



CBIE MEDIA RELEASE

Conference Connects Diversity and International Education

Ottawa, October 30, 2008: A major conference beginning this weekend in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, will focus on diversity issues and how they relate to the field of international education.

From November 1-4, the 42nd annual conference of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) will welcome 350 participants. The conference theme is *Shaping Worldviews: Diversity and International Education*. It will feature presenters and attendees from across Canada, the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Australia and Europe.

Participants will look critically at assumptions about diversity and examine how well they, as education leaders and professionals, integrate diversity into the internationalized campus and shape the worldviews of the next generation. They will also “retool,” identifying new ways to approach diverse students, faculty members, and perspectives on the world.

“St. John's is the setting of choice for a conference opening windows on the world for education leaders and professionals,” said Jim Fox, CBIE's President. “Our hosts for the conference – the province, Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic – are remarkably outward-looking and keenly interested in the Americas. Our opening event features Central America and the Caribbean, with 12 university and college presidents from the region joining us.”

The Canada-Caribbean-Central America Education Partnership Forum on Saturday, November 1, is supported by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and is co-presented by CBIE with the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education, which comprises universities from across the Western Hemisphere, and the International Council for Canadian Studies, a 7,000-member worldwide network.

The conference will home in on a variety of timely issues in post-secondary education concentrating on areas such as studying abroad, retaining international alumni, online communications and international research experiences for students and faculty.

A keynote by syndicated journalist Gwynne Dyer, who is originally from Newfoundland and Labrador, is entitled “21st Century Strategies and Cultures: Pulling Us Together, Pushing Us Apart” (Monday, Nov. 3, at 8:30 am, at the Fairmont Newfoundland).

A second address by Marie-Lyne Frechette of Export Development Canada, winner of a major diversity award and one of Canada’s top employers, will focus on “Creating a Passion Plan for Diversity” (Monday, Nov. 3 at 1:00 pm, at the Fairmont Nfld.).

The Canadian Bureau for International Education is a national, bilingual, not-for-profit group dedicated to promoting this country’s international relations through education. Nearly 200 post-secondary institutions, school boards, educational organizations and government departments are members of CBIE. See www.cbie.ca and www.cbie.ca/conference/2008/index_en.html.

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