

March 2009

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## Notable & Upcoming

**April 21-23, 2009**  
2009 Virtual School  
Society Annual Spring  
Conference  
Learning: Anytime,  
Anywhere

**April 30, 2009**  
Sharing the Dream  
webcast #4 with  
Severn Cullis-Suzuki

**May 29, 2009**  
B.C. Literacy Award  
Submission Deadline

Visit the EdInfo site at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfor/>.

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## B.C. Literacy Award Now Open for Nominations

Premier Gordon Campbell opened the call for nominations for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award for British Columbia on March 21, 2009. The award honours an individual, group or project that has made a significant contribution to literacy in each of Canada's 13 provinces and territories.

To be eligible, nominees must have lived in the province for at least two years and consent to their nomination. Eligible nominees may be current or former students, literacy volunteers, practitioners, teachers, administrators, researchers, businesses or organizations. Winners will be announced at the Council of the Federation meeting in Regina in early August 2009. The nomination deadline for the B.C. award is May 29, 2009.

The award was created by Canada's premiers to acknowledge outstanding achievement in all areas of literacy, including early childhood, family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy.

For more information on the awards and to access the nomination form, visit [www.readnowbc.ca/council\\_fed\\_literacy\\_award.html](http://www.readnowbc.ca/council_fed_literacy_award.html)

## B.C. Teachers Honoured for Excellence



2008 Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence Recipients with Education Minister Shirley Bond and Lieutenant Governor Steven Point

The Province of B.C. celebrated Education Week, March 2-8, by honouring education leaders, students and staff for their outstanding contributions to the community. On March 2, 2009, twenty teachers from around the province were recognized by Education Minister Shirley Bond for their dedication to students and student learning at the Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence.

The award winners work directly with students within the B.C. K-12 public, independent or band school systems. Lieutenant Governor Steven Point and Minister Bond presented the winning teachers with a certificate of achievement during an official ceremony at Government House. Each award winner also received \$1,500 for professional development. For more information on the awards and the list of 2009 recipients, please see the "Province Recognizes Education Leaders" at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/teacherawards/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/teacherawards/).

At the Celebration of Learning Luncheon on March 3, Minister Bond recognized a number of principals, support staff, teachers, students and education partners who had received the following awards:

- Learning Partnerships Canada's Outstanding Principals 2009;
- Staples Canada's Show Your Teacher Appreciation Contest;
- Council of the Federation Literacy Award;
- ASTSBC School Bus Driver of the Year 2008;
- George Matthews Award for Excellence in Parent Leadership;
- National Inclusive Education Award;
- Recognition of Distinguished Service; and
- Earth 4 School.

For a complete list of people and schools recognized, please see "Province Recognizes Education Leaders" at [www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2009EDUC0027-000268.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009EDUC0027-000268.htm).

## Council of Ministers of Education Gets Enhanced Website and New Logo

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) has launched an enhanced website and a new logo, marking another chapter in the renewal of CMEC as the voice for education in Canada and on the international stage.

Check out the website at [www.cmec.ca](http://www.cmec.ca). It is a valuable resource for education partners and the general public. The site showcases key initiatives and activities, provides easier and more focused access to CMEC educational materials and tools, and serves as a gateway for information sharing and learning about the diverse education systems of our provinces and territories.

## Ruth King Elementary Takes a Lead in Anti-Bullying Campaign

At Ruth King Elementary School in Langford, the school's creative anti-bullying campaign has been rocking strong for more than eleven years.

Every year, the entire school participates in the Ruth King rally, guided by the slogan: "Ruth King ROCKS" (Respect and Responsibility, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness and Safety). The rally encourages students to stand up for one another against bullying.

More information on this program can be found at the school website at <http://ruthking.sd62.bc.ca/>.

## Youth Climate Leadership Alliance



The Youth Climate Leadership Alliance (YCLA) is a Ministry of Environment initiative for British Columbians ages 17-28 who are concerned about climate change and want to take direct action. Their goal is to help the province reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by making environmentally-friendly lifestyle choices.

Currently, ten YCLA facilitators are working directly with schools and local governments to engage youth, and provide students with opportunities in community climate action initiatives. For example, they have travelled to schools throughout the province this year to promote local stewardship and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives to secondary school students. Some of their collaborations with schools include: transportation emission reduction programs (available at [www.hastebc.org/](http://www.hastebc.org/)) and the Trees for Tomorrow initiative for school grounds ([www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/](http://www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/)).

Find out how these young facilitators can help your school's green initiatives! Their locations and contact information are available on the YCLA website at: [www.ycla.ca/](http://www.ycla.ca/).

## Global Connections for Students



[Adopt a Country](#) is a school-based program that enhances global citizenship and awareness by encouraging students to learn about other countries, and by connecting BC students with peers around the world.

Download the Adopt a Country School Guide for details on how to register your students' "adoption" of one of the participating countries in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and for suggestions on how teachers can integrate this program into existing class work. Schools can also register to receive updates about opportunities to connect with schools in their adopted country or for the chance to meet Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The guide is available at [www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/adopt-a-country/](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/adopt-a-country/).

Visit the [Sharing the Dream](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/) website at [www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/) to learn more about this program and to access a variety of additional resources and tools to use in your classroom.

## Youth Environmentalism with Severn Cullis-Suzuki



On Thursday, April 30, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, environmental activist, speaker and author will join students and teachers in BC, across Canada, and around the world in an interactive discussion on environmental issues and ways that students can become community leaders in environmental protection.

The Ministry of Education's [Sharing the Dream website](#) offers information on this student-led webcast, as well as links to archived webcasts with Olympic gold medalist Carol Huynh, and internationally renowned youth entrepreneur Michael Furdyk.

The website also includes links to lessons plans for teachers, plus additional information on 2010-related programs and activities for students and educators. Check out the site at [www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/webcasts.php](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/webcasts.php).

## Torch Relay School Kit

From October 30, 2009 to February 12, 2010, 12,000 Canadians will carry the Olympic flame 45,000 km from coast to coast by foot, wheelchair, float plane, bike and horse.

The [Torch Relay School Kit](#), created by the Canadian Olympic Committee School Program with support from RBC, offers lesson plans that help connect the flame's symbolism to the role of students in their understanding and promotion of peace, unity and friendship in Canada and around the world.

For more information on the Canadian Olympic School Program, go to [www.olympicschool.ca/](http://www.olympicschool.ca/). The Torch Relay Kit is available at: [www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/feature-programs/-/61728/33978/862beu/olympic-torch-relay-school-kit.html](http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/feature-programs/-/61728/33978/862beu/olympic-torch-relay-school-kit.html).

## Celebrate International Paralympism

November 2-6, 2009 is Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week.

[Celebrating Paralympic School Week in Your School](#), a guide developed by educators for educators, has suggestions for planning school-wide and classroom-based activities for a range of grades and subject areas. The guide also identifies useful links and resources that support educators and students who are organizing their own Paralympic School Week. Read all about it at [www.vancouver2010.com/dl/00/56/18/-/56180/prop=data/1bmrh5d/56180.pdf](http://www.vancouver2010.com/dl/00/56/18/-/56180/prop=data/1bmrh5d/56180.pdf).

More information about the Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week, programs such as Paralympic School Day, Bon Voyage Sumi, and It's the Real Deal, can be found on [/EDU](#), the Canadian school portal for Vancouver 2010, at [www.vancouver.2010.com/edu](http://www.vancouver.2010.com/edu).

## Share your History at the BC Provincial Heritage Fair



Students from Delta Aboriginal Program present their projects at the 2008 Provincial Fair.

Want to learn more about the unique heritage of your family, region or a key figure? Dig into history and share your findings with students in your region and across B.C. with the British Columbia Provincial Heritage Fairs Program.

The British Columbia Heritage Fairs Society (BCHFS) invites B.C. students from grade four to nine to “step into history.” The Heritage Fairs Program provides young people with a unique opportunity to learn more about the heritage, culture and history of Canada through their own research and the research of others.

Participants will follow a research path to share their projects at the class/school level. Selected projects will be showcased at the Regional Fair in their particular area in May. Four winners will have the opportunity to travel with an accompanying adult to the Provincial Fair in Victoria from June 29 to July 3.

For further information, including regional contact information and dates, visit the British Columbia Historical Fairs website at [www.bchistoricalfairs.ca/](http://www.bchistoricalfairs.ca/). Contact Mary Compone, BC Heritage Fairs Coordinator at 250-374-1509 ([gordmaryc@shaw.ca](mailto:gordmaryc@shaw.ca)) if you have any questions.

## Free Starter Kits from Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train Program

Your school could receive free starter kits and incentives to help set up safer school routes for students! The [Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train Program](#) is offering schools free starter kits and incentives to support schools across BC in setting up active and safe routes to school.

Starter kits include reflective vests and arm-bands, safety information, and the Bike Safe, Walk Smart DVD. Schools can also apply for up to a maximum of \$500 of incentive equipment, including bicycle racks, pedometers and bike locks, to help support their continued success.

To apply for free starter kits and incentive equipment visit the HASTE website at [www.hastebc.org/walking-school-busbicycletrain](http://www.hastebc.org/walking-school-busbicycletrain). Additional resources to help develop walking school bus, bicycle train, and best routes to school are also available on the website.

The Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train Program provides students with the opportunity to meet their daily physical activity requirements and reduce their carbon footprint. The program is a partnership between the Ministries of Education and Healthy Living and Sport, the Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH BC) and the Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions (HASTE).

## Win Free Pedometers for your Students and School Staff

At Golden Secondary School in Golden, milk sales and lunch program orders have doubled since vending machine choices have been limited to water, juice and nutritious snacks. PE students have become engaged in their own personal fitness with the implementation of a new running program with heart rate monitoring. The school has also introduced seven new fitness courses outside of regular PE classes, like Junior and Senior Outdoor Education and Hockey School 8-12.

All across the province, educators and school administrators are finding great ways to incorporate healthy living practices into extracurricular and regular school programming.

Have a great story of your own? Share your story on how your secondary school is moving down the road to healthy living and your school could receive 60 free pedometers! Ten submissions will be randomly drawn each month. To submit your story and get inspired by other creative ideas from schools around B.C., visit [www.healthyeatingatschool.com](http://www.healthyeatingatschool.com) and click on the Success Stories tab.

The pedometer incentive is a 2010 Legacies Now initiative supported by ActNow BC through the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.