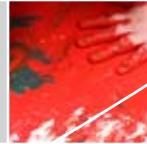




CANADIAN NETWORK FOR  
ARTS AND LEARNING



# **FOR** Framework Action



*This framework was unanimously adopted in principle on  
October 31st, 2008, by the Canadian Arts and Learning  
Symposium, held in Kingston, Ontario, October 29 to 31, 2008.*



CANADIAN NETWORK FOR ARTS AND LEARNING

# **FOR** Framework Action

## **PREAMBLE**

Imagine a different world. A world in which the arts and creative activity are recognized as being integral to the fulfilled human life. A world in which the arts and creative activity are fundamental elements of the learning process, not only at school but throughout life.

This framework invites participation in the construction of that new world via a form of learning, in which knowledge and wisdom are built in a climate of generosity, collaboration and imagination.

International research offers mounting evidence of the value of arts and learning, both as an intrinsic component of human culture that deserves formal recognition in the school curriculum and as an instrument for achieving a wide range of essential learning goals, both in formal and informal settings.

Numerous studies make the point that the arts can enhance the social, psychological, ethical and physical development of the child or adolescent as a healthy, productive and democratic individual. A young person who is exposed to the arts at school or in the community has an enhanced potential to become a more creative, imaginative, empathetic, expressive, confident, self-reliant and critically thinking human being.

At the same time, engagement with creative activity is widely recognized as a significant contributor to the prosperity of cities and regions, as well as helping to build healthy, diverse and harmonious communities.

It is also increasingly understood that a wide range of individuals and influences – arts organizations, educators, artists, community organizers, political and business leaders, parents and students themselves – have a significant role to play in promoting arts and learning both within our schools and within community-based programs.

## **CONTEXT**

The lasting values of arts and learning are reinforced by conclusions of numerous scholarly papers and background documents prepared for and presented at the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education held in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2006. The Roadmap for Arts Education<sup>1</sup> which was produced by that Conference affirms that all humans have creative potential. The arts provide an environment and practice where the learner is actively engaged in creative experiences, processes, and development. Education in and through the arts stimulates cognitive, psychological, physical and social development and can increase the relevance of how and what learners learn to the needs of the modern societies in which they live.

The Canadian Network for Arts and Learning (CNAL) has been conceived as a follow-up to the 2006 World Conference in Lisbon, and to help prepare a Canadian response to the next World Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 2010. The idea of the network was discussed at the National Arts and Learning Symposium which took place at the University of Ottawa in May 2007, following the Lisbon Conference. The creation of the network became one of the key elements of the Action Plan<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Symposium, with the aim of enabling Canadian stakeholders—including artists, educators, community and business leaders, academics, researchers and representatives of government and non-governmental organizations—to work together and, by sharing their collective experience, to advocate and promote arts and learning.

A proposed annual gathering on Arts and Learning will build on the Action Plan and, in the larger context, complement the Lisbon Roadmap.

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO (2006) Road Map for Arts Education: Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century. [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=30335&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=30335&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

<sup>2</sup> Details of the Action Plan can be found at [eduarts.ca](http://eduarts.ca)

Initially, it is proposed that the network be housed at The Faculty of Education, Queen's University in Kingston, home of the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning, whose incumbent is Professor Larry O'Farrell.

## **THE FRAMEWORK**

### **Description**

The Canadian Network for Arts and Learning (CNAL) is a not-for-profit, inclusive and accessible network intended to connect a broad range of governmental and non-governmental entities and individuals in joint initiatives to advance arts and learning.

The Network defines arts and learning as formal, non-formal and informal learning in the arts, taking place in educational institutions or community settings, and including lifelong learning.

### **Mission**

The mission of CNAL is to promote awareness of the benefits of the arts and creativity for all Canadians, to serve as a forum for the dissemination of research and exemplary practices, and to identify and mobilize partners committed to the goals of the Network.

### **Goals**

- Develop resources, both tangible and creative, to strengthen arts and learning for the benefit of all Canadians
- Strengthen bridges between all who share a commitment to arts and learning
- Promote recognition of the importance of arts and learning in public policies
- Affirm the right to education and the right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community (as stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 26-27, and the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 28 and 31)
- Encourage quality learning programs for artists, educators and community arts organizers

- Advocate appropriate investment and the effective implementation of exemplary programs led by qualified arts educators throughout education systems
- Foster and disseminate Canadian research in arts and learning

### ***Proposed Network Activities***

A key activity of the proposed network will be an annual Canadian gathering on arts and learning. Great importance is attached to the plan of actions, procedures and outcomes which were agreed on at the first National Symposium in Ottawa (May 2007), resulting from the 2006 World Conference. The CNAL will provide a focal point for the plans and projects that emerged from this first Symposium and will be guided by the outcomes from future symposia. The formal creation of the network was a key conclusion of the second National Symposium, held at Queen's University in October 2008.

CNAL will demonstrate collective leadership in refining exemplary practices and facilitating communication among the diverse players to help develop strong positions on arts and learning.

As a pan-Canadian resource, it will act as a vehicle to articulate Canadian perspectives and initiate and sustain conversations among artists, educators and business and community leaders. It will do this through mechanisms such as live and virtual forums, an interactive website, videoconferencing as well as targeted awareness-building activities.

The UNESCO Chair at Queen's University will further assist the process by coordinating specific events such as the interactive web-cast symposium that has already been undertaken.

### ***Network Development***

The development of the network is currently overseen by the Steering Committee which was originally formed to organize the 2007 Ottawa Symposium.

As preparations for the Seoul conference intensify, the Steering Committee considers it important that the network include representation from the widest possible spectrum of interested agencies and individuals from across Canada, ensuring linguistic, cultural, regional and gender balance. Consideration will also be given to the establishment of a high profile Advisory Council, drawn

from all levels of education, government and the private sector, to assist in representing the network to the Canadian public.

**Conclusion**

Inspired by UNESCO's commitment to arts education, the Canadian Network for Arts and Learning is a uniquely Canadian response to research that demonstrates the intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of the arts to learners of all ages, in both formal and non-formal learning environments. It aims to bring together a wide range of stakeholders in a collaboration aimed at raising awareness of the advantages of arts and learning, informing cultural and educational policy, improving the quality of programs for all those who wish to learn – children, students, young adults, adults and seniors – and fostering research and exemplary practices..

## **Members of the Steering Committee of the Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning, 2008**

Annalee Adair, Executive Director,  
Artssmarts

Linda Albright, Founder of the Arts  
Network for Children and Youth

Madeleine Aubrey, Part-time Professor,  
University of Ottawa, Arts Consultant

Katherine Berg, Special Advisor to the  
Secretary-General, Canadian Commission  
for UNESCO

Dr. Jonathan Bolduc, Adjunct Professor,  
Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa

Pierre Bourbeau, Director-General,  
*Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*

Steven Campbell, Arts Education specialist

Jennifer Cooke, Director, *Ici par les arts*

Angela Elster, Vice-President, Academic,  
The Royal Conservatory of Music

Dr. Eric Favaro, Arts Education Consultant,  
Nova Scotia

John Hobday C.M., former Director, Canada  
Council for the Arts, former Executive  
Director, Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Family  
Foundation, former National Director,  
Canadian Conference for the Arts

Danika Billie Littlechild, Barrister &  
Solicitor, Vice-Chair, Sectoral Commission  
on Culture, Communication and Information,  
Canadian Commission for UNESCO,  
Co-Chair, Learning Through the Arts  
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Professor Larry O'Farrell, holder of the  
UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning,  
Faculty of Education, Queen's University

Dr. Ann Patteson, Director of Academic  
Research, Learning Through the Arts,  
The Royal Conservatory of Music

Douglas Riske, Executive Director,  
Manitoba Arts Council

Dr. Lydia Sharman, Professor Emeritus,  
Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University;  
member of joint Concordia/UQUAM  
research group, Hexagram: The Institute of  
Research and Creation in Media Arts and  
Technologies

Theodora Stathopoulos, President, QMEA,  
Head of String Department, Fine Arts Core  
Education School (FACE)

Mariette Théberge, *Professeur en  
pédagogie des arts*, Faculty of Education,  
University of Ottawa

Inouk Touzin, *Codirecteur artistique, Groupe  
des Deux; Passeur Théâtral, Regroupement  
artistique francophone de l'Alberta*

Dr. Michael Wilson, Arts education  
consultant

Reg Winsor, Executive Director,  
Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council;  
Chair, Canadian Public Arts Funders Arts  
and Learning Working Group

Max Wyman, O.C., Chair, Metro Vancouver  
Regional Culture Committee; Immediate  
Past President, Canadian Commission for  
UNESCO

*The Steering Committee was co-chaired by  
Professors Madeleine Aubrey and  
Larry O'Farrell.*