

UNICEF Global Classroom UPDATE

FALL 2009

Check it out to see the latest global education resources, contests, and online opportunities for your students to connect and learn about their world.

*The voyage of discovery
is not in seeking new landscapes
but in having new eyes.*

— Marcel Proust

News from the Field

Cathy Memah, UNICEF Ontario's Community Involvement Manager was part of the first UNICEF Canada Staff Field Visit to Malawi



© UNICEF/Martine Gagne

"Passionate... The one word I would use to describe to amazing teachers that I met at the Mkumba Primary School in Malawi. UNICEF Canada is one of the largest donor counties to the Malawi field office and from June 15th–19th, I had the opportunity to see some of the amazing

work taking place there. For example, the Mkumba Primary School is currently being supported by UNICEF's Schools for Africa Campaign, as it is recognized that the teachers face incredible challenges on a daily basis: they work with an average class size of 90 students, and must face over 55% of the students quitting before Grade 5 due to extreme poverty, and an HIV infection rate of 23%, one of the highest in the country. Yet these teachers come to work every day with a passion to make a difference in the lives of the children that they touch. They know that education is one of the single greatest factors in helping to change the lives of the children of Malawi. This campaign aims to actively and creatively support the teachers through teacher training and providing adequate resources for student learning."

Important Dates

September 21st – International Day of Peace

October 31st – National UNICEF Day

November 20th – Universal Children's Day:

Don't forget that 2009 celebrates the 20th anniversary of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child. To find out more about UNICEF Canada activities, visit www.unicef.ca.

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For more information about UNICEF Canada's education programmes, contact your regional UNICEF office or check out our Web site at www.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, HIV 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.

global classroom
MOVE YOUR WORLD

unicef 

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is turning 20!

On 20 November 2009, the world will celebrate a groundbreaking milestone—the **20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations General Assembly**.

The provisions and principles of the Convention guide UNICEF in its mission of advocating for the protection and promotion of children’s rights around the world, including in Canada. Ratified by 193 countries (all but two), the Convention is the fastest and most widely recognized international treaty in human history. It has inspired changes in laws to improve protection for children, redirected the way international organizations and governments see their work for children, and

helped place children at the heart of human development.

Yet we still have work to do. We live in a world where more than nine million children die unnecessarily of preventable causes every year. Where, tragically, many children are subjected to unspeakable abuse, exploitation and violence against which they’re unable to protect themselves.

The 20th anniversary reminds us to take stock of what we still have to change—at home and elsewhere. And the Convention gives us all the framework for making those changes.

You can learn more about the CRC at www.unicef.ca/crcat20.

All children have rights, including:

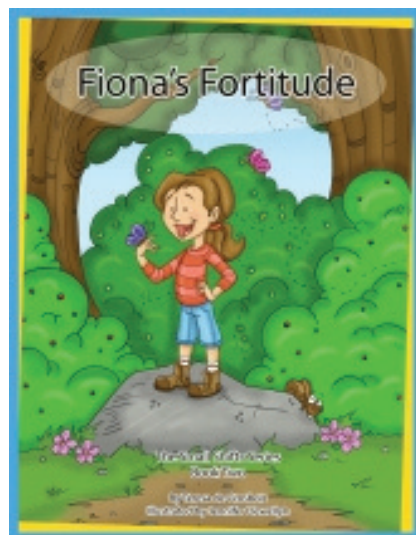
- The right to give their opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.
- The right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, and a clean and safe environment.
- The right to a good quality education.
- The right to play and rest.

New resource to commemorate the CRC!

Canada's Dr. Seuss, Teresa de Grosbois has a major new book coming out called *Fiona's Fortitude*. This children's book reaches out to children and helps

parents teach their children to put aside their fear and focus on success, even in the toughest situations.

Commissioned by UNICEF Canada to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, this *Fiona's Fortitude* weaves the adventure of small Fiona, who is very good at doing hard things. This illustrated children's book for ages 3 to 8 teaches people to focus on where you want to go, and how to overcome obstacles. To purchase this great resource for you classroom, please go to Amazon.com, at http://www.amazon.com/Fionas-Fortitude-Teresa-Grosbois/dp/0980948495/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249951620&sr=8-1



UNICEF has a new Web site for teachers and students!

UNICEF has launched a new Web site for teachers and elementary and secondary students. Check them out at:

<http://moveyourworld.unicef.ca/> (for youth)

<http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/> (for teachers)

Check it out to see the latest global education resources, contests, online opportunities for your students to connect and learn about their world.

Children's Climate Forum Copenhagen 09



Get Reel on Climate Competition 2009

UNICEF Canada, in partnership with GreenLearning Canada, is hosting a competition for a team of young people to attend the Children's Climate Forum in Copenhagen this December. 150-200 young people from around the world will meet in advance of the COP 15 UN Climate Change Conference, to write a communiqué that will be presented to world leaders, similar to the UNICEF Junior 8 Summit. As climate impacts are likely to worsen over the years and decades to come, today's children—and tomorrow's children—are important stakeholders in the dialogue on climate change. UNICEF is providing this unique opportunity to young people as part of our global citizenship and human rights education programming.

Please check out our new website, at
<http://moveyourworld.unicef.ca/> (for youth)
<http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/> (for teachers)

for a link to the Get Reel on Climate Competition and the online submission process. Young people will have the opportunity to collaborate with peers from around the world in the lead up to the Forum on the Unite for Climate site, <http://unite4climate.org>.

Also check out the GreenLearning Canada website to see how your students can explore the topic through online videos, ask-an-expert, and weblinks, and create their own personal eCard. The winners of the Get Reel on Climate Competition will take these eCards to Copenhagen. See <http://ecards.greenlearning.ca>.

Following the Forum, the youth who attend will be supported to act as "Climate Ambassadors" and continue peer engagement activities and collaboration with national partners, environmental organizations and local and national media.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Campaign



Every year, students in communities across Canada come together at Halloween to support girls and boys around the world through the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. This year is particularly extraordinary as 2009 marks the year that Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF hopes to hit the 100 million dollar mark! Funds raised through the campaign will go to support Schools for Africa, which helps children in Malawi and Rwanda receive an education and provide them with the tools to help them build strong futures.

www.trickortreatforunicef.ca

High school, college and university students can also help to support UNICEF through the Spread the Net Student Challenge. This campaign raises funds to purchase bed nets for families in Rwanda and Liberia to prevent the spread of malaria. This year, Rick Mercer from The Rick Mercer Report has agreed to pay a visit to the top fundraising school in the East and West of Canada. Both schools will be featured on his show!

It's very simple, 1 Net. 10 Bucks. Save Lives.

Join a campaign today.
We can't do it without
your help!
www.spreadthenet.org



Connecting Classrooms

UNICEF continues to offer creative and innovative ways for your students to connect with young people around the world. Our latest interactive experience for secondary students is an online initiative that will connect schools in Canada, with schools in Africa and India. These young people will engage in discussions about Climate Change, leading up to the COP 15 Climate Change Forum in Copenhagen this December. We are working with schools across Canada, and if you are interested in signing on to this fantastic opportunity, please email your regional UNICEF Education Manager for information to sign up, or Paula Gallo at pgallo@unicef.ca



UNICEF Junior 8 Summit – July 3-9, 2009, Rome

The Canadian UNICEF Junior 8 team travelled to Italy to share their well-researched and thoughtful opinions on climate change, children's rights and development in Africa with Stephen Harper, Barack Obama and the other G8 leaders. Representing Canada at the J8 was team "Carpe Diem," four passionate students from Saunders Secondary School in London, Ontario: Jona Nahyun Cho, Steve Seungjoon Lee, Nigel Wodrich and Corinne Boudreau. These young ambassadors have canvassed the views of their fellow youth across Canada, presented on G8 issues to schools

across their city, and planted 400 trees in their community to offset the carbon emissions generated on their flight to Rome. See the "earful" they gave the world leaders at

www.unicef.ca/junior8summit.ca.

Next year's J8 Summit will be taking place just north of Toronto in Huntsville, Ontario! This is a great opportunity for young people in Canada to have their voices heard before the world's most influential leaders. Stay tuned for more information to participate in next year's competition.



**Steve Seungjoon Lee,
Jona Nahyun Cho,
Corinne Boudreau
and Nigel Wodrich**

Regional Updates

British Columbia Region

- UNICEF British Columbia will be presenting at the BC Social Studies Annual Conference on October 23rd. For more information go to <http://www.bcssta.ca/>
- The British Columbia Global Education network will be hosting its back to school meeting this October. Please contact Kelly at kquinlan@unicef.ca for more details.

Ontario Region

- In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the CRC, UNICEF Ontario and OSSTF will be hosting a social justice

conference titled "Beyond Words: Exploring, Creating, Engaging" for secondary teachers and students on December 4th at the Harbourfront Centre. Registration will take place on-line in late September. For more information please contact Sholeh Popatia at spopatia@unicef.ca.

- Early next year UNICEF and OSSTF will be collaborating once again for a conference on equity and social justice issues in schools at the University of Western Ontario. If you are interested in participating or facilitating a workshop please contact Sholeh Popatia at spopatia@unicef.ca.

Quebec Region

- The contest Jeunes du monde, in collaboration with Éducaloi, will launch in the fall 2009! Students from secondary 3, 4 and 5 can register and have a chance to win one of the three \$1,500 prizes! For more information go to www.jeunesdumonde.qc.ca
- The UNICEF and Quebec YMCA youth event *You and Me Against AIDS* is back this year! Youth from across Quebec will come together at the Montreal Science Center on November 29th 2009. For more information, contact Karine Villeneuve at kvilleneuve@unicef.ca.

Resources

New Educational Resources developed by UNICEF Canada's Global Classroom Programme

Educational Activism: Resources for Change 2009

This guide supports those new and experienced teachers interested in learning and enacting ideas, strategies and effective practices related to teaching social justice activism. It includes the following topics: activist profiles, frequently asked questions, tools and activities for activist planning and reflection. A must have to start the school year!

http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/en/resources/secondary_lesson_plans.htm

Bringing Children's Rights Alive

This curriculum linked resource in both French and English supports the grade 6 curriculum in all Canadian provinces and territories linking children's rights locally to globally with thought provoking and

educational activities. A highly recommended resource to introduce and support the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/en/resources/elementary_lesson_plans.htm

Le monde en classe

This French language resource includes: 4 Learning and Evaluating Situations, one for each elementary school cycle, including a teacher's guide, a student book and different evaluation tools based on disciplinary competencies of the Québec Education Program.

http://lemondeenceclasse.unicef.ca/fr/resources/elementary_lesson_plans.htm

Professional Development Opportunities

Child and Youth Human Rights Certificate

Mount Royal College (Calgary, AB), Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension, is offering a fully online 4-course program called Child and Youth Human Rights Certificate. It focuses on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its implications for professional practice within a Canadian context.

Course 1 starts in October 2009. For more information and online registration visit:

<http://conted.mtroyal.ca/childrights>

If you have program questions, please email Ellen Murray at: emurray@mtroyal.ca

In our next issue look for information about how your secondary students can enter the UNICEF Junior 8 Summit, which will be taking place in Canada in June, 2010.