



VISION

CONDUCTING RESEARCH. EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE. FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING.

Vision is a FREE e-newsletter of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. It is open to teacher members and non-members alike. This newsletter will come out regularly during the school year and provide quick reading on issues related to teaching and education across Canada. The information herein does not necessarily reflect the views of CTF. To submit news, contact CTF Communications at: communications@ctf-fce.ca.

September 2009

President's Message

I am delighted to bring you greetings on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. As I begin my two-year term as your new President, I am filled with a mixture of excitement and anticipation. It is an honor to serve my profession in this capacity and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is my goal to continue the work accomplished by Emily Noble, Past President, and to serve all Member organizations to the best of my ability on behalf of the Federation. In keeping with our mission, CTF will continue to provide its Member organizations with opportunities to exchange, discuss and network among themselves. We will continue to raise the voice of the teaching profession on issues that affect the quality of learning and teaching in this country. To that end, CTF will be taking a pulse-check or frequent check-ins with teachers thanks to a new online survey tool that will be launched soon.



As a former classroom teacher and school principal, I encourage all teachers to become involved with their provincial or territorial teacher organizations. Your voice counts among the nearly 200,000 others who are part of the Canadian Teachers' Federation family. It is important that you be heard.

Over the coming months, I hope to meet you at your annual or biennial general meetings, CTF symposia and perhaps the President's Forum in Edmonton in 2010 which immediately precedes the CTF Annual General Meeting. Please share *Vision* with your teacher colleagues or better yet, encourage them to subscribe online. On behalf of all of us at CTF, I would like to wish you a most rewarding and enriching school year.

[Mary-Lou Donnelly](#)

President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation

External assessment receives 360-degree examination at President's Forum



The first CTF President's Forum held July 14-16 in Ottawa provided a venue for teacher leaders, education authorities and partners from Canada and around the world to cross-pollinate their perspectives and experiences related to external assessment of students. Representatives of the Organization for Economic and Cooperative Development (OECD), Education International, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and the Canadian Association of University Teachers shared their views and perspectives. Check out the Forum's

daily bulletins, speakers' PowerPoint presentations and photos posted on the [President's Forum "Forces of Change" Web site](#).

AGM Focuses on child poverty

Child poverty continues to be a priority issue for CTF because of the correlation between socio-economic status and children's academic performance. Teachers witness it every day in their classrooms. As such, the CTF Annual General Meeting focused on this issue and discussed ways to use teacher solidarity to improve child poverty rates in Canada.

In support of the AGM theme, delegates raised over \$3,000 to support the **Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada** founded by Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice in 2009.

More on the CTF AGM: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Events/AGM/default.aspx?ID=625882> and more on the **Dignity for All** campaign: <http://www.dignityforall.ca/>

[Photo Gallery](#)

2009 CTF award recipients

Outstanding Aboriginal Educator Award

Myra Laramee, Winnipeg (centre) receives award from Emily Noble, then CTF President (left), and Pat Isaak, Manitoba Teachers' Society President.

More: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Newsroom/news.aspx?NewsID=766451846&year=2009>



Public Education Advocacy Award

Mary Gordon, founder of Roots of Empathy

More: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Newsroom/news.aspx?NewsID=766451846&year=2009>



CTF Special Recognition Awards

[For more information on the winners](#)

Guy Matte (far right) receives award from Emily Noble, then CTF President, and Benoît Mercier (centre), President of the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens.



Marilies Rettig (centre) receives award from Emily Noble, then CTF President (left), and David Clegg, then President of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.



Wayne Noseworthy (centre) receives award from Emily Noble, then CTF President, and Edward Hancock, Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association.



CTF Host Night takes on international theme

The CTF office building was transformed into an airport terminal building and its corridors and pathways led to an international festival of music, food and entertainment on the CTF Host Night, July 17. Over 25 CTF staff volunteered to welcome delegates and their families to the building. One of the evening's features was the dedication of the Paul Johnson Auditorium attended by representatives of Johnson Inc.

Prizes were donated by Member organizations and the Grand Door Prize was arranged by the Canadian Public Employee Acquisition Club (CPEAC), the exclusive CTF discount program for teachers. CPEAC also provided many draw prizes that included golf items, electronic equipment, hotel stays and a comprehensive satellite radio package.

Special thanks go to our sponsors; **Johnson Inc.** and the **Canadian Public Employee Acquisition Club (CPEAC)**, for making the CTF Host Night a success. Also a big thank you to SellOffVacations.com, Sirius Radio, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Microtec, Securtek, Apple Auto Glass and Kids Can Press. CTF also gratefully acknowledges the involvement and contributions of the diplomatic corps of several embassies and high commissions representing countries of CTF International Cooperation Program partners.

[Photo gallery of CTF Host Night](#)



Auditorium was dedicated to Johnson's Insurance Inc. Seen in photo are; **Calvin Fraser**, CTF Secretary General, **John Thompson**, Vice-President of Johnson Inc., **John Staple**, Deputy Secretary General of CTF, along with **Winston Carter**, former CTF President and **Emily Noble**, Past President of CTF.



Marshall Jarvis (center), General Secretary of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), was the grand prize winner of the trip for two to the Dominican Republic by SellOffVacations.com. Seen here are **Robyn** and **Mario Beauchamp**, CPEAC, with Marshall Jarvis in the middle claiming his prize.

World Teachers' Day poster and essay winners to have private session with Dalai Lama



CTF President **Mary-Lou Donnelly** will lead a small delegation to meet privately with the Dalai Lama on Oct. 3 after his public presentation at the Bell Centre in Montréal. The delegation will include **Heather MacIsaac**, winner of CTF's 2009 World Teachers' Day poster contest along with the three recipients of the student essay contest awards. Together they will present him with a framed copy of the poster along with the student essays. The two contests focused on peace and the environment and were organized by CTF thanks to financial support by the Green Street Program. For more information on the World Teachers' Day poster contest [winner](#).

View a Web cast by the Dalai Lama at www.CTF-FCE.ca

The Dalai Lama Foundation-Canada (DLFC) has invited the Dalai Lama to give a public talk in Montréal entitled: **Educating the Heart: The Power of Compassion**. A private presentation to 600 teachers and students will precede the public event and will be available to all Canadian teachers the morning of Saturday, October 3. The students participated in a Peace Education-Environment Essay sponsored by Green Street. For additional information on this and to read the student essays, visit the Green Street Web site www.green-street.ca.

Media Literacy Week



The Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) are joining once again to host Canada's fourth annual Media Literacy Week, Nov. 2-6, 2009. This year's theme "Media Literacy in the Digital Age" will emphasize the multiple literacy skills needed by today's youth for accessing, evaluating, repurposing, creating and distributing media content. More: [Media Awareness Network and Canadian Teachers' Federation Partner to Promote Media Literacy in the Digital Age](#).

Engaging students and teachers in building the future

Green Street has long been Canada's trusted clearinghouse for quality educational programs from environmental organizations and it's growing to become more. Green Street links you to a learning community of people who are taking action for the environment and social justice, in and

with schools across Canada. This is your invitation to join with others in building a movement for change – to inspire and involve one another in creative and hopeful activities – to imagine and build a future we can all look forward to.

Visit the Green Street Web site on Sept. 21 when we'll be launching the following for classroom teachers:

- Access to environmental education resources;
- Opportunities to get to know Green Street partners;
- Opportunities to access funding to work for school-based projects.

The Museums and Schools Partnership Award submissions by Nov. 15

Supported by the Canadian Teachers' Federation in collaboration with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), this annual award recognizes exceptional educational programs made possible by close collaboration between Canadian museums and schools. The deadline for next year's award is Nov. 15, 2009. Information and forms to apply or to nominate someone for an award are available at the CMA Web site, www.museums.ca; click on 'Awards' under "About CMA".

Share your human rights stories with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The Museum has recently launched a new component to its Web site to allow people to submit their human rights stories online. If you have any other stories or ideas you would like to share with the Museum, please visit the [site](#). Encourage others within your community to participate as well!

Join Campaign 2000 on Nov. 24 to highlight 20th anniversary of federal government commitment to end child poverty

This November 24 will mark 20 years since the passing of the Canadian House of Commons all-party resolution to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Over the last two decades, we've made progress and our movement is achieving results. Yet, 1 in 10 children and their families still live in poverty.

To mark this special occasion, Campaign 2000 and its partner organizations will be:

- Releasing the national Report Card on child and family poverty in Ottawa, and releasing provincial Report Cards in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick;
- Encouraging all Canadians to participate in local and regional events/rallies/community forums. Find out more info on our Web site at www.campaign2000.ca

Here's what you can do:

- Take online action through www.campaign2000.ca to send a message to elected politicians that it's time for a national poverty reduction strategy for Canada;
- Sign up for Campaign 2000's e-news featured on the Web site.

Join Campaign 2000 and its partner organizations on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009.

CTF attends Teachers' Forum in Malaysia



A CTF delegation participated in the Teachers' Forum of the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, June 15-19. They include (back row) **Dr. Calvin Fraser**, CTF Secretary General, **Frank Bruseker**, President, The Alberta Teachers' Association, **Sean Noah**, President, Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association; (front row) **Gene Lewis**, General Secretary, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, **Sharon Armstrong**, Vice President, The Alberta Teachers' Association, **Emily Noble**, President, Canadian Teachers' Federation, **Carol Henderson**, President-elect, The

Alberta Teachers' Association, **Marcel Larocque**, President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick.

More information in the blog (English only) created by CTF Secretary General Calvin Fraser at the request of the Commonwealth Teachers' Group (CTG): <http://ctgforum.blogspot.com>



At the CTF Annual General Meeting, CPEAC.org launched the "Canadian Teacher Crowd Clout Initiative" a program created exclusively for the education sector. This initiative was created to offset the out-of-pocket expenses that teachers incur for classroom supplies and accessories. The first phase of the initiative comes in the form of an electronic coupon book that can be exclusively obtained by emailing robynb@cpeac.org.

Mentor Canadian girls and young women

Experiences wants you! It's a mentorship program to get girls and young women involved. We want you to learn and think about the impact of politics on your life, and how you might become involved in shaping *your* Canada!

Check out our Web site at www.equalvoice.ca/experiences for info on how to sign up and start your mentorship now!

Canadian Ski Council offering free snow passes to Grades 4 and 5

If you teach Grades 4 or 5, did you know that your students can ski and ride for free thanks to a program offered by the Canadian Ski Council, a non-profit organization? For more information on the snow pass including a complete list of rules, regulations as well as application form, visit www.snowpass.ca.

Habitat for Humanity's student writing contest on the "Meaning of Home"

If you teach Grades 4 to 6, why not encourage your students to enter the third annual "Meaning of Home" writing contest in support of Habitat for Humanity. Contest starts Oct. 5 and runs until Nov. 13. By entering, students have the chance to make a difference in their community – the winner will be part of the ultimate gift: A \$60,000 contribution towards the building of a Habitat home in or near the winner's community. Teachers can download a complete, ready-to-go Education Module – including a lesson plan, activity ideas, writing tips and a Habitat for Humanity fact sheet – and full contest details at <http://www.meaningofhome.ca>.

Scottish offer to Canadian teachers

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns's birth, the trustees of First Scottish Film Features (a Scottish charity) have commissioned a musical, called BURNS SUPPER, and wish to make the script and piano arrangement of the lyrics available free of charge to all schools in Canada. In Scotland this offer was publicized by the main teachers' union and received an enthusiastic response. For background to the musical, please visit the following Web site: <http://www.burns-supper.co.uk/>.

Learn more about the Canadian Teachers' Federation: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca> | [Privacy statement](#)



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