Canada. The brochure also featured a chronological list of the main events in UNESCO’s history from a Canadian perspective. More than 2,000 copies of this brochure have been distributed.

WIKIPEDIA

Recognizing that one of the world’s most consulted websites is Wikipedia, the Commission created a page in both English and French on this well-known online encyclopedia. This page also contains many links to other pages providing information on the Commission’s work.







Moving Forward The Year Ahead

2013-2014 promises to be another busy one for the Commission.

Some of the principal activities will include:

- Finalizing the strategic directions of the Commission, 2013 – 2017, in consultation with the Commission's members;
- Coordinating, preparing for and participating in the 37th General Conference of UNESCO;
- Continuing to reinforce UNESCO networks in Canada;
- Contributing to the success of the EuroMAB meeting;
- Co-hosting the Intangible Cultural Heritage Symposium with the Alberta Museums Association.

Annexes

ANNEX I

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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Edmonton, Alberta
Chair of Foresight
(retired)
Alberta Innovates –
Technology Futures



Vice-President
CHRISTINA CAMERON
Montréal, Quebec
Canada Research
Chair on Built
Heritage at the
Université
de Montréal



Secretary-General
DAVID A. WALDEN
(April – January)
Ottawa, Ontario



Secretary-General
MYRIAM MONTRAT
(February – March)
Ottawa, Ontario

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Montréal, Quebec
Member of the
Executive Board
of Education
International and
Monique Fitzback
Foundation, Centrale
des Syndicats Québec



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Montréal, Quebec
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Professor at the De-
partment of Sociology
at the Université du
Québec à Montréal



Culture,
Communication
and Information
RICHARD MACKINNON
Sydney, Nova Scotia
Director of the Centre
for Cape Breton
Studies and Canada
Research Chair in
Intangible Cul-
tural Heritage at Cape
Breton University



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**CAROL
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Assistant Deputy
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Francophonie
and Multilateral
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Government
of Quebec,
Ministère
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YVES GAGNON
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Chair in
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Development
Université de
Moncton



**SUSAN M.
KNIGHT**
*St. John's,
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and Labrador*
Board Member,
Canada Council
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**ANGIE
OSACHOFF**
*Surrey,
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Regional
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Equitas



**ANDREW
PARKIN**
*Toronto,
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Council of
Ministers of
Education,
Canada



**GORDON
PLATT**
*Gatineau,
Quebec*
Senior Director,
Strategic Policy,
and Inter-
national and
Intergovern-
mental Affairs,
Department
of Canadian
Heritage



**ROBERT
SIRMAN**
*Ottawa,
Ontario*
Director and
CEO, Canada
Council for
the Arts



Past President
**MICHÈLE
STANTON-JEAN**
*Montréal, Quebec and
Paris, France*
Representative
of the Government
of Quebec
Permanent
Delegation of
Canada to UNESCO

ANNEX II

SECRETARIAT

David A. Walden (April–January)
Secretary-General

Myriam Montrat (February–March)
Secretary-General

Katherine Berg
Special Advisor to the Secretary-General

Angèle Cyr
Public Affairs Officer

Alexis Philiptchenko
(Acting, April–August)

Michelle Roy
(September–November)

Nancy Cornforth
(February–March)
Administrative Coordinator and
Assistant to the Secretary-General

PROGRAMME OFFICERS

Education
Elisabeth Barot

Natural Sciences
Dominique Potvin

Social and Human Sciences
Cynthia Lacasse

Culture and World Heritage
Mathias Bizimana

Communication and Information
Pauline Dugré

Youth and National Coordinator,
UNESCO Associated Schools Project
Network (ASPnet)
Marie-Christine Lecompte

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Education
Lynne Nezan (April–June)
Joëlle Tremblay (October–March)

Natural, Social and Human Sciences
Danielle Racine

Culture, Communication and
Information
Marie-Tonine Moreau

Finance and Administration
Alexis Philiptchenko



ANNEX III

HONOURARY MEMBERS

Former Ambassadors of Canada to
UNESCO
Yvon Charbonneau, *Montréal, Quebec*
Ian Christie Clark, *Ottawa, Ontario*
Jacques Demers, *Montréal, Quebec*
Louis Hamel, *Gatineau, Quebec*
Gilbert Laurin, *Vancouver, British
Columbia*

Past Presidents of the Commission
Michel Agnaieff, *Montréal, Quebec*
Guy Bourgeault, *Duvernay, Quebec*
Roseann O'Reilly Runte, *Ottawa,
Ontario*
Max Wyman, *Lions Bay, British
Columbia*

Former Secretaries-General
Francine Fournier, *Montréal, Quebec*
Viviane Launay, *Outremont, Quebec*
Louis Patenaude, *Montréal, Quebec*

Canadians Who Have Made a
Significant Contribution to the Work
of UNESCO
Marshall Wm. Conley,
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Paul Gérin-Lajoie, *Montréal, Quebec*
Albert Millaire, *Montréal, Quebec*
Kim Phuc, *Ajax, Ontario*
Senator Douglas Roche,
Edmonton, Alberta
Swee-HinToh, *Costa Rica*

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

ORBICOM – International Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication

Yves Théorêt
Université du Québec à Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO-Chair in Communication and International Development
Magda Fusaro
Université du Québec à Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage
Claude Dubé
Université Laval, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Global Environmental Changes
Yves Prairie
Université du Québec à Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Studies of Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democratic Society
Josiane Boulad-Ayoub
Université du Québec à Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability
Charles Hopkins
York University, Toronto, Ontario

UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design
Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec
Université de Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning
Larry O’Farrell
Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario

UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development
Alan Pence
University of Victoria, British Columbia

UNESCO Chair in Curriculum Development
Philippe Jonnaert
Université du Québec à Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Marine Systems Analysis
Jean-Claude Brêthes
Université du Québec à Rimouski, Quebec

UNESCO – Chair in Open Educational Resources

Rory McGreal
Athabasca University, Alberta

UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison
Jean-Pierre Miron
Collège Marie-Victorin, Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Management
François Colbert
HEC Montréal, Quebec

UNESCO Chair in Community – Based Research and Social Reasonability in Higher Education
Budd Hall
University of Victoria, British Columbia

ANNEX V

UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN CANADA

Nova Scotia
Southwest Nova
Bras d’Or Lake

New Brunswick
Fundy

Quebec
Charlevoix
Lac-Saint-Pierre
Manicouagan-Uapishka
Mont Saint-Hilaire

Ontario
Frontenac Arch
Georgian Bay Littoral
Long Point
Niagara Escarpment

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
Landscape of Grand Pré

Quebec

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
Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks

British Columbia

SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island)
Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier
Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek
Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks

Northwest Territories

Nahanni National Park Reserve
Wood Buffalo National Park

Yukon

Kluane/ Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier
Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek

ANNEX VII

LIST OF SIGNATORY MUNICIPALITIES THAT HAVE JOINED THE CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALI- TIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

(as of March 31, 2013)

Nova Scotia

County of Kings
New Glasgow
Halifax
Kentville
Truro

New Brunswick

Saint John

**Prince Edward
Island**

Stratford

Quebec

Gatineau
Montréal
Québec
Saguenay
Saint-Justin
Sherbrooke

Ontario

Aurora
Caledon
Georgina
Hamilton
Kingston
London
Markham
Newmarket
Oakville
Oshawa
Ottawa
Peel
Richmond Hill
Sudbury
Tecumseh
Thunder Bay
Toronto
Vaughan
Windsor

Manitoba

Winnipeg

Saskatchewan

Moose Jaw
Prince Albert
Saskatoon

Alberta

Brooks
Calgary
Devon
Drayton Valley
Edmonton
Fort Macleod
Grande Prairie
Innisfail
Lethbridge
Provost
St. Albert
Wetaskiwin
Wood Buffalo,
which includes
Fort McMurray

British Columbia

Burnaby
Prince George
Vancouver
Victoria
Lions Bay
Williams Lake

Yukon

Whitehorse