



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**5th WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CONGRESS**

Earth, our common home
Montreal 2009

5TH WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONGRESS

RICARDO PETRELLA: "LIFE BELONGS TO EVERYONE"

Montréal, May 11, 2009 – The 5th World Environmental Education Congress has now moved into high gear in Montréal, with 2,000 delegates from around the world brainstorming on how environmental education can help us create a better, more harmonious "Earth, our common home", the vision for this world event 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).

Before moving on to today's themed discussions, Congress delegates had the opportunity to benefit from the insight of keynote speakers Riccardo Petrella, Secretary General of the *Comité international pour un contrat mondial de l'eau* (international committee for a global water contract), and Ariana Victoria Puiggrós, a pillar of popular education in Latin America and Director of the APPEAL program (*Alternativas pedagógicas y prospectiva educativa en América Latina*) in Mexico and Argentina.

The lecturers were particularly interested in the construction of a more human society that would be "educated to a wisdom of life", like mister Petrella calls it, and that would take into consideration popular and alternative knowledge.

This 5th World Congress focuses 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. Guests from various organizations and institutions will also gather for a five-panel Political Forum to discuss the contributions, challenges and issues involved in supporting, developing and promoting environmental education.

A number of parallel activities, open to the general public, have also been organized to further enrich the reflection process for participants. These events include an International Festival of Environmental Storytelling, which continues tonight, Wednesday evening and Thursday evening at Montréal's Café Sarajevo and Bar Populaire, and an Eco-Show on Tuesday, May 12, at the Montréal Biosphère

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.

The 5th World Environmental Education Congress will carry on until Wednesday may 14th.

View the full Congress [program](#).

– 30 –

Source:

Isabelle Beaudin

Media Relations Coordinator

5th World Environmental Education Congress

Tel.: (514) 987-3000, ext. 2740

medias5weec@uqam.ca

<http://www.5weec.uqam.ca/>
