

Education for Development UPDATE

SPRING 2008 - Alberta

UNICEF Working to Protect Children and the Environment

Canadians have been waking up to the imperative of protecting the environment. Young people have traditionally been strong advocates environmental protection.

UNICEF Canada and our partners have a wide variety of resources to assist you in addressing the issue of the environment in your global classroom.

According to UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Hilde Johnson, "Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It is economic, social and human. When it comes to climate change, the poor pay more — and children most of all. They pay with their health, development and, too often, their lives."

*There are no passengers on
Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.*

-Marshall McLuhan, 1964

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Important Dates

2008 International Year of Sanitation

UNICEF has designated 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation with an aim to highlight the need for urgent action on behalf of the more than 40 per cent of the world's population who continue to live without sufficient sanitation. Lack of proper sanitation contributes to the deaths of thousands of women and children every day from largely preventable causes. Though more than 1.2 billion people worldwide have gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2004, an estimated 2.6 billion people — including 980 million children — have yet to be reached. This is one of the single biggest development challenges facing the world today.



MARCH 8: *International Women's Day*

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Celebrated on 8 March, International Women's Day (IWD) is the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. IWD celebrates the collective power of women past, present and future.

For more information about UNICEF Canada's education programmes in Ontario, please contact Claire Pitt at 416.482.4444 Ext. 815 or cpitt@unicef.ca.

UNICEF is the world's leader for children, working in 156 countries and territories to save, protect and enhance the lives of girls and boys. UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, promotes quality basic education, protects children from violence, exploitation and AIDS, and is the world's largest provider of vaccines for developing nations. A global leader in emergencies with six decades of on-the-ground experience, UNICEF saves and rebuilds children's lives in natural disasters and conflict. UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations, schools, associations and governments.

MARCH 22: World Water Day

<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

APRIL 23-29: Global Action Week

http://www.campaignforeducation.org/action/2008/action_2008.html

Read on for a full description of the exciting events planned for the week and details on how you and your class can find your way into the Guinness Record Book by participating in the World's Biggest Lesson.

APRIL 22: Earth Day

<http://www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/top10.php>

Each year, Earth Day — April 22 — marks the

anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. It is celebrated in different ways around the world but all with the common goal of raising awareness of our need to protect our most valuable natural resource...the planet.

April 25: Africa Malaria Day

http://beatthemosquitoes.spreadthenet.org/bmc_default_en.aspx

Africa Malaria Day is every year commemorated on 25 April. This day has been set aside by African governments committed to rolling back malaria and meeting the United Nations malaria-related Millennium Development Goals.

You and your students can help Spread the Net and stop malaria by participating in the Beat the Mosquitoes Challenge.

UNICEF and the Environment

UNICEF International is developing a comprehensive toolkit for teachers and educators outlining UNICEF's work to protect children by working to protect the environment. The resource will be available to teacher in June or July 2008. Visit www.unicef.ca/globaleducation for more information.

Climate Change and Children Report

UNICEF has recently launched the "Climate Change and Children" report examining the ways in which climate change has evolved from an environmental

issue to one understood to have severe economic, social and political implications. Young people are provided the opportunity to speak directly to the issue in this report. You can download a PDF of the report by visiting www.unicef.org.

TeachUNICEF

Millennium Development 7 is to ensure environmental sustainability by halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. TeachUNICEF is a new set of material that have been adapted for the Canadian classroom and were designed to help teachers share UNICEF's flagship report the State of the World's Children with students. The lessons are available for teachers at both the intermediate and secondary school levels. Please visit www.unicef.ca/globaleducation to download the resource.

UNICEF Youth Speak Out on the Environment

Encourage your students to visit UNICEF's Voices of Youth where they can read real life stories about the importance of clean water, learn about the work their peers are doing to protect the global environment and learn how they too can help make a difference.



They can also try their hand at "Water Alert!" an interactive educational resource on water, environment and sanitation where young people are engaged in an adventure of strategy and survival. The goal is to ensure that the people in this drought-challenged village, who are



facing the threat of a flood, have water that is safe to drink and a clean and healthy school environment. Visit Voices of Youth at www.unicef.org

UNICEF Canada is also teaming up with some of your favourite local restaurants to draw attention to the issue of ensuring clean water and sanitation while helping to make a difference for children around the world. Visit www.tappproject.ca for more information.

Other Green Resources

Green Teacher

Green Teacher is a magazine that helps educators enhance environmental and global education inside and outside of schools. Each issue includes ideas for rethinking education in light of environmental and global challenges; practical articles and

ready-to-use activities for various age levels and evaluations of dozens of new books, kits, games and other green resources. Visit <http://www.greenteacher.com/>

UNEP Resources

For children and youth

<http://www.unep.org/Tunza/>
The United Nations Environment Programme has a fun and interactive website for children and youth where they can learn more about what their peers around the world are doing to help protect the environment.

Billion Tree Campaign

<http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/index.asp>

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign and is inviting everyone in your community to get involved.

Canadian Museum of Nature

http://nature.ca/education/cls/lp/indexlp_e.cfm

The Canadian Museum of Nature is keen to help you address the issue of the environment in your global classroom by providing free downloadable lesson plans developed by educators. The lessons cover subjects ranging from the basics of recycling to hot topics (quite literally) such as global warming.

Environment Canada

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/education/default.asp?lang=En&n=E70AABF9-1>

The Environment Canada website also offers a number of links to government agencies and various Canadian NGO's related to the environment.

*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.
When we see land as a community to which we belong,
we may begin to use it with love and respect.*

~Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

What's New on unicef.ca

Teaching Children's Rights Through Art

Nova Scotia Art educator Diane Lewis collaborated with Drs. Katherine Covell and Brian Howe at the Children Right's Centre at Cape Breton University to create a curriculum resource supporting teachers to address universal children's rights and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in their classrooms through various art forms. Visit www.unicef.ca/globaleducationclassroom

New CRC poster

The popular *Convention on the Rights of the Child* poster is now available in a more-youth friendly format in celebration of the 18th anniversary of the CRC's ratification.



Other Items of Interest



Everyone has a story to tell...what's yours?

Visit the Web site at

<http://www.ourstories.org/about.html> to hear extraordinary stories from the everyday lives

of children and young people around the world. In addition to a wealth of stories in local languages, the site includes interview guides to help get you started and links to a discussion board to help keep the conversation going!

Making a contribution as a Canadian youth is easy. For more information, contact Caroline Keenan, UNICEF Canada's Education for Development Manager at ckeenan@unicef.ca to find out how.

Global Action Week: The World's Biggest Lesson

Global Action Week is a truly global activity as teachers, children, parents, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies from all over the world join in activities voicing their concern about the right of all to be educated. During Global Action Week, people are being encouraged to become educated about the issues and make sure our governments continue to honour pledges to improve educational opportunities for children all over the world.

"Millions of parents, teachers and children around the world are calling on their government to provide free, good quality, basic education for all of the world's children. They are part of the Global Campaign for Education; we add our voice to their call."

– Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel

Each year the week is focused on a theme. This year "students" from all over the world will be attempting to break the world record for the Largest Simultaneous Lesson. For more information on how you and your students can get involved visit www.campaignforeducationcanada.org.



UNICEF Teacher Indicator Survey

Here at UNICEF Canada, we want to ensure we are doing all we can to meet the needs of teachers and young people across the country interested in social justice issues both here at home and across the globe. We would like to invite you to complete the short survey we have developed to provide feedback on the experiences you have had in the past and opportunities you see for us to better assist your work in the future. We will be pleased to send you a UNICEF video to use in your classroom upon completion of this survey, so please make sure you include your mailing address at the end of this survey. Thank you very much for your time! The survey can be found by visiting:

<http://www.unicef.ca/globaleducation>



Quantum Shift

Quantum Shift TV is challenging students from grades one to twelve across the United States and Canada to participate in the Be the Change! Share the Story! School Video Contest. Students are invited to work on a social or environmental project of their choice, and document their progress in two short videos to be uploaded on the Web. In addition to making a difference in their community, students have an opportunity to win \$50,000 in prizes for their school. Visit <http://www.quantumshift.tv/schools/> for more information.

Regional Update — Alberta

Speakers' Bureau Training Session



EDEV Manager Adriana Guarinos & Edmonton Volunteers

In Alberta we are working actively recruiting and training new volunteers for our Speakers' Bureau in Calgary and in Edmonton. In Edmonton, we recruited and trained fifteen new volunteers with the collaboration of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. Volunteers are the cornerstone of UNICEF's work and they share with us their experiences, knowledge and stories.

UNICEF's Alberta Team travels around the province

During the months of February and March the UNICEF's Alberta Team traveled around the province attending many teachers' conferences. We presented the session: "Peace and Conflict Resolution in the Classroom" in Calgary, Medicine Hat and Edmonton.

On February 23, one of the members of the Speakers' Bureau, Joy Itamah along with Adriana Guarinos participated of the conference **Global Voices: Sharing our Vision** organized by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation they presented the session No education for Girls! The participants loved to hear about Joy's experiences as a girl in Nigeria and UNICEF's Schools for Africa Programme.



Adriana Guarinos presents the workshop "Peace and Conflict Resolution in your Classroom" at the Calgary City Convention on February 15.

*Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator.
Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.*

—Holocaust Museum, Washington, DC



UNICEF is calling on high school students in Alberta and across Canada to get involved with the **Spread the Net Beat the Mosquitoes Challenge** and join in the fight against malaria! Register your school today and help organize exciting fundraising events to help spread the word and spread the net. Top fundraising school in Alberta will receive a special visit from Spread the Net Ambassador Hayley Wickenheiser, captain of Team Canada women's hockey team, on Africa Malaria Day (Friday April 25th, 2008).

Visit www.beatthemosquitoes.spredthenet.org for more information and to register now. For more information please contact Adriana Simon at (403) 270-2857 or via email at asimon@unicef.ca

School Recognition Evening

On April 15th, we are going to hold the School Recognition Evening to celebrate the educators, students and volunteers who made the Trick or Treat for UNICEF 2007 a great success. The event will take place at the Calgary Golf & Country Club. We would be delighted to see you there for the awards ceremony and to meet other UNICEF supporters. Delicious refreshments and desserts are going to be provided. Please contact Adriana Simon for more information at (403) 270-2857 ext 101 or via email at asimon@unicef.ca

The School Recognition Evening in Edmonton will take place in the spring 2008. Date and place are going to be announced shortly.

Speakers' Bureau Update

Do you want to book a speaker to come to your classroom? We offer free presentations on the following topics: Malaria, UNICEF's work on HIV/AIDS: A Global Perspective, Child Protection (Child Trafficking, Child Soldiers, Children and War), UNICEF's work on water, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Early Childhood Development, Children's Rights and a host of other possibilities that interconnect within a global education framework. Please contact Adriana Guarinos the Education for Development Manager for UNICEF Alberta either via phone at (403) 270-2857 or via email at aguarinos@unicef.ca.

By: Seema Dhawan,
UNICEF Alberta Youth Leader

Every flower has the right to blossom, every animal was born to be free. Bees collect nectar from flowers without hindrance. Being free and having liberty, is simply the law of nature. I've always wondered what issue is of utmost importance to me and have concluded it is human rights. It is when the law of nature is disturbed, that imbalance is caused.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the "The Convention on the Rights of the Child," in 1989. It is the most endorsed human rights treaty in the world, ratified by all but two countries. It celebrates childhood and codifies in international law the rights due to every child.

The reason rights, specifically children's rights, are so important is because they are defenseless and naive. What is a child to do if the mother who bears him hurts him? How can a child go against the hand that feeds him? A poster against child abuse I once read stated, "It shouldn't hurt to be a child." Children are learning from the day they are born, and do not know what is right or wrong. Our role as a society is to nurture them instead of punishing them for mistakes they are unable to comprehend.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child requires that every child should have the right to an identity, play, thought, conscience and religion and protection by law. It discusses the importance of the development of a child, education and nurture.

Not only is it recommended to support the convention, it is crucial. After all if bees couldn't collect nectar, this world wouldn't be as sweet a place.

Global Trek Workshops

UNICEF Alberta has organized a workshop called GlobalTrek across the city of Calgary. GlobalTrek is aimed at discussing children's rights and UNICEF's work around the world. It is for children 6 and older with their parents. It gives participants the opportunity to tour the world with their imagination and creative games and stories.

The next workshops are going to be in:

Signal Hill
Tuesday, March 4, 7-8 pm

Fish Creek
Saturday, March 8, 2-3 pm

Village Square
Wednesday, March 19, 7-8 pm

Country Hills
Friday, March 28, 10:30 to
11:30 am

Forest Lawn
Saturday, March 29, 2-3 pm