

# A Vision for Education

All children in Canada will start school each day ready to learn.

They will graduate from school with a zest for learning, having achieved their personal best.

They will be self-reliant, caring and responsible citizens.

They will have the skills they need for employability and self-employment.

They will be ready to take personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

*National Council on Education Statement, 1994*

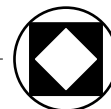
## 5 Things *YOU* Can Do

### **Students...**

- Start school every day ready to learn. Get enough sleep. Exercise. Eat food that is good for your body. Talk to someone you trust if you are having problems.
- Find out what kinds of skills employers are looking for and make sure you find ways—in school and outside—to develop those skills. Volunteer in your community. Build a portfolio to demonstrate your accomplishments.
- Give learning the time it needs. Balance school, play and part-time work. Study. Do your homework. Invest now so you will have more earning power and more choices later.
- Develop good work and learning habits. Talk to other students about how they approach projects and assignments. Help others. Have fun.
- Stay in school until you graduate. Plan your next steps. Your future depends on it.

### **Educators...**

- Be a champion for learning and an advocate for students. Talk specifics about the benefits of education and the investment it requires.
- Find innovative ways to engage parents. Use existing community resources. Make your school a centre for family and community learning.
- Help students see how they can use their strengths to build their futures. Discuss the need for employability skills. Examine what your school is doing to equip students for work. Search out good ideas elsewhere.
- Look for creative ways to invest in professional development. Partner with employers and community organizations to broaden your experience and learn new skills. Reciprocate. Invite them into your schools to learn from you.
- Expect hard work. Reward creativity and quality. Celebrate student achievement.



### **Family...**

- Help your children start school each day ready to learn. Ensure they get a good breakfast. Give them a safe, healthy and loving home.
- Read to your children from the time they are babies. Have them read to you and make sure they see you reading. Tell stories.
- Expect hard work at school. Talk to your children about why school is important. Encourage them to talk about what they are doing in school. Know what work teachers expect, and make sure your children complete it.
- Recognize the importance of employability skills to your children's future and help them make good choices.
- Get involved in your children's learning. Be aware of the role that technology is playing. Find out about after-school and summer programs. Talk to teachers. Encourage schools to develop partnerships in the community.

### **Employers...**

- Be a champion for education. Celebrate, showcase and reward your employees for getting involved.
- Partner with schools, colleges and universities in your community. Share resources and provide opportunities for students and teachers to learn first-hand about the world of work. Participate in co-op, apprenticeship, intern, mentoring and other programs.
- Communicate the importance of skills for employability. Talk to educators, students and parents. Ask for student portfolios. Demonstrate that working hard and doing well in school counts. When you employ students, help them balance school and work.
- Help ensure that students have access to the tools and technology they need, either in the classroom or elsewhere.
- Make your workplace family friendly. Support your employees to be good parents.

This document was developed by the National Council on Education and the Canadian Education Leadership Network, two programs of The Conference Board of Canada.



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# A Call to Action

Today, more than ever, a good education is critical to the economic and social well-being of our young people.

Canadians know this, and they value and support our publicly funded schools. They recognize, too, that each of us can make a difference in the quality and impact of a student's education. It will take all of us to ensure that young people learn what they need to learn to succeed in the Canada of the next century.

This document suggests 20 actions we can take—5 each for students, parents and other family members, educators and employers.

Let us know what *you* are doing. We will connect you with others and relay success stories through the Canadian Business–Education Network:

[www.conferenceboard.ca/cben](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/cben)

## Did You Know...

- Children whose parents are involved directly in their learning from the time they are born do better in school.
- More than half our children attend schools with inadequate science equipment, computers and software.
- The single most important factor in getting and keeping a job is the completion of education.
- Although business–education partnerships are set up to benefit students, 90 per cent of employees involved in these partnerships improve their own skills and job performance.
- Training and development expenditure per capita for the education sector is 30 per cent of the average for all sectors.

***Members of the National Council on Education and the Canadian Education Leadership Network developed and endorse this Call to Action.***

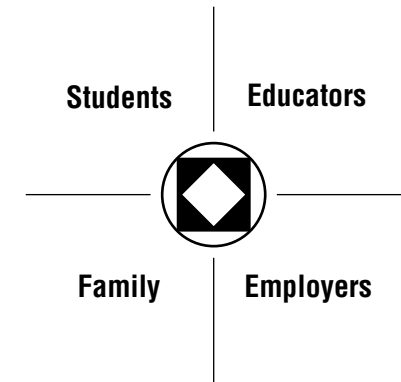
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# Investing In Education

## 5 Things YOU Can Do



## A Call to Action

We invite you to use this statement as a framework for dialogue, partnership and action



The Conference Board of Canada