

Case study thirty-one: Canada: Coalition for Arts Education

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Aims

Mission

To create a greater awareness of the benefits of arts and creativity as a learning strategy in Canadian schools and communities and to identify and mobilize partners to support a new vision for arts and learning in Canada.

Objectives

To ensure the permanent recognition of the importance of this principle in public policy we are committed to working together to:

- Produce and implement an advocacy strategy
- Develop strategic networks and partnerships
- Produce a Status Report on arts and learning in Canada
- Share research, models and best practices through a web-based clearinghouse
- Establish a central Secretariat to coordinate the work of partners

Project outline

To develop a National Framework for Arts Education in Canadian Schools

Research methods

Survey — Arts, arts education, and education groups were surveyed via extensive regional and national consultation processes.

Literature review — Literature reviews were conducted for each of the areas addressed in the national policy guidelines for arts education.

Results

A series of national consultations/symposia on arts education from 1997 to 2003 resulted in four documents available from <http://www.artsed.ca>:

- “Sharing the Vision: A National Framework for Arts Education in Canadian Schools”
- “Making the Vision Happen”
- “Policy Guidelines for Arts Education in Canadian Schools”
- “Report on Arts Education for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO”

Three books reported on symposia proceedings:

- *Connect, Combine, Communicate: Revitalizing the Arts in Canadian Schools*
- *Leadership, Advocacy, Communication: A Vision for Arts Education in Canada*
- *Professional development: Where Are the Gaps? Where Are the Opportunities?*

The project is also gathering research evidence and advocates for:

- The value of the arts for learning;
- The ability of the arts to nurture 21st century competencies;
- Instilling within education the necessary skills for employment opportunities in the cultural sector;
- Creative uses of new technology;
- The role of arts in community well-being;
- The ability of the arts to embrace globalisation while acknowledging distinct cultures, and;
- The role of the arts in assisting building understanding of each other.

Main Impact

To ensure that comprehensive, developmental arts education is available to all our children from K to 12.

Main Challenges

- Curriculum
- Cultural Diversity/Inclusion
- Teacher Education
- Resources
- Partnerships
- Research
- Leadership