

UNICEF Global Classroom

UPDATE

SPRING 2009 - British Columbia

The Water Issue



UNICEF/HO00-0575/Shehzad Noorani

Here in Canada, spring is a time of new beginnings, of April showers and May flowers. For many Canadians, clean water to drink and bathe is readily available.

But this isn't the case for all.

Access to clean water is one of our rights as human beings, one of the rights guaranteed children in the

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. But too often, as a result of global water shortages and the effects of climate change, this right is denied. Not only is the health of women and children directly impacted by a lack of access to clean, safe water but as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently pointed out, the shortage has also played a role in fueling many of today's conflicts around the world. While UNICEF is working hard to address the issue of water scarcity, you and your students also have a role to play here in Canada by learning more about the complexity of the problem, how we can make a difference and taking action!

Any genuine teaching will result, if successful, in someone knowing how to bring about a better condition of things than existed earlier.

— John Dewey

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Canadian International
Development Agency

Important Dates

March 21: International Day to End Racial Discrimination

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/racial/>

March 22: World Water Day

http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/wes/explore_1818.html

April 4: International Day for Mines Awareness

<http://www.unicef.org/silentshout/>

April 22: Earth Day

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

April 25: World Malaria Day

Every 30 seconds a child dies of malaria. Malaria kills 3,000 children a day.

<http://www.unicef.ca/portal/SmartDefault.aspx?at=1901>

For more information about UNICEF Canada's education programmes in British Columbia, please contact Kelly Quinlan at Tel: 604-874-3666, ext.8127 or kquinlan@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.

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Learning for a Sustainable Future: Project FLOW

Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), integrates Education for Sustainable Development into the curricula at all grade levels in Canada. LSF's Resources for Rethinking (www.R4R.ca) is a free online database where educators can search for the highest quality, peer-reviewed, curriculum-matched sustainability teaching resources.

LSF is excited to announce their latest program: Project FLOW – For the Love Of Water (FLOW). FLOW is a sister project of R4R.ca and will be housed on the same website. FLOW will engage elementary and secondary students in hands-on experiential projects that take action about water issues! Find out more by visiting the R4R website – www.R4R.ca.



The BIG READ

The Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE) invites you and your

students to take part in the BIG READ, a global campaign to provide education and literacy for the 75 million children who are not able to go to school.

The BIG READ is part of CGCE's annual Global Action Week. Last year, 8.8 million students around the world took part in the World's Biggest Lesson and set a Guinness World Record.

This year, CGCE is creating a BIG READ book of stories about literacy by international authors like Nelson Mandela, Queen Rania of Jordan, Alice Walker, Dakota Blue Richards, and Canadian writers like Wayson Choy, Eric Walters, Janet Lunn and others.

For more information or to register for the BIG READ and download the book and other curriculum materials, visit:

www.campaignforeducationcanada.org/gaw/en/.

Youth-Friendly Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

UNICEF Canada, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children and YOUCAN collaborated to produce a youth-friendly version of the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict (OPAC), in cooperation with the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The objective of the initiative is to provide children and young people under 18, particularly if they are considering joining the armed forces or are otherwise involved in any kind of armed forces education or training, a tool that informs them of their rights under OPAC.

Over 80 Canadian young people (under 18), representing a diverse cross-section of children and youth from across Canada including a variety of experiences, geographic, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, participated to influence the content and the design of the youth-friendly OPAC. To our knowledge, this initiative is the first of its kind globally, and therefore constitutes a model practice for implementing OPAC.

The youth-friendly OPAC is available in English, French and Oji-Cree and can be downloaded at:

www.unicef.ca/youthfriendlyopac (English and Oji-Cree)
www.unicef.ca/pfadestineauxjeunes (French)



On November 20, 2009 the world will mark the 20th anniversary of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*

(CRC). UNICEF Canada plans to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Convention throughout the year, leading up to November 20th, with a range of national and regional activities and is creating a logo for the 20th anniversary of the Convention. **Young people under 18 are invited to submit a three-word slogan or tagline about the anniversary that complements this anniversary horn.**

Please visit www.unicef.ca/crcat20 for details on how to submit entries and deadlines for the contest.

We hope to see your entry!



High school students take a stand against malaria

Over the fall and winter of 2008/09, students from 164 high schools across Canada participated in the **Spread the Net Student Challenge** and collectively raised close to \$200,000 to help in the fight against malaria. Students from John F. Ross C.V.I in Guelph, Ontario (pictured), with the help of teacher-organizer

James Ball, hosted a magic show, created fundraising t-shirts, and held numerous community events to raise awareness of malaria and its effect on children. Their efforts resulted in their whole community getting engaged, helping them raise close to \$60,000. Similarly, Port

Dover Composite School (Port Dover, Ontario) – a small high school of only 320 students and 12 teachers – raised over \$48,000 for the cause, by holding unique and interesting events such as polar bear dip, meat auctions, and daring their local RCMP chief to kiss a pig.

Can your students picture a better world?

UNICEF Canada, Pier 1 and OwIKids are once again joining forces to host the 4th Annual Greeting Card Contest. Children 14 and younger are invited to submit a drawing on the theme of "Joy to the World". If selected, your students drawings will be printed as an official UNICEF Holiday card and sold at Pier 1 Imports stores nationwide. Children are also eligible to win a \$5,000 scholarship and \$500 worth of art supplies for their school. For more information visit: <http://www.pier1.ca/canada/en/UNICEF/tabid/545/Default.aspx>



What would you say to the world's leaders?

The Junior 8 2009 competition is open. For more information visit www.unicef.junior8summit

Water – The Global Connection

“Imagine for a moment that all water on Earth came from just one well. This isn’t as strange as it sounds. All water on Earth is connected, so there really is just one source – one global well – from which we all draw our water.”

– Rochelle Strauss

In British Columbia we are very fortunate to have an abundance of water, not only in the amount of rain that falls but in the natural beauty of the Pacific Ocean, lakes, rivers and waterfalls. With water being so much a part of British Columbian’s lives it may be difficult for students to relate to the need for clean water, or a shortage of water in other parts of the world. Here are a few resources that are recommended for students to make the global connection.

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth

Written in 2007 by Canadian author Rochelle Strauss, this book beautifully portrays the importance of water on Earth, presenting facts in a simple yet meaningful way.

Where is the Water on Earth

Oceans	97.23%
Icecaps and glaciers	2.14%
Groundwater	0.61%
Freshwater Lakes	0.009%
Inland saltwater seas	0.008%
Moisture in the soil	0.005%
Water in the atmosphere	0.001%
Rivers	0.0001%

Average Daily Water Use Per Person

North America	550L
Russia	275L
Poland	140L
India	70L
Nepal	30L
Haiti	15L

Photo essays are a great way for students to connect with others around the world.

- **Children and water**
http://www.unicef.org/photo_essays/31695.html
- **Child’s View Tsunami Recovery Continues**
http://www.unicef.org/photo_essays/37761.html



Walk for Water

Last year several schools took part in a Walk for Water Day to raise awareness for the need for clean water in many counties around the world. In the picture below students at Cougar Canyon, Delta School District joined in a school wide walk for water day.

This year if you would like to plan a Walk for Water Day please email me at: kquinlan@unicef.ca. This is a great connection to both World Water Day and Earth Day!

Wishing you all the best for a wonderful spring season.

Kelly Quinlan