

Education for Development UPDATE

SPRING 2008 - British Columbia

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.

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection

unicef

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.tapproject.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 Program 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 — British Columbia

In February, 40 students from Alberni District Secondary School (which was one of the top 10 schools in the J8 competition last year!) hosted an amazing Socially Responsible Community Day and a UNICEF Global Youth Action Day. Over 100 local students and students from Salt Spring and Victoria took part in an inspirational day of learning, in which they explored a variety of ways to take action and improve their world!

Please read this first hand account, written by Alberni District Secondary School students, Brendan Hamilton and Sarah Dawson:

On Feb. 21st, 40 students from Alberni District Secondary School participated in the Socially Responsible Community Day. This event was co-organized by Scott Elias and Kama Money, from School District 70, and Paula Gallo from UNICEF. We first read Socially Responsible children's books to all of the elementary schools in Port Alberni. Later, we went on a community tour around town, to visit various community support groups, such as: the Salvation Army, the Friendship Centre, Bread of Life, and Ku-Us Crisis Line. We stopped by city hall, and met the mayor of Port Alberni, Ken McCrae and the city council. We later travelled to Echo Centre to eat lunch, donated by Quality Foods, and met with the members of the Sunshine Club. We clogged with the seniors, and also watched them play carpet bowling. Finally, we headed to Batstar Café, where local First Nations artist, Cecil Dawson talked about his artwork. The students then watched a documentary called 'Invisible Children', about child soldiers in Uganda. Last, but not least, we had a yummy dinner.

The next day, ADSS hosted the UNICEF Global Youth Action Day. This event had over 100 youth and adult participants, and featured Minneh Kamau Bushby, a speaker who deals with AIDS education and the importance of self-esteem and self-worth. We had a 'Peace Cheer', by the ADSS cheerleaders, then proceeded to the gym to lead the 'Sea of Change' workshop with all of the participants. The rest of the day included lunch (with a hunger activity), poems, songs, videos, speeches, and various workshops. The workshop topics included: child soldiers, respectful relationships, HIV/AIDS, Poverty, Peace Building in Post-Tsunami Sri-Lanka, Acts of Kindness, Global Art, Climate Change, etc. **The focus for our day was to raise money and awareness for UNICEF's Spread the Net campaign, which purchases insecticide-treated Malaria nets for people in Africa.**

How did this all happen? To plan these two events, it took the ADSS J8 teams, and Student Forum members, two lunch hour meetings a week.



We made posters, organized events, practiced reading poems, speeches and workshops to be presented at the Global Youth Action Day. In the end, 100% of our work and effort paid off as we made this event a huge success. We are very proud of ourselves.



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