

About This Vision Statement

In April 1993, the members of the Conference Board's National Council on Education issued a working paper: **Matching Education to the Needs of Society: A Vision Statement**. Based on their knowledge and experience, this working paper reflected an emerging consensus around some directions for change in education.

The members of the National Council on Education, who represent business, education, government, labour, and youth and social services, have developed this document in consultation with Canadians, after having reviewed similar documents issued by other educational organizations.

This document summarizes the results of these consultations, suggests a vision statement for our children, and identifies strategic areas for action.

The National Council on Education is developing a profile of needs for each of these areas, assessing the current reality, and developing an action plan for partnerships between education, business and the community to help meet these needs.

This project has been supported by the Canadian Studies Program of the Canadian Heritage Department. The opinions expressed in this document are not necessarily the views of the Government of Canada.



The Conference Board of Canada

255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8M7
Canada
Telephone: (613) 526-3280
Fax: (613) 526-4857

Information for Sound Decisions Since 1954

The National Council on Education

Walter F. Light, Honorary Chairman
Purdy Crawford, Imasco Limited, Business Co-Chair
Gary W. Tushingham, Calgary Board of Education,
Education Co-Chair
Reno A. Bosetti, Alberta Education
James C. Rush, Bank of Montreal
I. Barry Scott, CP Rail System, Canadian Pacific Ltd.
Georges C. Clermont, Canada Post Corporation
James A. McCambly, Canadian Federation of Labour
Lyle K. MacLennan, Carleton Board of Education
Arthur Kroeger, Carleton University
Veronica S. Lacey, City of North York Board
of Education
Yves Sanssouci, Collège Édouard-Montpetit
James R. Nininger, The Conference Board of Canada
Gilles Rhéaume, The Conference Board of Canada
David R. McCamus, Corporate Director
Michael Sullivan, Decima Research
Angus A. Bruneau, Fortis Inc.
Cynthia Morton, Government of British Columbia
G.C. Keilty, Government of New Brunswick
Jean-Jacques Noreau, Human Resources
Development Canada
Robert B. Peterson, Imperial Oil Limited
James W. Ashcroft, INCO Limited
Harry S. Swain, Industry Canada
Thomas L. Wood, Mount Royal College
Lt.-Gen. Paul G. Addy, National Defence
Alfred Powis, Noranda Inc.
Gary P. Donahee, Northern Telecom
John H. Farrell, Northwest Tel
Janet E. Halliwell, Nova Scotia Council on
Higher Education
C. Wesley Scott, Stentor Resource Centre Inc.
Eric P. Newell, Syncrude Canada Ltd.
André LeBel, Teleglobe Canada Inc.
Neil Webber, TELUS Corporation
Michel Gervais, Université Laval
David W. Strangway, University of British Columbia
Marsha P. Hanen, The University of Winnipeg
Sol Kasimer, YMCA Canada

Co-ordinator

MaryAnn McLaughlin, National Business and
Education Centre

Également disponible en français.

Matching Education to the Needs of Society

A Vision for All Our Children

The National Council on Education invites students, parents, teachers, employers, and labour and community leaders to use this vision statement as a framework for dialogue, partnership and action



The Conference Board of Canada

Canadians Have High Expectations for Their Children

Faced with sweeping social and economic changes affecting our country and the future of our children, Canadians express legitimate concerns about schooling: Is the present system capable of preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century and for a working life that is characterized by high technology and rapid change?

Canadians agree . . .

The quality and relevance of schooling is critical to the future of our children.

There must be an adequate balance between the goals of education: preparation for further studies, preparation for the world of work, citizenship, and personal development.

Canada needs a new system of lifelong learning that will match the evolving needs of Canadian society.

. . . and recognize that education is a shared responsibility.

We expect governments, schools, students and parents to be accountable for results.

We expect support from business, community, social and other organizations to help set up public schools for success.

We Need a Vision

Sharing responsibility and setting up our schools for success begins with the development of a clear vision and common goals.

Developing a vision together fosters mutual understanding about education, facilitates dialogue among stakeholders, and promotes action, especially at the local level where change must happen.

A Vision for All Our Children

*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.*

From Vision to Action

Canadians have identified three strategic priorities for action. The National Council on Education has adopted these priorities as its policy agenda to promote the collaborative renewal of education across Canada.

All our children must become . . .

. . . ready to learn . . .

- all children must start school ready to learn and maintain their readiness throughout their lives
- each community must ensure that the proper nurturing of children receives the highest priority

. . . ready to work . . .

- children must acquire the new generic skills for employability and self-employment: academic, personal management and teamwork skills
- schools and businesses must collaborate to facilitate the transition between education and work

. . . and lifelong learners

- schooling must provide the foundation skills for children to become lifelong learners at work and in the community
- Canada must become a learning society, develop a clear commitment to value and promote lifelong learning

Taking Personal Responsibility for Change

Achieving such a vision will require an unprecedented level of co-operation between schools and their partners.

The National Council on Education invites students, parents, teachers, employers, and labour and community leaders to use this vision statement as a means to foster dialogue and action.

You, as a stakeholder in education, are invited to organize meetings with other stakeholders in your community.

Your agenda for visioning and action can be built around these four questions asked of the participants:

- How does this vision statement apply to your school and community?
- What would you change to make it your own vision?
- What key partnerships can you establish to realize your vision and make children ready to learn, ready to work and lifelong learners?
- What is your own role and responsibility in achieving your vision?

