



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

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News release

Canadian Wildlife Federation proudly supports the upcoming 5th World Environmental Education Congress

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2009

OTTAWA- Thousands of educators from across Canada and the world will have an opportunity to discuss the prevention and resolution of environmental issues at the 5WEEC World Environmental Education Congress. The event will take place in Montreal, Quebec from May 10 to 14, 2009.

“Environmental education plays a critical role in the future of the planet, and 5WEEC will provide the unique opportunity for some of the brightest minds to not only discuss current issues but also innovative resolution[s],” says Wade Luzny, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Thousands of representatives from all sectors of the environmental field, including educators, government, media and non-profits like CWF, will attend 5WEEC to discuss the planet's current state and the role of environmental education in achieving a greener tomorrow. The congress will explore key issues,

including how environmental education can add meaning to our lives, how it can contribute to social innovation and how it can influence policy.

One of the highlights of the congress is the Symposium hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute (CWFLI) on the current state of wildlife education. Held at the Sponsor Presentations venue and chaired by Dr. Grant A. Gardner, who is an Institute Fellow at CWFLI and Associate Vice-President (Academic) at Memorial University, this highly anticipated series of conversation sessions between panelists and 5WEEC delegates is not to be missed. Panelists include Richard Mrazek, Institute Fellow, CWFLI and Professor of Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Lethbridge; Yves Jean, Institute Fellow, CWFLI and Professor and Director, Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche, Sciences et Technologies, TELUQ/UQAM; Leo Elshof, Institute Fellow, CWFLI and Assistant Professor, Acadia University; and Luba Mycio-Mommers, Education Director, Canadian Wildlife Federation. All congress delegates are encouraged to participate in this innovative learning opportunity.

“Environmental education is a core function of CWF, and we will continue to think globally and act locally by informing, communicating and taking action on the biggest issues facing Canadian wildlife,” says Luzny.

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About the Canadian Wildlife Federation:

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation. By attaining and spreading knowledge about human impacts on the environment, sponsoring research, promoting sustainable use of natural resources, recommending changes to policy and cooperating with like-minded partners, CWF encourages a future in which Canadians can live in harmony with nature. Visit cwf-fcf.org for more information.

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Feature article

The Canadian Wildlife Federation Stresses the Importance of Environmental Education at the Upcoming 5th World Environmental Education Congress

Environmental awareness has shifted beyond a small group of concerned citizens to a mainstream global movement, and this May, Canada will host one of the most prominent international gatherings on environmental education.

Thousands of representatives from all sectors of the environmental field, including educators, government, media and non-profit organizations, like CWF, will attend the upcoming 5th World Environmental Education Congress (5WEEC) in Montreal to discuss the planet's current state and the role of environmental education in achieving a greener tomorrow. The event will take place from May 10 to 14, 2009.

“We understand the integral role Canadians play as both local and global citizens in the prevention and resolution of environmental issues,” says Wade Luzny, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. “But we must be informed about the state of our planet in order to conserve the natural habitat and the species that depend on it.”

The central theme of this year's Congress is *Earth, our common home*, in recognition of Earth as a place of co-existence and the foundation of identity, solidarity and socio-ecological relations. The Congress will raise some crucial points, including how environmental education can add meaning to our lives, how it can contribute to social innovation and how it can influence policy. By focusing on these complex questions, organizers hope to yield results that will in turn lead to action.

Environmental education plays a critical role in the future of the planet, and 5WEEC will provide a unique opportunity for some of the world's brightest minds to not only discuss current issues but also to devise innovative resolutions.

“Environmental education is a core function of CWF, and we will continue to take action on some of the biggest issues facing Canadian wildlife,” says Luzny.

About the Canadian Wildlife Federation:

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation. By attaining and spreading knowledge about human impacts on the environment, sponsoring research, promoting sustainable use of natural resources, recommending changes to policy and cooperating with like-minded partners, CWF encourages a future in which Canadians can live in harmony with nature. Visit cwf-fcf.org for more information.

5th World Environmental Education Congress Backgrounder

More and more people are showing their concern for the critical state of our planet. This year, those who care and those who are merely curious will meet to share their environmental knowledge at the 5th World Environmental Education Congress (5WEEC) in Montreal from May 10 to 14.

WEEC is a bi-annual gathering of environmental educators from around the world, including professors and teachers, mass media, government organizations,

non-profit groups, parks and museums, among others. The main goal of the event is to utilize some of the brightest brains on the planet to come up with solutions to our biggest environmental problems, or, as expressed by WEEC, to create “educational paths towards sustainability.” Participants will brainstorm ways to reach zero carbon emissions and waste production, discuss the consumption of local foods and tackle many more pressing issues.

Since its inception in 2003, WEEC has quickly gained popularity, drawing thousands of people from all over the world to take part in environmental education. The first meeting in Espinho, Portugal drew a crowd of 350 people and was a huge success. The following event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil surpassed expectations by gathering about 1,500 people, while the third meeting in Turin, Italy attracted an astounding 3,500 people. The fourth event, held in Durban, South Africa, drew nearly a thousand people, which was still considered successful due to the distance people had to travel to get there. The initial three congresses were held annually, but it has since been re-established as a bi-annual event.

One of the main purposes of 5WEEC is to collaboratively create an educational and sustainable way to live on our planet. The numerous topics discussed will take an educational approach to the complex relationship between economics, culture and environmentalism.

With support from CWF, along with a numerous other partners and supporters, the Congress will continue its efforts in May 2009.

About the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Educational Programs

More than 100,000 Canadian educators can’t be wrong. They’ve discovered how WILD Education can help them inform the next generation about vital ecological principles, from biodiversity conservation to habitat enhancement to endangered species recovery.

Our ever-growing selection of conservation education programs include Project WILD, Below Zero, Fish Ways, Ocean Education, WILD School, Focus on Forests and Space for Species. Each program is built on sound pedagogical foundations: a conceptual framework, curriculum links, piloting in Canadian classrooms and scientific scrutiny. Our programs are designed to meet the needs not only of teachers, but also of youth leaders, park naturalists and other conservation educators.

Discover how you, too, can give Canadians access to knowledge that is critical to the healthy future of our natural world through WILD Education programs. Visit WildEducation.org to learn more.

About the Canadian Wildlife Federation at 5WEEC

Innovative Learning About Wildlife Biodiversity: The Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute

This symposium will reflect on the current state of wildlife education, as determined by a major online survey being undertaken by the Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute (CWFLI). The discussion will be further informed by an innovative series of conversation sessions between panelists and 5WEEC delegates that will be held at the Sponsor Presentations venue on Monday and Tuesday of the Congress (times will be posted on www.5weec.uqam.ca). All congress delegates are invited to engage in these presentations to help advance research on innovative learning about wildlife biodiversity, and then to participate in the Symposium where we will bring it all together!

At the Symposium, the panel will address four specific areas:

- introduction to the survey and review of preliminary results;
- overview of the status, issues, existing networks and research in the field of Distance Learning applied to wildlife conservation;
- impacts of this type of learning and potential models, such as a Global Learning Space;
- current research on the level of adoption of emerging technologies by wildlife/environmental/biodiversity educators and reflections on how results will inform decision makers, such as the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada; and
- the CWFLI's vision on innovative lifelong learning to transform people's relationships with wildlife.

Chair and Moderator

- Dr. Grant A. Gardner, Institute Fellow, Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute and Associate Vice-President (Academic), Memorial University

Panelists

- Richard Mrazek, Institute Fellow, Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute and Professor of Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Lethbridge, Canada
- Yves Jean, Institute Fellow, Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute / Institute d'Éducation sur la Conservation and Professor and Director, Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche, Sciences et Technologies, TELUQ/UQAM, Canada
- Leo Elshof, Institute Fellow, Canadian Wildlife Federation Learning Institute and Assistant Professor, Acadia University, Canada
- Luba Mycio-Mommers, Education Director, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Canada

About the Canadian Wildlife Federation

The Canadian Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization that works with Canadians to make a difference to the kind of legacy we leave behind – not just for wildlife, but also for our children.

CWF represents 300,000 members and supporters that work from coast to coast to maintain something very important: a bright future for Canada's wildlife. By attaining and spreading knowledge about human impacts on the environment, sponsoring research, promoting sustainable use of natural resources, recommending changes to policy and cooperating with like-minded partners, CWF encourages a future in which Canadians can live in harmony with nature. Visit **cwf-fcf.org** for more information.

For more information

If you would like to learn more about 5WEEC or our WILD Education programs, contact us by email, phone, fax or mail at:

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