



2016/17 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CANADIAN
COMMISSION
FOR UNESCO



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WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM SIMON BRAULT, DIRECTOR AND CEO, CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



In the past year, I've seen firsthand the importance and renewed relevance of having the Canada Council, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO at many of the same events and involved in similar activities. Each contributes in our respective and complementary ways to building a future of peace, equity and sustainable development.

In 2016-17, I had the opportunity to participate in many forums, including the first G7 Culture Summit in Italy, the launch of the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diversity, and the Arts in a Digital World Summit. They all addressed issues like migration, cultural and intangible heritage, the many consequences of climate change, and digital's impact on freedom of expression and on a diverse artistic and cultural presence.

Culture is a key topic at tables where the sustainable development of our society is discussed, and I've often said that the arts must have a seat at these tables. I'm pleased to note that the Commission and the Council are often sitting side-by-side, giving momentum to these discussions.

If we are to succeed in advancing issues such as culture's place in human development, Indigenous self-determination, the conservation of artistic and cultural heritage, and arts education, we must find new ways to act and interact.

This year, the Commission made great strides to meet its strategic commitments to mobilize and involve youth and Indigenous Peoples in its programs. Congratulations to this network of networks for the incredible work it does to advance our respective, yet increasingly intersecting, mandates and objectives.

Simon Brault, O.C., O.Q.

Director and CEO, Canada Council for the Arts

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINA CAMERON, PRESIDENT, CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



Dear Members and Friends of CCUNESCO,

We celebrate a milestone in 2017: the Canadian Commission for UNESCO turns 60 alongside the Canada Council for the Arts, under whose authority we operate. Our world has experienced profound transformation over these last six decades. Some of these extraordinary changes have been for the better, such as the invention of technologies that make learning and knowledge sharing easier than ever before. We have also witnessed significant efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage which have led to the adoption of important world conventions. But not all changes have been so constructive.

We are currently witnessing the rise of populism and radicalization in many parts of the world. Open and pluralistic societies are under threat by nationalist and fundamentalist movements. Attacks on freedom of expression and cultural heritage continue, and the effects of climate change are being felt worldwide—sometimes worsened by a lack of will to address this paramount global crisis.

Promoting peace, enhancing cooperation and reinforcing solidarity among humankind are more important than ever. This is why we need a strong and credible United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), one that continues to exercise its “soft power” within the UN system. UNESCO has shown, over the course of its history, the difference it can make by bringing together governments, experts, communities and individuals, fostering critical discussions, and supporting concrete actions to address common issues.

There is no doubt in my mind that UNESCO’s National Commissions remain indispensable in helping UNESCO fulfill its ambitious mandate. CCUNESCO, along with its members, networks and partners, has been recognized over the past 60 years as an essential player. Our voice, together with the voices of Canadian civil society, continues to be extremely valued by governments and broader UNESCO circles.

At 60 years old, CCUNESCO has no plans for retirement. Our work positions CCUNESCO in a leadership role so we can continue to exercise a strong influence at the domestic and international levels. We have a chance to help shape the world we borrowed from future generations. Let’s celebrate our accomplishments and reflect on the world we want to live in 60 years from now.

Christina Cameron, C.M., FRSC

President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO

MESSAGE FROM SÉBASTIEN GOUPIL, SECRETARY-GENERAL, CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



A NETWORK OF NETWORKS SERVING CANADIANS

Since joining the Commission in August 2016, I have had the privilege of meeting with our members and networks. I have noticed the extent to which they actively promote UNESCO values and implement its programs across the country. They also contribute to enhancing Canada's profile and maintaining its good reputation on the international scene.

When I accepted the position of Secretary-General, I made a commitment to further enhance the actions and contributions of our networks and members. With the Executive Committee's support, I have been working with the team to make our Commission even more engaging, relevant and visible, three elements that are the focus of our 2014–2021 Strategic Plan.

With this framework in mind, we are strengthening the moral and intellectual role of the Commission, which must, in particular, take greater advantage of the significant intellectual capital and knowledge within its reach. We also want to raise awareness of our networks' contributions, including their capacity to implement sustainable development goals.

Over the past few months, we have worked hard with the Executive Committee to review the guidelines and composition of all our advisory committees. For example, we have ensured the revitalization of our sectoral commissions, which remain a unique tool for promoting a critical examination of priority and emerging issues. We hope that they will have a greater added value and contribute further to our members' involvement. At the same time, we are developing action strategies for our five major activity sectors: culture, education, natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, as well as information and communication.

Since it is essential for us to forge strategic partnerships to increase our impact, we are reviewing the way that we work with our collaborators. The objective is to prioritize the Commission as an indispensable partner, including for the purpose of promoting the involvement of young people and Indigenous Peoples in UNESCO's work, two of our crosscutting priorities.

I invite you to read this report to fully understand the extent and the pertinence of our efforts and accomplishments.

I want to thank all our members and partners for their commitment and support.

Sébastien Goupil

Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO



“Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed.”

— UNESCO Constitution, 1945

WHAT IS UNESCO?

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was created in 1945 in the wake of the Second World War, and Canada was one of its 20 founding members. UNESCO champions equity, peace and sustainable development by sparking and deepening dialogue among nations in areas such as education, culture, the natural, human and social sciences, and communication and information. It inspires cooperation and serves as a hub for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among its member states. In short, UNESCO’s mission is to build peace among people who are far apart—geographically and culturally. To do so, it relies on a network of 199 country-based National Commissions around the world to carry out its mandate locally and to act as conduits for sharing knowledge around the world.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), a plan of action for accelerating transformation around the world for the good of people, planet and prosperity. Agenda 2030 contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 that will inform the work of UNESCO and other UN agencies. These SDGs will contribute to sustainability in education, ecosystems, cities, consumption and economies while prioritizing health, equity, human rights and cultural diversity.

WHAT DOES THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO DO?

Formed in 1957, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO carries out the work of UNESCO in Canada. Our members are experts and knowledge keepers in education, culture, world heritage, communication and information, youth, and the natural, human and social sciences. Together, supported by a dedicated Secretariat, we consult, research and collaborate in UNESCO’s mandated areas—ensuring that UNESCO’s priorities and programs thrive in Canada, and that Canadian perspectives are in turn brought to the international stage. Our members come from across Canada and include universities, NGOs, institutions, governmental departments and agencies, and individuals. These diverse members are vital to our mission; being a network of networks allows us to connect directly with civil society on some of today’s most pressing concerns. We draw on these connections in our pursuit of an equitable, sustainable and peaceful society. CCUNESCO operates under the authority of the [Canada Council for the Arts](#).

Our activities promote Agenda 2030 while realizing the objectives of CCUNESCO’s [Strategic Plan](#) and overarching priorities. Three priorities in particular—equity, peace and sustainable development—align with the SDGs of Agenda 2030 and will direct our activities in coming years.

GOVERNANCE

RENEWAL OF SECTORAL COMMISSIONS

Our work is made possible thanks to the contributions of our three Sectoral Commissions on (1) Education, (2) Natural, Social and Human Sciences, and (3) Culture, Communication and Information. These bodies, composed of dedicated CCUNESCO members with expertise in the given areas, form a large part of our intellectual capital. They work with our broader membership to provide recommendations on UNESCO programs, to develop and strengthen our networks, and to transmit members' knowledge and advice on today's issues, in particular to governments. Our Sectoral Commissions allow for greater engagement of Canadians in our work and foster dialogue across generations, cultures and sectors.

To make our Sectoral Commissions even more effective, we undertook a review of their mission, structure and activities in 2016/17. The objective of this review was to rethink our methods of engagement and to better guide CCUNESCO endeavours in a changing world. A working committee provided practical recommendations (e.g. working plans, task groups, membership guidelines and composition) designed to enhance these bodies' relevance while ensuring their activities are carried out with an eye to [Agenda 2030](#) and the CCUNESCO [Strategic Plan](#). The recommendations also serve to align the Sectoral Commissions' activities with our overarching priorities of reconciliation and youth engagement.

RENEWAL OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

CANADIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR MEMORY OF THE WORLD (MOW)

Established in 1992, the UNESCO Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage of world significance, such as Louis Pasteur's Archive. The program helps ensure that heritage inscribed in the MOW Register is preserved for future generations by sensitizing governments, organizations and the public to its importance. To date, there are [four Canadian inscriptions](#) in the International MOW Register, including the Hudson's Bay Company's archival records, which are held at the Archives of Manitoba.

In 2016/17, CCUNESCO inaugurated the Canada Memory of the World Register and our Executive Committee approved a formal Terms of Reference for the [Canadian Advisory Committee for MOW](#). These Terms of Reference strengthen the committee's mandate to advise CCUNESCO about documentary heritage and to oversee the MOW program in Canada. The committee will ensure that significant Canadian documentary heritage is considered for inclusion in the International MOW Register as well as the Canada MOW Register; promote the MOW program in Canada; and coordinate Canadian proposals for both Registers.

CCMARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Launched in 2005 in response to UNESCO's call for a worldwide coalition of cities against racism and discrimination, CCMARD helps Canadian municipalities address these challenges at the city level, where individuals are most affected. Signatory municipalities develop a [Plan of Action](#), implement diversity strategies, and explore the [CCMARD Toolkit](#), which showcases good practices in use around the country. Over 70 municipalities across Canada, including all major cities and the national as well as provincial/territorial capitals, have joined the CCMARD network.

Many signatory municipalities and their partners would like to see CCMARD's role in the anti-discrimination landscape and on reconciliation develop further. In response, CCUNESCO's Executive Committee approved the creation of a [CCMARD Advisory Committee](#) in 2016. Recruitment for this two-year pilot project is now complete, and the new committee, which is comprised of elected officials and city advisors, will begin advising CCUNESCO on ways to strengthen the network at all levels and to assess the overall direction of CCMARD. The committee will also identify good practices, gaps and emerging issues (e.g. online bullying), and advise CCUNESCO on the implementation of the Recommendations adopted by the Steering Committee of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities—ICCAR.

CANADIAN MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE COMMITTEE (CC-MAB)

Created in 1971, UNESCO's [Man and the Biosphere Programme](#) (MAB) dedicates regions of particular ecological value as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (BR) to balance the health of these ecologies with the needs of people who inhabit them. Canada participates in the program with the help of the [Canadian Man and the Biosphere Committee \(CC-MAB\)](#), which relies on interdisciplinary research, knowledge sharing and dialogue among stakeholders to support sustainable development and community engagement in Canada. CC-MAB, composed of scientists, sustainable development experts and knowledge keepers, and representatives from BRs and Indigenous communities, was struck in 2010. It promotes the BR concept in Canada and mediates between the many organizations and individuals involved in the program. The CC-MAB updated its mandate last year and underwent a membership renewal exercise, launching a call for proposals aimed at CCUNESCO members and networks. This process was rigorous and transparent, and the new members are in place and ready to prioritize CC-MAB's refreshed mandate.

One of the main tasks of the CC-MAB Committee is to advise the CCUNESCO on the periodic review. Each BR undergoes a periodic review every 10 years to ensure it

adheres to the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Three BRs in Canada ([Fundy](#), NB, [Frontenac Arch](#), ON and [Manicouagan-Uapishka](#), QC) were reviewed in 2016/17 by independent evaluators recruited by CCUNESCO, which acted in an advisory capacity during the process.

CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOPARKS

In 2017, the [Canadian National Committee for Geoparks](#) (CNCG) became a permanent advisory committee to CCUNESCO. [Geoparks](#) are regions of international geological importance that bring communities together through conservation and sustainable development practices. The CNCG will work with CCUNESCO to vet and nominate several Canadian Geopark candidate sites in coming years. There are currently two UNESCO Global Geoparks in Canada: [Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark](#) (BC) and [Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark](#) (NB). In November 2016, CCUNESCO recommended the candidacy of Percé (QC) to UNESCO. The CNCG is currently following the development of ten other aspiring Geopark projects across the country.



CCUNESCO AND THE WORLD

BRINGING CANADIAN VOICES TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

As part of a network of National Commissions, CCUNESCO acted as a bridge between Canadians, government and the wider world in 2016/17. We did so this past year by influencing major international development agendas such as the [New Urban Agenda](#), [Global Citizenship Education](#) and [Education for Sustainable Development](#). We were pleased to co-host two panels with UNESCO at Habitat III, which promoted the UN Sustainable Development Goal of “Sustainable Cities and Communities.” We also co-organized the 2017 UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development with UNESCO, an event that brought together education experts and young leaders to advance education for sustainable development, a target of Agenda 2030.

In addition, we led successful, nation-wide consultations in 2016/17 to help further UNESCO priorities. In doing so, we deepened our commitment to reconciliation by contributing to the creation of UNESCO’s Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples, and we encouraged partners and experts from our own Sectoral Commissions to provide feedback on UNESCO’s new declaration on climate change. Other CCUNESCO-led consultations helped refresh UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register guidelines for documentary heritage and UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers. You can find more details about some of our 2016/17 contributions below.

SHAPING THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE

In October 2016, CCUNESCO and UNESCO co-organized two panels at Habitat III, the [United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development](#) held in Quito, Ecuador. These panels brought together mayors and other members of the [International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities—ICCAR](#) and other urban specialists, including representatives from Saskatoon, SK and Châteauguay, QC. The panelists shared good practices and innovations for inclusion, diversity and sustainable urban development at the city level, and the [Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination \(CCMARD\)](#) highlighted the strength of its network and launched “[Creating Inclusive and Equitable Cities](#)”, a report that demonstrates CCMARD’s contributions to [Agenda 2030](#).

In March 2017 [UNESCO Week for Peace: The Role of Education](#) was held in Ottawa. The event, co-organized by CCUNESCO and UNESCO, gathered over 500 education experts and practitioners from over 90 countries who specialize in [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#) and [Global Citizenship Education \(GCED\)](#). The weeklong

event united two key international conferences under one banner: [the Review Forum for the UNESCO Global Action Programme \(GAP\)](#) and the [Third UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education \(GCED\): The Role of Teachers](#).

International delegates and youth leaders exchanged promising practices and tools, examined emerging pedagogical trends and innovations, and discussed strategies to implement Agenda 2030's [Target 4.7](#). The event also showcased youth engagement, Canadian culture inclusive of Indigenous Peoples, and Canada's leadership and innovation in the fields of ESD and GCED. The occasion was made possible thanks to the support of partners such as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Council of Ministers of Education, Government of Canada, the Canadian Museum of History and the Global Centre for Pluralism.

MOBILIZING CANADIAN EXPERTISE

Last year, UNESCO began a review of the guidelines for its [Memory of the World Register](#), which recognizes documentary heritage of world significance. CCUNESCO led the consultations in Canada, inviting feedback from documentary heritage experts and government representatives. CCUNESCO consulted these same experts on selection criteria for a Canada Memory of the World Register, and then developed the criteria with the support of Library and Archives Canada and Canadian Heritage. The newly created Canada Memory of the World Register will showcase its inaugural inductees at the beginning of 2018.

UNESCO is also currently revising its 1974 [Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers](#) to better reflect the ethical and regulatory challenges of science governance today, and the many ways science and society intersect. In response, Health Canada and CCUNESCO together launched a consultation involving over 100 organizations and experts to get a Canadian perspective about some of the proposed additions. These changes will take into account, for example, the role of scientific researchers in national policies; the education and training of researchers; and the challenges and promotion of careers in science.

PROMOTING SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Recognizing the urgency of reconciliation, CCUNESCO is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous Peoples and promoting their rights in Canada. As part of this process, we participated in a UNESCO-led 2016 consultation to finalize the draft UNESCO Policy on Engaging Indigenous Peoples. It is vital that CCUNESCO contributes to this important exercise, given the leadership role we wish to play in reconciliation in Canada, with the help of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members and partners. Our work will focus on taking concrete actions that support the new policy, so that its values and initiatives are seen as mainstream and become widely adopted.

UNESCO solicited the feedback of Member States regarding the [Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change](#), which was prepared by an ad hoc expert committee struck by the UNESCO Director-General. In response, last year CCUNESCO invited members of its Sectoral Commissions as well as several partners to provide feedback on the draft. Over 100 partners were consulted in this process, and a document consolidating their comments is currently being prepared by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Global Affairs Canada.

IMPLEMENTING UNESCO PRIORITIES AT HOME

In 2016/17, CCUNESCO continued to advise the federal government and support our members working towards a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future that leaves no one behind. The activities of our members are guided by the United Nations' [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and other UNESCO priorities; our “network of networks” also relies on collaboration and knowledge sharing among policy-makers, scientists, community leaders and Indigenous Peoples from across the country. CCUNESCO partnered with 60 Canadian organizations and initiatives last year, working towards goals such as Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education, the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage, inclusive cities, and freedom of expression.

These valuable partnerships help promote UNESCO values, mobilize the public and nurture discussion among experts in a wide variety of fields. It was thanks to our members and partners that our “It Starts with Me” social media campaign for 2017's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was so impactful; that girls and young women thinking about science careers received extra support and mentoring from remarkable female scientists; that our Youth Advisory Group is more vibrant and enthusiastic than ever; and that we were able to refresh our Sectoral Commissions to renew engagement and better align their work with CCUNESCO's priority areas. Below you can find details about some of CCUNESCO's 2016/17 achievements here at home.

SUPPORTING CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

In 2016/17, CCUNESCO lent its patronage and support to more than 60 organizations and initiatives in Canada. Putting our name on projects that support education, sustainable development, freedom of the press, gender equity and reconciliation—to name only a few—has practical results: our powerful and meaningful brand helps multiply the effects of the valuable work Canadians do in service to UNESCO priorities. One such partnership is [Wapikoni Mobile's Reconciliation Through Media Arts](#) project, which brings audiovisual creation workshops coast to coast to engage Indigenous youth and promote their voices through film. The project has launched the “[Wapikoni, Cinema on Wheels](#)” tour, a Canada150 initiative, which will screen 14 short films produced by Indigenous filmmakers who took part in the workshops. CCUNESCO provided moral support, facilitated meetings between Wapikoni Mobile and UNESCO to boost the project's international profile, and mobilized our networks nationwide to participate in this meaningful initiative.

CCUNESCO also took part in several pan-Canadian social media campaigns last year, reaching thousands of policy-makers, educators, researchers, youth and community leaders, and others engaged in making a difference. These campaigns mobilize Canadians to find solutions to issues that affect us locally and globally, energize our members, and even change minds. Of particular note is the “It Starts with Me” campaign we spearheaded in the week leading up to the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) on March 21, 2017. This bilingual campaign reached over 2 million people on Twitter alone and, on the day in question, #ItStartsWithMe was ranked the 5th top trending hashtag in Canada by 4pm EST. Ministers, Members of Parliament, municipalities and their mayors, and hundreds of organizations (e.g. libraries, schools, police forces, media outlets) were inspired to join in this recommitment to fight discrimination.

PARTNERING STRATEGICALLY FOR GREATER IMPACT

We are proud of our involvement in the [L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards](#), which awarded prizes to five new Canadian laureates in November 2016. We took this partnership even further in 2016/17 by inviting laureates to serve as role models for female students in the UNESCO Associated Schools Network. We also partnered with [Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants](#) on February 10 to celebrate the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#). We invited girls to interact with outstanding female scientists and explorers through a daylong Google Hangout, which featured a keynote address by a L'Oréal-UNESCO laureate. We promoted the Day through our UNESCO Associated Schools Network and on social media with the help of the Canada Science and Technology Museum and Status of Women Canada. These strategic partnerships encourage girls and young women to think about science careers and lend support to those already working towards one.

One of the pillars of CCUNESCO is our Youth Advisory Group (YAG), a body of young Canadians committed to UNESCO priority areas such as sustainable development, gender equity, cultural heritage and the rights of

Indigenous Peoples. YAG members advise CCUNESCO about significant issues in their communities, help us develop initiatives that make a local difference, and bring their voices to UNESCO-related events. Because several long-time members had completed their mandates, we put out a call for new members in 2016/17. A total of 41 enthusiastic youth leaders from across Canada were invited to join the YAG last year, all of whom were selected for their expertise in UNESCO priority areas and their active connection with their own communities. Going forward, the YAG will be working from a new Youth Engagement Strategy (2016-2121) founded on youth mobilization, consultation and participation.

FOCUSING PRIORITIES ON CANADIANS' MOST PRESSING CONCERNS

CCUNESCO launched a new initiative called IdeaLab in 2016/17. [IdeaLab](#) is developing a series of discussion papers on current topics of interest to Canadians, such as the role of arts and learning in sustainable development, the impact of fake news, the importance of freedom of expression, the rise of right-wing extremist radicalization in Canada, the role of arts and culture in the settlement of refugees and newcomers, and the value of Indigenous-led UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

These discussion papers, written by experts among our own membership and networks, are intended to provoke thought and discussion among our networks, civil society and our Sectoral Commissions (see our Governance page for details). Our Sectoral Commissions will have the dual task of both reflecting on these papers in their meetings, and suggesting further topics for exploration. The IdeaLab papers are an ideal way of harnessing our Sectoral Commissions' impressive intellectual capital on a growing range of issues important to Canadians. The papers are available to read on our website.

CCUNESCO TRANSVERSAL PRIORITIES

RECONCILIATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The work we do is a reflection of the work UNESCO does. Our members and partners in Canada share expertise and seek solutions in all UNESCO priority areas. They do this, however, with an eye towards CCUNESCO's own transversal priorities: reconciliation and youth engagement. A transversal priority is one that cuts across all other concerns and activities, so that consideration of that priority continually intersects with our work on, for instance, sustainable development, cultural heritage, inclusive cities and education. In bringing these priorities to the fore, we hope to encourage governments, schools, organizations, researchers and members of the public to consider reconciliation and youth engagement as natural extensions of their own various mandates.

ACTING ON RECONCILIATION

The [*UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*](#) will be 10 years old in September 2017. In response to this Declaration and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 [*Calls to Action*](#), CCUNESCO views all of its programs and activities through the lens of reconciliation. We believe it is essential for peace-building and cooperative organizations such as our own to show leadership in implementing the TRC's Calls to Actions, and pursuing initiatives that foster mutual respect among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

To make a valuable contribution to reconciliation, and in collaboration with our Indigenous members and partners, CCUNESCO has committed to the following:

- Celebrate and showcase initiatives that demonstrate reconciliation in action.
- Integrate Indigenous cultures, knowledge and perspectives in CCUNESCO's work.

- Create the conditions that encourage Indigenous Peoples to design and implement their own various CCUNESCO and UNESCO programs.

In response to these commitments, we are updating our advisory and governance structures to frame them within reconciliation, and inviting Indigenous Peoples to sit on our various committees at levels never achieved in our 60-year history. We have also launched the *Reconciliation in Action* series, which highlights initiatives and success stories in our networks that assist reconciliation efforts across Canada. To date, the series features:

- Ledge Talks: Tsá Tué: A UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve ([video](#)): Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve (NWT)—the first Indigenous-led Biosphere Reserve in the world. Tsá Tué is situated in the traditional territory of the Dene Peoples, who were instrumental in the creation of this Biosphere Reserve and who will continue to oversee the balancing of the area's ecosystem with community needs and sustainable development.

- “Indigenous-led Biosphere Reserves: Nothing to Fear” ([reflection paper](#)): For the first time in the history of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, CCUNESCO and UNESCO brought delegates from the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve to UNESCO House in Paris, where a reflection paper on Indigenous-led Biosphere Reserves was launched prior to EuroMAB 2017. This international event celebrated the Dene Peoples’ efforts in the creation of the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve, and showcased the role that UNESCO designated sites can play in supporting the aspirations of Indigenous Peoples and in celebrating their diverse cultures, languages and traditional knowledge.
- [Reconciliation in Action in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region](#) (video): This video demonstrates how the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (BC) is a governance model for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves that wish to put “Reconciliation in action” by inviting the contributions of Indigenous Peoples.
- [Wapikoni: Cinema on Wheels](#) (film screenings): This pan-Canadian tour brings 14 short films by young Indigenous directors to audiences across Canada. The films were created with the support of [Wapikoni Mobile](#), a CCUNESCO partner that brings audiovisual equipment and instruction to remote communities.
- Along with the French National Commission, CCUNESCO has started to explore ways to work in collaboration with other UNESCO National Commissions worldwide, so that the international network can play a proactive role in supporting the spirit of the upcoming UNESCO Policy on Engaging Indigenous Peoples and helping UNESCO mark the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019.

ENGAGING YOUTH IN CANADA

UNESCO has stressed the importance of youth engagement through its commitment to [Education for Sustainable Development](#) and [Global Citizenship Education](#). Youth are among our most essential innovators. More than just “the future,” today’s youth are active change-makers working locally, nationally and even internationally to drive social change. CCUNESCO has committed to keeping youth engaged in our work. Making youth engagement a transversal priority means that youth and their perspectives are considered—and included—in our programs, events and initiatives.

CCUNESCO’s [Youth Advisory Group \(YAG\)](#) is a model of youth engagement and one of our greatest success stories. Their contributions don’t just strengthen our networks but energize them. Dedicated and creative YAG members across Canada are currently working in their communities on intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, social innovation as seen through northern perspectives, and the implementation of the [Agenda 2030](#) goals and the [Conservation 2020](#) initiative. They are also leading our national youth consultation in preparation for the 10th UNESCO Youth Forum in fall 2017. You can read about YAG members’ achievements and goals [here](#).

A NETWORK OF NETWORKS

Our members, networks and partners do the kind of work we want to celebrate, highlighting how they support UNESCO's programs and priorities in Canada. It is thanks to them that we can contribute to creating a sustainable future and a more equitable society, preserving biological and cultural diversity, defending freedom of expression, and fostering global citizens. Below is just a small sample of the support given by the CCUNESCO to our members' and partners' recent projects.



Photo credit: Exeko

EXEKO

[Exeko](#), one of our NGO members, launched the “[Inclusive Culture Laboratory](#)” in October 2016, a three-year participatory research project that explores how Le Groupe des Onze can help make Montréal's most important cultural institutions more inclusive of and accessible to marginalized people. Exeko also hosted a [symposium](#) that month on the role of intellectual mediation in social transformation, a project supported by the McConnell Foundation and the Lucie et André Chagnon Foundation.



Photo credit: Aga Khan Museum

AGA KHAN MUSEUM

The [Aga Khan Museum](#) in Toronto hosted an extraordinary exhibit called “[Syria: A Living History](#)” (October 2016 – February 2017). Created by eight major international cultural institutions and supported by UNESCO and CCUNESCO, the exhibit provided an impressive view of Syrian history, highlighted the crisis of cultural heritage under threat in conflict zones, and raised awareness of the diversity of Syria's historical cultures in a way rarely available to people in Canada. Dr. Maamoun Abdulkarim, the Director General of Antiquities in Syria, was a featured guest.



Photo credit: TVO

STRIKING BALANCE

On October 4, 2016, TVO launched [Striking Balance](#), an educational documentary series about Biosphere Reserves in Canada. Produced in collaboration with CCUNESCO and several other partners, this series celebrates the role of eight Canadian Biosphere Reserves in areas such as sustainable development, the preservation of biodiversity, and reconciliation. A supplementary ebook, *Sustaining Home*, is available, written by CCUNESCO member Maureen Reed and edited by Peter Kingsmill.



Photo credit: Isabelle LeVert-Chiasson

UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS NETWORK

With CCUNESCO's support, the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Quebec launched [Bourse du carbone Scol'ERE](#) in 2016/17. This educational program supports UNESCO's efforts in promoting education for sustainable development by engaging youth and mobilizing them to foster eco-responsible behaviours. Other initiatives involving UNESCO Associated Schools in Quebec are ongoing, including their participation in a *France Télévisions* pilot project aimed at celebrating International Day of Peace.



Photo credit: Hombeline Dumas

ASSOCIATION FRANCOPHONE POUR LE SAVOIR

The 85th [Congress of the Association francophone pour le savoir \(ACFAS\)](#) was held in May 2017 at McGill University. Knowledge and research in the context of Canadian francophone culture were strengthened and disseminated thanks to the work of over 2,800 contributors from 213 knowledge sectors. The congress also offered free activities and panel sessions for the general public.



Photo credit: Chantal Lévesque

CANADIAN HERITAGE INFORMATION NETWORK

In May 2016, the Canadian Heritage Information Network and its partners hosted the *Colloque international sur les usages du patrimoine culturel immatériel* at Université Laval. Over 200 international heritage experts reviewed the progress made in the ten years since UNESCO launched its *Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*, and discussed strategies to expand the important work of preserving intangible cultural heritage—a vital piece in the protection of cultural diversity around the world.



CANADIAN NETWORK FOR ARTS & LEARNING

Arts education is key to [Global Citizenship Education](#) and helps individuals thrive. To reinvigorate discussions about arts education, the Canadian Network for Arts & Learning and its partners drafted a position paper entitled *Preliminary Strategy for Partnership on Initiatives in Arts and Learning*. This paper expands on international goals and priorities in arts education, as set out in the 2010 [Seoul Agenda](#). The paper was launched at CCUNESCO's 2017 AGM and is circulating in the international community.



CENTRE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

With the input of over 1,300 students from 11 countries, the Centre for Global Education and its partners produced the [International Youth White Paper on Global Citizenship](#). The white paper is the result of over 10,000 hours of student collaboration, and will act as a teaching and professional development tool for those engaged in [Global Citizenship Education](#) (GCED). During a Virtual Town Hall, the students participated in an international conversation that gave them a chance to share their ideas and visions for GCED worldwide.



EXPLORING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS

This non-profit organization, which promotes science, exploration and global citizenship in classrooms, celebrated the 2017 [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) by directly engaging hundreds of female students who are passionate about these topics. EBTSOYP's full-day event featured Google Hangouts that brought together students and leading female scientists, explorers and conservationists, including recent [L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards](#) laureates.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA AND CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Museums Association co-hosted [Taking It to the Streets: Summit on the Value of Libraries, Archives and Museums \[LAMs\] in a Changing World](#). This 2016 summit focused on the value of LAMs, such as their social, research, creative and economic benefits, and explored their role in the 21st century. Participating Canadian LAMs adopted the Ottawa Declaration, which commits them “to continually adapt and reinvent our institutions, and to promote the full value of libraries, archives and museums to Canadians.”



Photo credit: Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve

MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE REGION

To help support reconciliation in Canada, the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (BC) created a video that provides a governance model for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. [Reconciliation in Action in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region](#) (2017) highlights the importance of roundtable collaborations between Indigenous Peoples and local governments, and of valuing the contributions of Indigenous Peoples not just in the realm of sustainable development, but in all matters.



Photo credit: Radio-Dodo Facebook Page

RADIO-DODO

Radio-DoDo is a radio show designed to help soothe the children of Syria to sleep, whether they are caught in conflict zones or starting a new life in Canada. This non-profit initiative, hosted by Syrian-Canadian entertainers Marie-Anne Alepin and Chadi Alhelou, offers a [weekly radio show](#) in Arabic and French to children ages 3-7. Radio-DoDo distributed radios and blankets to children in need when it launched in January 2017.



Photo credit: Sebastian Irvine

ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND FIRST PEOPLE'S CULTURAL COUNCIL

In March 2017, the Royal BC Museum partnered with the [First People's Cultural Council](#) to co-host [Indigenous Perspectives on Repatriation: Moving Forward Together](#), held in Kelowna, BC. The symposium gathered Indigenous organizations and museum and archives professionals to review an enduring priority: how tangible cultural heritage, such as ancestral remains and sacred objects, can be repatriated to home communities. Participants also discussed strategies and resources for Indigenous Peoples working with cultural institutions in repatriation efforts.



Photo credit: Kuba Bakowski via Pew Charitable Trusts

TSÁ TUÉ BIOSPHERE RESERVE

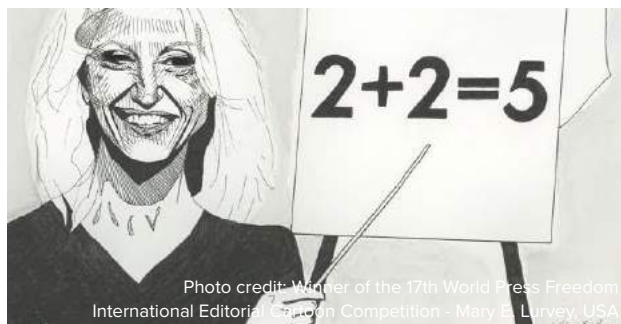
The Sahtuto'ine Dene keepers of the world's first Indigenous-led UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, [Tsá Tué in the Northwest Territories](#), produced a video about the importance of Indigenous knowledges and practices to sustainable land use. *Elders Speak* (2017) is modelled on [TVO's Striking Balance series](#), which promotes the value of Biosphere Reserves in Canada and showcases their educational, environmental, community and research significance. The video, an example of successful cooperation

among Indigenous Peoples and local governments, also addresses the impacts of climate change on the Arctic. It was screened for an international audience at EuroMAB 2017 and at CCUNESCO's 2017 AGM.



VILLE DE VARENNES

As a member of the [Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism](#) (CCMARD), the city of Varennes, QC produced a [YouTube video](#) promoting the #ItStartsWithMe initiative in 2017. The video was created in response to CCUNESCO's call for CCMARD members to demonstrate their commitment to building more just communities, which was launched on the [International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination](#). In the video, the Mayor of Varennes and members of the municipal government describe important priorities in the fight against discrimination in their city.



CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR WORLD PRESS FREEDOM

Each May, cities around the world observe [World Press Freedom Day](#) to raise awareness about threats to journalists, and to promote freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Some 100 events were organized around the world in 2016, supported by civil society and media organizations. On May 3, the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom gave the 2016 [Press Freedom Award](#) to Ben Makuch of Vice News for his efforts to protect a news source, while the first prize in the [World Press Freedom International Editorial Cartoon](#) went to Mary E. Lurvey (USA).

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO connects Canadians with the work of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It aims to create a society in which Canadians share knowledge and learn from each other, locally and globally, in order to build peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures. It does so by supporting collective reflection, identifying priorities and facilitating concerted action in the fields of education, sciences, culture, communication and information to address some of the most complex challenges facing humanity. Recognizing that this mandate can only be fulfilled by engaging a broad range of partners, a spirit of cooperation is at the core of the Commission's work.

The Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's national public arts funder. We champion and invest in artistic excellence so that Canadians may enjoy and participate in a rich cultural life. In 2014-15 we allocated \$155.1 million towards artistic creation and innovation through our grants, prizes and payments. We also conduct research, convene activities and work with partners to advance the sector and help embed the arts more deeply in communities across the country. We are responsible for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO which promotes the values and programs of UNESCO to contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable future for Canadians. The Canada Council Art Bank operates art rental programs and helps further public engagement with contemporary arts.



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