



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**5<sup>th</sup> WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CONGRESS**  
*Earth, our common home*  
**Montreal 2009**

## **MAY 10 TO 14 IN MONTRÉAL**

### **2 000 PARTICIPANTS, A SINGLE VISION: EARTH, OUR COMMON HOME**

Montréal, May 10, 2009 – Some 2 000 delegates from around the world gathered today at Montréal's *Palais des congrès* to officially kick off the 5th World Environmental Education Congress organized by the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM) and Ontario's Lakehead University, in collaboration with the *Association québécoise pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement* (AQPERE) and the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM). Representing every corner of the globe and all sectors engaged in environmental education, from universities to national, regional and international organizations, associations and networks, these stakeholders have come together to reflect on how environmental education can help us create a better, more harmonious "Earth, our common home", the vision for this world Congress.

Via the event's diverse program of activities, the delegates will be called upon to consider three fundamental questions: How can environmental education add meaning to our lives? How can it contribute to social innovation? How can it influence public policy?

Insisting on the urgency and the importance of the challenges that lay ahead, Mr. Stephen Lewis, professor in Global Health at McMaster University's Faculty of Social Sciences, who has been actively involved with the United Nations for more than two decades, particularly with UNICEF, AIDS in Africa and climate change encouraged delegates that "In order to avert the crisis that is rising, we have to educate the citizens of the world".

This 5th World Congress will centre on twelve complementary themes, addressing topics ranging from health, economy, society, heritage, ethics, identity, indigenous practices, etc. International socioscientific experts will be on hand to share and discuss their work, projects and ideas through presentations delivered in the form of workshops, oral presentations, round tables and posters. A series of symposia will allow delegates to delve more deeply into specific aspects of environmental education.

An array of parallel activities, open to the general public, will also serve to further enrich this reflection process for participants. These events will include an International Festival of Environmental Storytelling, which takes place on the evenings of Monday through Thursday at Montréal's *Café Sarajevo* and *Bar Populaire*, and an Eco-Show to be held at the Montréal Biosphère on Tuesday, May 12.

But that's not all! Congress organizers have gone to considerable lengths to ensure that this is an eco-responsible event by implementing concrete measures in four main areas of action, namely communication and awareness, ecological footprint, responsible consumption and social responsibility.

Following earlier world environmental education congresses, this 5th World Congress seeks to stimulate, strengthen and promote the commitment of all stakeholders engaged in the process of environmental education, with a view to finding solutions to our existing socio-economic problems and promoting the eco-development of our societies.

View the full Congress [program](#).

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Source:

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