



“Peace for Kids”—A Canadian Peacewalk for Peace Education

Charlene Sashuk wants to draw attention to the importance of integrating peace education into the Canadian curricula. She says, “Simply, I want peace education to be taught in schools, programs, workshops, access to speakers, children creating peaceful environments or solutions of their own. From my own work in schools as part of the artist in residence program I have seen the need, and see the amazing results I have received through gentle, creative work.”

On April 22, 2002, Sashuk embarked from Calgary on a five-month peacewalk across Canada that will end on September 11 at Ground Zero in New York City. Linking Calgary with Ground Zero dramatizes the need for peace education at home and abroad. It highlights the important role Canada plays in bringing peace to the world.



Kids are telling Sashuk their ideas about peace solutions and violence prevention as she journeys to New York.

Creative teachers will involve students in unique projects or programs by taking these ideas and putting them into motion. Examples of projects that create peaceful environments are a peace website, a library of resources on peace, a list of experts or guest speakers...and lots more!

The kids will be encouraged to share ideas from the peacewalk on the website. Visit the website at <www.peace.ca/peacewalk.htm>.

Consider supporting this initiative by making a financial donation payable to “Children for Peacewalk 2002” and mail to Suite 703, 104-26 Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2S 0L9. A tax receipt will be issued upon request. Funds raised will go to the creation of peace education and programs in schools.

BC Human Rights Tribunal Finds School Board Liable for Failing to Address Homophobia¹

Legislation and recent decisions by courts and human rights tribunals have demonstrated that simply having and acting on school discipline policies is inadequate. Schools need to go further and implement violence-prevention programs.

In recent decisions, the Supreme Court of Canada has held that every educational institution has “a duty to maintain a positive school environment for all persons served by it.”

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, the *Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act*, the *Alberta School Act*, and the *ATA Professional Code of Conduct* all serve as important policies and legislation that reflect the need for Alberta teachers to teach in a manner that is inclusive and respectful of students, and teachers’ sexual orientations.

¹ Jubran v. Board of Trustees, 2002 BCHRT 10 <www.bchrt.gov.bc.ca/2002_bchrt_10.htm>

Nothing to Rave About

is the name of a new 25-minute video to educate students about drugs. Co-produced by the Edmonton Police Service and DARE, the video examines the negative effects drugs have on young people.

The video was released at the 5th Annual Western Canadian School Resource Officer Conference held at the Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall, May 13–14.

For information about this video, please contact Dean Parthenis, Media Relations Unit, at (780) 421-3551.

Websites

Youth Update

www.iaay.org/youth_update/index.html

Youth Update is a quick, easy, and inexpensive way for you to stay in touch with the research and new developments in the fields of prevention and effective treatment of antisocial and violent behavior in adolescents.

Community Youth Website

www.reporthathe.org

Targeted at youth, with information for parents and teachers as well.

School Boards Subject to Charter Scrutiny

On May 10, 2002, Ontario Superior Court Justice Robert McKinnon granted Marc Hall's request for an injunction against the Durham Catholic District School Board to attend his high school senior prom with his same-sex partner.

The *Hall* decision reinforces the legal, ethical and professional responsibilities that publicly funded schools and school boards (whether public or separate) have in creating safe, caring and supportive educational environments that are respectful and inclusive of the needs of all students in Canada.

For further information please visit:

www.samesexmarriage.ca/advocacy/marc_hall_injunction_decision.htm and www.egale.ca

Correction Notice September and December 2001 issues of *Niska News* should read: Volume 5, Number 1 and Volume 5, Number 2.

Conference News

Peace Education Conference - November 9–11, 2002, at McMaster University. The purpose of this conference is to try to build some unity of purpose across Canada with respect to peace education and action to achieve it.

National Aboriginal Day - June 21, 2002

Satyagraha for the Earth: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming the World - July 4–7, 2002, U of A, <soniamacpherson@ualberta.ca>

International Colloquium on Early Childhood and Violence Prevention - August 1, 2002, McGill University, Montreal QU, <www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca>

Conflict Resolution in the Workplace: Effective Harassment and Discrimination Complaint Resolution - August 14 (Calgary) and 21 (Edmonton), 2002, <www.ucalgary.ca/cdi/events.htm>

Canada: Global Model for a Multicultural State - September 25–28, 2002, <www.cmef.ca>

Catalysts for Change: Diversity Leadership, Research and Action - October 28, 2002, <www.ucalgary.ca/cdi/events.htm>

Conferences Attended

Safe Schools Safe Communities Conference - Putting the Pieces Together - February 20–22, 2002, Vancouver, BC. Vicki Mather, Barb Maheu and Sue Sheffield from the ATA's SACS Project presented workshops *Approaches to Integrating Violence Prevention in Secondary Schools* and *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration*.

Safer Schools: Safer Communities - May 9–11, 2002, Kitchener, ON. Wendy Holman and Barb Maheu presented *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration: Kindergarten to Grade 6* and *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum—Approaches for Integration*.

Vicki Mather chaired the Safe and Caring Schools and Communities of Canada meeting. Six provinces are now represented on the board—Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Fear & Loathing Symposium on Bullying - May 23–25, 2002, Ottawa. Vicki Mather presented two workshops titled *Building a Nonviolent Culture for Learning: A Safe and Caring Approach*. She will present a similar session at the **National School Public Relations Association Seminar** -July 14–17, 2002, San Diego, CA

Niska News is a newsletter produced by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) Project for school and community members. The goal of the SACS Project is to encourage practices that model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviors so that learning and teaching can take place in a safe and caring environment. This newsletter is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about the project. For more information, contact the SACS office by phoning 780-447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta). Copying and distributing *Niska News* are permitted as long as the source is credited. The newsletter is available online through the SACS Project website at <www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/index.html>. Editor: Sue Sheffield.