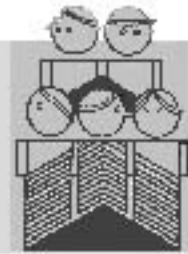


# The Learning Edge

## La Fine pointe



Periodical of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education  
Le périodique de liaison de l'Association Canadienne pour l'Étude de l'Éducation  
des Adultes

Fall Issue

Thirtieth Anniversary

November 2010

*From the Editor*

### CASAE CONFERENCE 2010, Concordia University, Montréal

CASAE's Conference for 2010 was held, once again, under the umbrella of this year's 79<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Held at Concordia University in Montréal the theme, 'Connected Understanding', resonated throughout a number of sessions I attended, both at the CASAE conference itself, and beyond.



Rose A. Dyson

For me the Congress began with the CASAE co-sponsored talk by the Hon. Edward Broadbent, former leader of the Federal New Democratic Party, and international consultant on human rights. Billed to be an examination of "The Rise and Fall of Economic and Social Rights" and "What's Next?", it was a scholarly and passionate review of the evolution of socially progressive legislation in Canada such as universal health care, welfare programs and unemployment insurance benefits

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### It's Our Time: a vision for the future

NATIONAL CHIEF SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO  
AFN Annual General Assembly 2010

#### *Overcoming division and Supporting our Youth to Succeed (Excerpt)*

Another interest throughout this year has been bridging division and encouraging dialogue. We have done this through recognizing and supporting the role of women, youth, elders and veterans through our meetings, Assemblies and gatherings. These efforts must continue to be strengthened and reinforced.

Looking forward, we will also advance an urban strategy that will implement previous mandates regarding First Nation governments as the representatives of all citizens regardless of residence and identify ways in which our organization can create more opportunities to engage our citizens no matter where they live. It is certainly clear that our citizens are now actively engaged in selecting leadership of their home communities from wherever they reside and many take an active interest and responsibility in our dialogue and in our future.

As I have said, our youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow but they are leaders right now. I am very pleased to have worked closely with the Youth Council on the launch of **IndigenACTION**. This is an initiative to bring together all of those involved in fitness, sport and activity for our young people and all members of our communities. Through a series of regional discussions, a national strategy will be built by and for our communities creating partnership and investment for our young athletes as well as supporting the overarching goal of community wellness, pride and confidence.

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## It's Our Time: a vision for the future *continued from page 1*

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I would like to reflect back on these critical pieces as they all form an integral part of a singular vision. A vision of wholeness, respect and harmony. **Wholeness** in terms of our individual and community lives achieved through healing and recovery, through building confidence, seizing opportunity, overcoming poverty and growing prosperity in our economies as well as our spiritual and physical lives.

**Respect** through reconciliation of our rights and our governments affirmed as the original Nations with rights, responsibilities and a very clear role as governments with intergovernmental and fiscal relations within Confederation that affirm our rights and our Treaties and uphold the honour of the Crown.

**Harmony** through bridged divisions within our communities, among the Indigenous Nations globally and with other governments and corporations domestically and internationally established out of respect and sustained through our active participation and voice in environmental and economic affairs.

In short, this is a vision of our Nations which reflects on our proud heritage and resilience as Nations as the fuel and inspiration for the future. A future in which our Nations achieve wholeness, respect and harmony. **A future wherein we exercise our inherent authorities, we uphold our cultural traditions and focus directly on fulfilling, with great confidence, our responsibilities to our families, our Nations and to our lands, territories and waters.**

To achieve this vision, we not only need to clarify what we want to achieve but also how we are going to achieve this. There are two elements that I believe are key to answering this question. I believe that first and foremost, it is absolutely essential that we confirm our **unity and trust in one another**. Unity in our resolve to support one another. We are not the same and solutions must fully respect our differences and the authority of our peoples at the community level to decide for themselves. But what we do share is this vision for the future. I have seen this in every corner of this country that I have visited. For too long, our progress has been inhibited by the obstacles thrown in our path when governments and others employ divide and conquer tactics. We must collectively work together to build trust among ourselves and find the path that we can firmly and resolutely support together.

Second, we must have the **confidence** and commitment to take action to advance our plan and our vision through all means needed. We have seen that the resolve of our people at the community level to stand firm on key issues has been a critical factor in success. We must have a multi-pronged approach that involves diplomacy, intergovernmental relations, corporate and civil society alliances, as well as direct action to support grassroots initiatives and interests. I ask all of you across the First Nations of this land to reflect on the words and the ideas I have expressed here. I invite you to add all of your thoughts and comments and that we spend the time, as is our way, to deliberate, to discuss and find the way forward, together. Whether it takes hours, days, or longer; we must be committed to this work and remain around the council fire until we are confident in our action. I invite you all to this work and in return, I pledge to you my ongoing dedication and full commitment to humbly fulfill the responsibilities you have given me.

Kleco, Kleco,  
Shawn A-in-chut Atleo

[Excerpt reprinted from *It's Our Time: a vision for the future*  
National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo  
AFN Annual General Assembly 2010]  
<http://www.afn.ca/misc/NC-Our-Time.pdf>

## **Celebrating Lives: A long Life well lived!** *John Friesen*

John Friesen has died, aged 98 years. John was an extraordinarily important person in the history of Canadian Adult Education and founder (with Neville Scarfe) of the UBC graduate program in ADED.

During the early stages of W.W. II, John was a pacifist. But, as friends were felled and the situation worsened, he decided his skills as an aircraft navigator were needed and he flew on bombing raids across the English channel.

John rarely mentioned he won a *Distinguished Flying Cross* for his contribution to the war effort. Instead, he preferred discussing his post-war sojourn at Columbia University where he was among the first Canadians (others were Roby Kidd and Florence O'Neill) to earn a doctorate in Adult Education. His teachers were the people whose books we still use today - Lyman Bryson, Paul Lazarsfeld, Ed Brunner, Wilbur Hallenbeck.



John never lost his affection for the ADED program at Columbia and, when he reached UBC in 1953, it did not take much to persuade Neville Scarfe something similar was needed here. Scarfe said "let's give it a try" so they hired Alan Thomas, Wilbur Hallenbeck and Coolie Verner to teach the early courses. Eventually they advertised a full-time/permanent position and nobody was surprised when it went to another Columbia man - Coolie Verner.

John was an astute Director of the UBC Extension department and made enormous contributions to arts and culture in Vancouver. He was equally at home conducting a choir as he was recharging the battery in his Model A car after a "film night" in the boonies.

Kathryn Kennedy wrote her doctoral dissertation on John and we also have a 3-video series wherein John tells his own story.

John was a member of the Order of Canada and served in many high places. He was a committed internationalist, a strong advocate for adult education but, best of all, never lost the interest in or ability to relate to and enjoy the company of ordinary people.

A long life, well-lived.

**Roger Boshier/UBC**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
FICHE D'ADHÉSION**

**The Learning Edge/La Fine pointe** is the periodical/le périodique of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education - Association Canadienne pour l'Étude de l'Éducation des Adultes.

Please contact us at any of the following addresses:

Rose A. Dyson, Editor-in-Chief

rdyson@oise.utoronto.ca

Bill McQueen, Story, Design & Managing

Editor wmcqueen@oise.utoronto.ca

**CASAE-ACÉÉA website URL:**

[Not available at this time.]

## Book Review: **Computing Our Way to Paradise?**

### **Computing Our Way to Paradise? The Role of Internet and Communication Technologies in Sustainable Consumption and Globalization** - by Robert Rattle (2010)

Altamira Press. ISBN 978-0-7591-0948-3.

On the subject of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and their contribution to sustainable consumption, Rattle takes the road less traveled. His investigation into their presumed ecological benefits is a fascinating read. Virtual products and services only “seem” to be less demanding on the environment. They are more appealing, convenient and easier to access than a similar activity or product delivered in a pre digital era. Physical mobility can be displaced with teleconferencing, printing and publication with data storage and electronic documents. Music can be downloaded from the Internet. Enthusiasm over the potential benefits of the almost daily deluge of new ICT variants abounds. Meanwhile, the growing glut of e-waste led by over four hundred thousand cell phones discarded daily in the U.S., alone, is ignored.

Much of this euphoria is misplaced. It is calculated that the energy demands on the Internet from one Google search, alone, is equivalent to that of an eleven-watt light bulb operating for anywhere up to one hour, depending upon input variables. Two Google searches add up to that of boiling a kettle of water. So surfing the morning paper over a cup of coffee is a dubious comfort. The microchip - the foundation of ICTs - is calculated to require for manufacture, itself, secondary fossil fuel inputs that are 600 times its weight, compared with automobiles or refrigerators which are in the 1 to 2 times order of magnitude. One single component draws 32,000 liters of water during its production.

There are, of course, millions of microchips produced daily to supply the global demand for ICTs. Personal computers are considered to be the largest source of heavy metals, toxic materials, and organic pollutants in municipal trash, superseded only by pesticides. Unfortunately, most ICTs are discarded and considered obsolete long before they cease to function, indicating that social rather than technological forces are driving these trends. In Canada almost 34,000 tons of ICT, excluding mainframes and other large equipment, were discarded in 1999. Globally, e-waste is approaching fifty million tons annually; the most toxic and fastest growing form. This does not include the much larger amount of waste generated during the earlier phases of extraction and manufacturing.

Smart phones and energy efficient technologies, although far more efficient than their conventional counterparts - where they previously existed at all - continue to almost paradoxically, push demand for energy in this sector increasingly higher. Despite the trend toward reduced energy intensity per appliance, product and process, there has not been a corresponding reduction in total energy and material flows since the introduction and application of ICTs. Satellites and geographic information systems allow armies of armchair environmentalists to observe, gobble, generate and regurgitate virtual and real-time information provided they have an internet connection. The burgeoning of methods to “monitor” the worldwide problems of ecological degradation far outstrip the political will to reverse harmful trends. Meanwhile, arguments for and against the evidence proliferate.





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While it is undisputed that ICTs possess tremendous opportunities to help achieve more sustainable consumption, both environmentally and socially, imprudent development and application of them within the prevailing economic structures, is leading to amorphous growth and untenable ecological and social consequences. In a finite world, endless growth and expansion is pathological and impossible. We must shift from a collective march to ever increasing standards of living, characterized by efficient growth, and aspire, instead, to a high quality of life nurtured by sufficiency. It is time, says Rattle, to turn the page on this ideologically, socially and ecologically outdated calendar.

A key role of ICTs is the provision of information. But, they can serve useful as well as harmful purposes. Consider the irresponsible commercial exploitation of the very young, through the promotion of consumer driven lifestyles and the cultivation of a thirst for violent forms of entertainment, known to contribute to a host of deviant behaviors. No one seriously doubts that mass media profoundly influence consumer practices and value systems. The ICT sector is an intensely powerful global medium for affecting expectations and norms. We now have literally billions of people providing access to more goods and services, indoctrinating a class-structured ideology and “creating” work from production with the sole intent to generate consumption. Education is expected to direct students into a competitive labor force, itself an implicit entitlement focused on consumerism.

The image beginning to emerge is one of social, although not necessarily conscious, manipulation and management at a globally homogenous level. A look at the global economic tremors that threaten to crush business and nations that employ ICTs to out source, globalize, expand and diversify, leverage and make their practices more efficient is not reassuring. The endless push for higher profits and global and economic growth is simply unsustainable. In addition, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, is being fostered in an increasingly constrained and divided world. Needless to say, the prognosis for socially harmonious co-existence in the existing paradigm is not good. What is needed is an examination of the role of ICTs within the context of broader social practices, institutions and values.

On the whole, the global commons has become one single, connected social party for t’weens, activists and researchers alike. The ten most popular Google global searches for 2007 which included Facebook, eBuddy, Second Life and Club Penguin reveal a remarkably successful seduction by global advertisers to dumb down adult consumers and lock in youth. The prowess of these marketers have successfully infantilized the global consumer ethic and corrupted the legendary Protestant work ethic. This has resulted in widespread intellectual poverty. Consumerism is now literally consuming itself, and leaving both democracy and citizens, themselves, in peril.

Because free speech cannot result in unbiased information, and those with the greatest resources are still most likely to present the loudest message, we are faced with critical questions of social and ecological justice, since those who own and control the ICT products, processes, and networks have immense power to influence societal norms and social processes globally, despite the global dispersion of democracy that has been offered by the Internet. Information flows are still predominantly undemocratic and fail to equip the average citizen with tools needed to discern environmental and social properties of specific goods and services, and resist the lure of consumer values.

Can we control the relevant variables to ensure more sustainable consumption? Rattle considers some vital points for interventions. What must be done beyond efficiency improvements to reduce excess demand?

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## CASAE CONFERENCE 2010 - Concordia University, Montréal

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throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and how these have been rolled back in recent years. But while it is easy to recognize more recent trends toward “barbaric” approaches to governance he referred to, he did not consider future prospects in a century fraught with challenges such as climate change, shrinking resources, over consumption and financial instability.

From there I proceeded to take in a lecture by John Coveney from Flinders University in Australia who spoke on food, morals and meaning. He connected historical, cultural, scientific and political approaches to food. In the discussion which followed, he concurred that profit driven trends in food production and media collaboration for distribution now impact on how and why food is consumed as much as religious practices. He supports the current trend toward adoption of legislation banning advertising of junk food to children, such as that which already exists in the province of Quebec, and in more and more countries in the developed world..

The opening panel for CASAE, was on the internationalization of adult education in Canada and beyond. Tara Fenwick from the University of Stirling in Scotland spoke of the need to embrace more vigorously current issues such as climate change and the financial crisis. Arpi Hamilton from Concordia emphasized the need to revitalize social movements including womens’ issues and pointed to the armed forces as an area for input from adult educators, whether their focus is on peace keeping, emergency response or institution building in war torn regions of the world.

Daniel Schugurensky from OISE/UT questioned the purpose of international student exchanges, often predicated on a business model with higher tuition fees as the incentive for increasingly cash strapped universities. He pointed to Australia as the country which releases the largest number of students into the learning market - an export of theirs that is second only to coal and iron. Canada, evidently is a top exporter as well as importer of foreign students, with 62 percent coming from Asia.. The challenge, of course, is to emphasize the positive components for greater international co-operation and understanding in such exchanges. Tonette Rocco from Florida International University also cautioned against embracing the concept of internationalization uncritically. She likened the term to ‘colonization’, a practice which has historically appealed to white collar workers, and stressed the need for the focus to shift to green collar jobs. Budd Hall from the University of Victoria spoke on the role of knowledge in society - never exclusively in the hands of academics. He reminded us that it is shaped and honed by community activists, aid workers, First Nations people and others who contribute in ways that are broad, inclusive, integrated and applied. For me, the reception which followed provided an opportunity to connect with Gary Boyd, a colleague who teaches science and technology at Concordia and with whom I share many interests and concerns about media trends in our digital age.

The following morning, Jennifer Sumners from OISE gave a presentation on the “Civil Commons”, and how communities and neighbourhoods might be better organized to ensure a sustainable future. These include “life support” systems such as governments for whom clean water, energy and air are priorities along with teaching institutions, public parks, affordable housing, health care delivery programs and organic food production and distribution. The emphasis must be on co-operation and sharing with resistance to greed and hoarding on the part of an elite few.

At noon, the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the Study of Women and Education (CASWE) was skilfully chaired by adult educator and outgoing president, Darlene Clover, from the University of Victoria. Over lunch there was an opportunity to connect with others interested in women, gender and life-

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long learning. For a number of us, there was also an opportunity, later in the day, to attend a workshop on “Women and the Media”, offered by Vivian Smith from the University of Victoria. She talked about ways in which female scholars can work with members of the media for the purpose of disseminating research findings. CASWE also co-sponsored a lecture by Jan Wong who spoke about the journalist as educator. During the CASAE conference, itself, with two other colleagues, Darlene amplified CASWE objectives in a report on a study involving women’s non-formal political education and learning from data collected in a women’s campaign school.

Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg from OISE/UT and Jody Macdonald from the School of Nursing at UT joined Bill McQueen and myself in a symposium on “Weaving connections between ecosystems, health, culture and social inclusion”. Our purpose was to focus on bridging the gap between theory and practice through better collaboration between communities and academia. The challenge for adult educators is to create greater awareness of the complex connections between air, land, water pollution, toxic products and processes and how these impact on health. The need to transform this knowledge into action and change is critical. Needed also, is better public understanding of how various forms of media both enhance educational objectives and mitigate progress toward development of a new paradigm for social, political and economic organization for sustainability.

This year, at the annual meeting, Bill McQueen, along with past president, Patricia Gouthro, were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to CASAE. With a new website design for CASAE on the horizon, Bill’s years of dedicated attention to the needs of the association in cyberspace are morphing into other work. Also acknowledged was the help and assistance Bill has received over the years from Daniel Schugurensky who will be sorely missed as he leaves OISE/UT to take up a new post at the University of Arizona in Phoenix. With the emphasis on connectivity as a theme this year, it was extremely fitting for Bill to be recognized as he has given very generously of his time and expertise to many of us within CASAE in order that we might become familiar with the uses of communications technologies.

Co-presidents, Shibao Guo Guo and Janet Groen did an outstanding job in meeting the objectives of both the Congress for “connected understanding” and CASAE, itself, for linkages between theory and practice in adult education. In fact, as someone who has been attending conferences at the Congress since 1989, I thought this year was exceptional in the way CASAE events interfaced with those of other associations, particularly in the sponsorship of guest speakers. The continuous availability of refreshments throughout the conference, the Congress President’s reception, several complimentary luncheons and the Banquet held at *The Hotel de l’Institut* all made for a very enjoyable, social as well as educational experience.

But my participation at the Congress this year didn’t end with the CASE conference. After it concluded I presented a paper at the Canadian Peace Research Association on the links between media and peace research. Other papers at the CPRA focused on the role of drama and music in facilitating peace; religion and conflict in Nigeria; the Palestinian-Israeli impasse; genocide in Rwanda and its fictionalization; global peace and global governance; ‘The War we harbour in our midst’; the role of universities in critical thinking, academic freedom and global peace; gender quota adoption in the developing world; corporate social responsibility in conflict zones and many others. President, Shreesh Juyal, recently retired professor of political science at the University of Regina, now living in Kingston, Ontario concluded with a report from the *International Commission on Disarmament, Security and Peace*. He spoke on the implications of the START II talks for nuclear weapons disarmament. Before it was over I found myself recruited to sit on the executive committee.

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## CASAE CONFERENCE 2010 - Concordia University, Montréal

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I managed to catch two more general events at the Congress involving invited speakers. Mark Kingswell, who teaches philosophy at UT spoke on *Democracy's Gift: Politics, anxiety, and hope in the 21 century*. He explored the concept of gift giving, replete with Power Point images of a little boy pointing a toy gun at the screen under a Christmas tree and concluded with an image of privileged teens exuding what he called 'excessive entitlement syndrome'. Although I missed Gerri Sinclair from the Vancouver Centre for Digital Media who examined the intersections of business, academia and high technology, with emphasis on Canada's emerging digital culture and economy, Jody Macdonald's account of her talk resonated with what I had heard from Gerri on a previous occasion. I reported on her research findings in an earlier edition of *The Learning Edge* in March, 2009.

As it drew to a conclusion, the Congress offered an exhibition screening and discussion of Robert LePage's *The Image Mill*, produced to celebrate Quebec City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. It included filmed excerpts on a theatre screen. An interdisciplinary roundtable included discussion by experts in film, architecture, social science and history. It definitely rounded out the Congress experiences with a distinctive French Canadian flavour., underscoring the rich cultural heritage offered whenever the Congress hosts academics from other parts of the country, as well as internationally.

**Rose A. Dyson Ed.D.**  
Editor, The Learning Edge  
CASAE  
Tel: 416-961-0853  
[rdyson@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:rdyson@oise.utoronto.ca)

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### Book Review: **Computing Our Way to Paradise?** continued from page 5

How will the democratic and participatory features of ICTs enhance freedoms and social well-being.? How will we go about reconciling the historical trajectory that has propelled us toward an endless search for an improved quality of life, corrupted by a thirst for unsustainable consumption through the global spread of a consumer ethic embedded in a fundamentally contradictory set of values?

The information revolution and knowledge-based economy has reduced our time and ability to think and reflect and to advance our social and cultural wisdom. Yet new ways of thinking are urgently needed. We cannot expect the evolution of conformity with prevailing social constructs, which include ICTs, to derail the consumer driven growth locomotive. So far, the adaptive responses of industrial nations to the consequences of climate change or ecological and social phenomena are formulated within the prevailing social framework. This evades directly confronting value structures, institutional arrangements and lifestyle choices. At the same time, far too much emphasis is placed on the expectation that individuals and groups can freely chose their lifestyles within the current social and economic structures.

This book amplifies the growing fissures emerging in our collective understanding of ICTs and how they can benefit sustainable consumption. Globalization effectively shrouds evidence of the widening gaps between the points of mineral extraction, commodity production and distribution. But by neglecting the complexity of

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social processes and their interactions with the natural and physical world, future expectations from ICTs in achieving more sustainable consumption are overly optimistic, simplistic and dangerous. The Internet offers a powerful set of marketing tools with which conventional approaches cannot compete. It is able to target, direct, and guide specific consumer groups; affect perceptions and lifestyles; and tempt consumers into the illusionary trap of control over consumption. The Internet could just as easily facilitate education and empowerment and promote more sustainable lifestyles, targeting, guiding, and directing more sustainable shifts. But this is unlikely to emerge spontaneously. Such shifts will require significant investment and effort by governments at all levels. Nothing short of a complete social reorientation is necessary.

Signs of progress are beginning to emerge, such as the new social-determinants of health approach. There is a growing perception that a health approach to sustainable consumption is more rational to use in efforts to convince decision makers than is philosophical reason. Behavior is rarely motivated by rationality, despite the globally prevailing precepts upon which much of conventional economics are fabricated. One need only point at the difficulty in getting a person to understand something when his or her salary depends on not understanding it. By situating the discourse of sustainable consumption in a population-health approach, the consequences can be more clearly articulated. There is already a growing disenchantment with the role of consumption and materialism in well-being supported by evidence that there is a certain "threshold" beyond which the relationship between well-being and material consumption is limited. Health policy and improved population health is much more than medical care facilities and disease interventions. Common causes of ill health are often environmental. The current emphasis on diagnosis, management and treatment of disease rather than prevention relies too heavily on the "technological fix" and serves an important role in advancing the prevailing social framework.

Rattle places repeated emphasis on the importance of necessary "guardrails", for the facilitation of more sustainable consumption. Without them, critical potential benefits of ICTs will be lost, as those benefits are unlikely to spontaneously emerge. The problem is that as the generation of money has become more abstract, it has been entirely severed from the value it is supposed to represent. Financial markets have abandoned production and dismissed the human and environmental consequences of their investments. The rapid expansion of money through exchange production and debt has led to a volume increase in money greater than that of goods and services - one of the reasons costs seem to rise over time. Due to generally low class consciousness, conflicts are typically only a struggle for better wages and working conditions. As an integral component in this framework, the media effectively and intentionally impairs more meaningful dialogue.

Cultural diversity has not only been undermined and seriously compromised, but categorically sacrificed for the cultural and social values, institutions, and forces that maintain mass, consumer driven lifestyles. Public and private sector debt problems are resolvable - for instance, by declaring bankruptcy or orchestrating a public bailout, especially when markets function as intended and sectors become "too big to fail". Solutions point toward the need to reverse growth to address unsustainable consumption. So far, most analysis of globalization has neglected to even consider the importance of surplus accumulation - to which ICTs contribute most obviously. We have ended up not with a global village but a global marketplace where more and more wealth is ending up in the pockets of fewer and fewer people. Chris Hedges calls this global feudalism. Clearly, our sustainability crisis is social in nature. Yet politicians dare not aggravate perceived reality and value expectations. Instead, political entities employ diverse mechanisms, such as polls, to understand the polity, often sowing confusion with random informational gibberish and overload.

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Observers such as Jeremy Rifkin, point to the current revolution in energy as putting power into the hands of everyone with the ability to install solar panels, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines, and other forms of alternative energy in a distributive, democratic manner. Like the dinosaurs and top-down energy structures, coal, nuclear and oil and gas are fading into oblivion. Trends in this direction, underscore the *Third Industrial Revolution* already underway, as the “*smart*” grid begins to take shape and energy becomes the new currency.

This book is a timely and useful contribution to the debate on how we are to deal with unfolding social, economic, political and environmental chaos. It adds clarity to the unsustainable trends in consumer driven lifestyles, how ICTs drive them and how their extra-ordinary potential for a better future has yet to be fully harnessed.

By: Rose A. Dyson, Ed.D. Consultant in Media Education; Editor: *The Learning Edge*, President, C-CAVE, Author: *MIND ABUSE Media Violence in an Information Age*.

Rose Dyson receives University of Toronto Arbor Award.



Sema Donna Kennan, President, OISEAA (left); Rose Dyson and (right) Holland Hendrix, Director of Advancement, OISE

Our Editor received the prestigious Arbor award at a reception hosted by University of Toronto President David Naylor at his home on September 20th.

The award was given for "Outstanding volunteer service on behalf of the University of Toronto". Three specific activities were acknowledged. These included chairing Canadians Concerned About Violence In Entertainment since 1986, serving on the College of Electors to the UT Board of Governors on behalf of the OISE Alumni executive for three years and co-editor of *The Learning Edge* for the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education. OISE/UT has significantly supported and contributed to the publication.

O'Sullivan heads OISE

Julia O'Sullivan has accepted the position of dean at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. She had stepped down as dean of Education on July 1 to take the position.

Child development expert O'Sullivan, who took over the role of Education dean at Western in 2007, holds master's and doctoral degrees from Western and a baccalaureate from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She was previously dean of Education at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay prior to Western.



Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Fred Longstaffe said that O'Sullivan had made significant contributions to Western and the Faculty of Education.

"Her leadership has enabled us to continue building the impressive strength of Western's Faculty of Education across the spectrum of teaching, learning and scholarship," says Longstaffe.

Anne Venton. VP OISE Alumni Assoc.

## VOW celebrates 50 Years

*Canadian Voice of Women for Peace* is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a Gala and Conference - "Building Peace: Resisting War".

The celebration is taking place on Friday November 12th to Sunday November 14th at Hart House at the University of Toronto.

The keynote speaker is Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace and Former President, International Peace Bureau – Women



Preventing War and Promoting Peace. She's been a peace activist since the early '60's, when she was a co-founder of the Women's Strike for Peace which played a major role in bringing about the end of nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

The full VOW celebration programme may be seen at <http://vowpeace.org>

## Video on the Go

Video on the web has become a popular and vibrant method of communication to tell our stories and show our work. On page 13 the release of the Human Development Report 2010 is described, with online electronic print copies available. There are also online videos which visually present the process. Go to <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/> If you like the idea of effectively telling the stories of your work through video, and would like help doing it, contact Bill McQueen at [william.mcqueen@alumni.utoronto.ca](mailto:william.mcqueen@alumni.utoronto.ca)

## Emergency and disaster planning in k-12c schools, colleges and universities

Emergency and disaster planning has become a growth industry in North American schools for a number of professions in recent years, most notably police officers, lawyers specializing in education law, safe schools advocates and grief counsellors.

This year's 7th Annual Summit on Emergency and Disaster Planning for Colleges, Universities and K-12 Schools in Toronto, was no exception. Over the years, speakers have included specialists who often begin their careers in the field following a tragic school shooting. Bill Bond, who gave two presentations this year, is the school safety specialist in the U.S. for the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

On December 1, 1997 during his tenure at Heath High School in Paducah, Kentucky a tragic school shooting occurred killing 3 students. This experience helped to precipitate his keen involvement in safe school awareness. Since then he has traveled to over a dozen schools that have had a shooting, to assist principals in the school's recovery.

Bill Byrd, School Safety Administrator for the Toronto District School Board, arrived at the Summit after an extremely busy week containing the threat of a school shooting at Oakwood Collegiate. He wound it up by examining common types of school based violence and discussing appropriate and safe ways to manage these behaviours. He emphasized the need for practical, effective techniques to resolve conflicts and deal with troublesome group behaviour such as gangs.

Evidently there is a growing trend of violence in Toronto schools. Many principals and teachers now spend an inordinate amount of time managing outbursts, bullying and other forms of physical and verbal aggression. Causes are numerous. These include social learning, violence in society, mass media, pornography and neurological and chemical imbalances. Cyberbullying is on the increase and the role of the Internet in fueling the problem contributes to the challenges in schools.

There is no doubt that impressive and competent procedures have been developed over the years to minimize harm to students in an emergency, but given the mounting damage inflicted by commercialized culture, educators need to move beyond the classrooms and become public advocates for policies that restrict and/ or prohibit advertising and marketing to children of products known to contribute to deviant behaviour.

Rose Dyson

## People with mental disabilities cannot be forgotten. WHO urges development programmes to include people with mental and psychosocial disabilities

16 SEPTEMBER 2010 | NEW YORK | GENEVA — People with mental and psychosocial disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in developing countries. Even though development actors have pledged to focus their work on the most vulnerable in a community, many programmes continue to ignore and exclude this vulnerable group.

### NEW REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

This is the message of a new World Health Organization (WHO) report on mental health and development - Targeting people with mental health conditions as a vulnerable group - which is being launched today at the United Nations in New York.

According to the report, the majority of development and poverty alleviation programmes do not reach persons with mental or psychosocial disabilities. For example, between 75% and 85% do not have access to any form of mental health treatment. Mental and psychosocial disabilities are associated with rates of unemployment as high as 90%. Furthermore people are not provided with educational and vocational opportunities to meet their full potential.

“A greater attention from the development community is needed to reverse this situation”, says Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health at WHO. “The lack of visibility, voice and power of people with mental and psychosocial disabilities means that an extra effort needs to be made to reach out to and involve them more directly in development programmes.”

### MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR A GREAT DEAL OF MORTALITY AND DISABILITY

The challenge is enormous. An estimated one in four people globally will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime. Mental health conditions are responsible for a great deal of mortality and disability, accounting for 8.8% and 16.6% of the total burden of disease due to health conditions in low- and middle-income countries, respectively. Depression will be the second highest cause of disease burden in middle-income countries and the third highest in low income countries by 2030.

### HOW TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITIES

The report calls for development actors to address the needs of people with mental and psychosocial disabilities in development work by:

- recognizing the vulnerability of this group and including them in all development initiatives,
- scaling up services for mental health in primary care;
- including people in income generating programmes and providing social and disability benefits,
- involving people themselves in the design of development programmes and projects;
- incorporating human rights protections in national policies and laws;
- including children and adolescents with mental and psychosocial disabilities in education programmes; and
- improving social services for people with mental and psychosocial disabilities.

WHO is working jointly with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in order to integrate

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**People with mental disabilities cannot be forgotten.**  
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mental health into the development agenda and programmes at national level.

“We need to break down the barriers that continue to exclude persons with mental or psychosocial disabilities” says Mr Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General of UNDESA. “In order for them to have access to better opportunities and to benefit from the fruits of development, they must also be involved in the design of policies and programmes related to development.”

The WHO report stresses that investing in people with mental health conditions, development outcomes can be improved. Mental health priority conditions include depression, psychoses, suicide, epilepsy, dementia, conditions due to the use of alcohol and drugs and mental health conditions in children.

Report is available on-line at: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563949\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563949_eng.pdf)

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This 20th anniversary edition features introductory reflections by the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, who worked with series founder Mahbub ul Haq on the conception of the first Human Development Report and contributed to and inspired many successive volumes.

The 2010 Report continues the tradition of pushing the frontiers of development thinking. For the first time since 1990, the Report looks back rigorously at the past several decades and identifies often surprising trends and patterns with important lessons for the future. These varied pathways to human development show that there is no single formula for sustainable progress—and that impressive long-term gains can and have been achieved even without consistent economic growth.

Looking beyond 2010, this Report surveys critical aspects of human development, from political freedoms and empowerment to sustainability and human security, and outlines a broader agenda for research and policies to respond to these challenges.

Available Online Language Editions, bottom of page at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/>

As Amartya Sen writes: “Twenty years after the appearance of the first Human Development Report, there is much to celebrate in what has been achieved. But we also have to be alive to ways of improving the assessment of old adversities and of recognizing—and responding to—new threats that endanger human well-being and freedom.”

The 20th anniversary edition is a response to that human development imperative.



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