International Education Week Toolkit

November 12-16, 2012
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Introduction

Alberta’s education system empowers students by providing them with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to make sense of the world around them, to become informed and responsible citizens, and to pursue their future goals by understanding the wealth of opportunities available to them in relation to the broader global context.

This package is intended to help you communicate the importance of International Education Week (IEW) and international education to your colleagues and stakeholder groups. In addition, the toolkit provides resources for teachers to refer to when planning their lessons.

An online version of this toolkit as well as a list of interesting facts on international education initiatives taking place in the province, and promotional material for your use, are available on our IEW webpage.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the 2012 IEW Toolkit, please don’t hesitate to contact Waldemar Riemer or Rania El Saadi by email at waldemar.riemer@gov.ab.ca or rania.elsaadi@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-2035.
What is International Education?

International education is the sum of all programs and initiatives that promote an understanding of the differences and connections between the world's people. Also referred to as internationalization of education, it

“...integrates an international dimension into the teaching/learning, research and service function of a [school]. An international dimension means a perspective, activity or service which introduces or integrates an international/intercultural/global outlook into the major functions of an institution of ... education.”

Knight 2008, p.2

International education is a strategy for developing global citizens, which equips students with the essential awareness, perspectives and skills needed in today's world, and helps prepare them to succeed as engaged, entrepreneurial, and ethical citizens within a global context.

Key International Education Components

International education includes a wide variety of programs and initiatives. The following is a list of the most common and, when properly planned and managed, most effective international education programs.

- International-focused professional development for Alberta educators
- Internationally infused curriculum
- International school partnerships
- Student and educator exchange programs
- International student programs
- English as a second language (ESL) Language programs

For a more detailed overview of each type of program, see chapters 5, 7 and 10-15 in the Handbook for International Education Administrators.
Benefits and Trends in International Education

The benefits of international education initiatives go beyond the personal growth and skills obtained by individual participants. These initiatives also have positive cultural, political, academic and economic impacts on our society. These benefits and trends in International Education are outlined in greater detail in chapter 2 of the *Handbook for International Education Administrators* which can be accessed at [http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/handbook.aspx](http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/handbook.aspx).

Developed collaboratively with school jurisdictions in the province, the *Handbook for International Education Administrators* is a unique and valuable tool providing clear, practical, and comprehensive information and guidelines to school administrators involved in international education. Covering the Who – What – Why – and How of international education, it includes key support documents (sample forms, templates, resources), and will be of assistance to all school jurisdiction administrators interested in furthering their understanding of international education. It also serves as a guide to the implementation of international education programs and initiatives within their schools.
What is International Education Week?

IEW is an annual event celebrated during the third week of November in over 85 countries around the world to promote the awareness of the importance of international education and its benefits to society. This year, IEW is celebrated from November 12 to November 16, 2012.

For 2012, Alberta is celebrating Canada’s national IEW theme, *Canada Engages with the World: Realizing our Potential through International Education*.

Who organizes IEW?

In Canada, IEW is an initiative under the Council of Minister of Education, Canada and is recognized by other provincial/territorial governments and various non-governmental organizations active in international education. Alberta Education has actively participated in IEW since 2006 and a Provincial International Education Week Committee was created in December 2010 to further raise the awareness of IEW across the province. More information about the Committee can be found on page 8 of this toolkit.

Why celebrate IEW?

IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the variety of innovative international education programs and activities that happen in schools everyday and throughout the school year. These programs and activities expose students to an international dimension which enriches their learning and prepares them to become global citizens. Administrators, teachers and parents all play critical roles in the success of these programs. IEW is an excellent way to celebrate local and international collaborations with our education partners and foster new relationships.

How has Education supported IEW in the past?

Supports for IEW in the past have included:

- Creating an IEW web page on the Education website which includes news items, promotional materials and resources for teachers
- Engaging students across the province in a dialogue about international education on the Speak Out blog
  - School jurisdictions are able to showcase how their students and staff are celebrating International Education Week as well as highlight ongoing international activities
- Sending an email to all School Board Chairs, all Superintendents and stakeholder groups regarding the importance of the week and highlighting key international education initiatives.
- Sending information bulletins to provincial media outlets and Communications offices at the districts
- Organizing lunch and learn sessions on international education topics for interested department staff
- Organizing a poster contest for K-12 students
How have school jurisdictions and schools supported IEW in the past?

School jurisdictions and schools have organized the following types of activities to engage their students:

- Classroom activities highlighting certain aspects of international education
- Flash Mob
- Forum Theatre
- Panel Discussions with local international organizations around a student generated Essential Question
- Class Discussion on, “The Importance of Intercultural Competence,” “International Engagement,” Global Partnerships,” etc
- Live Feed (SKYPE) with International School Partner
- International food festivals
- Performances by multicultural groups
- Showing of international films
- Guest speakers who highlight an aspect of international education such as global citizenship or pluralism
- Events acknowledging the international students in your schools
- Placing exhibits or posters highlighting the importance of IEW in schools
- Information sessions on aspects of international education and how to become involved
Provincial International Education Week Committee

In December 2010, the Minister of Education invited provincial stakeholder organizations to partner with Alberta Education in the annual preparations for International Education Week activities and celebrations as well as help communicate the importance of international education to administrators, teachers, students and parents. This led to the creation of the Provincial International Education Week Committee. The membership of the committee includes representatives from:

- Alberta School Boards Association
- College of Alberta School Superintendents
- The Alberta Teachers’ Association
- Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta
- International Education Advisory Council
- Alberta School Councils’ Association

By working together, we believe we can raise awareness of International Education Week with trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents and, most importantly, students.

Further information on the Committee’s Terms of Reference can be viewed at the IEW website.
**Provincial International Education Week Committee Contact Information**

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What have our Jurisdictions been up to?

Listed below are initiatives that some Alberta school jurisdictions have been actively engaged in to promote a global mindset within their schools.

The Calgary School District No. 19’s International Certificate is given to graduating senior high school students who have made significant contributions of an international nature throughout their school career. In order to be granted the certificate, they are required to take a second language(s), participate in an in-depth international experience, partnership or exchange, and put an international focus on some of their senior high school study.

All students need to be provided with opportunities to share and improve their natural gifts and talents. Many of our refugee English language learners face tremendous challenges as they enter our education system. One particular group, with many different African origins, did share one common talent and that was a love of music, in particular drumming and dancing.

Through the support of an Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) Educational Trust grant, an after-school project was developed that matched students of African ethnicity with their Canadian peers. Under the guidance of a local drum builder, students constructed drums together, made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and goat hide drumheads. Another local drummer worked with the students to bring forth some of the drum patterns from their backgrounds, with contributions from both African and Canadian students. The six-month project culminated with the students performing original drumming and dance routines.

While the students were brought together through the drumming and dancing activities, each session began with a shared discussion to help both groups of students get to know each other better. In the end, they found that they have a lot in common, and that pizza is a universal food!

Emilie DeCorby, Principal, Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77 has been offering “Species at Risk,” a combination of three CTS Wildlife courses, by videoconference since 2006. The course brings in researchers and wildlife management personnel from around the world by videoconference to discuss their work in this area. Presenters have delivered sessions on their work with gorillas in the Congo, lemurs in Madagascar, and tree kangaroos in Papua, New Guinea. In addition to the content coming from researchers from around the world, the course has also had students participate from schools in Saskatchewan and Nunavut.
At Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and Hunting Hills High School in Red Deer, enrollment in language and culture programs was beginning to dwindle. To generate more excitement and interest in language and culture programs, it was decided that all major international school trips would centre around the second languages taught in the school. Therefore, to participate in a school trip to China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico or Spain, students had to complete (or be enrolled in) at least 10 credits of second language or immersion instruction. Twin school relationships were developed in each of the countries and individual and group exchanges followed.

The most successful of these partnerships has been between Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and École Jeanne D’Arc in Mulhouse, France. Individual and group exchanges have taken place every year between these schools over the last 20 years. Nearly 1000 students have participated in the program since its inception in the early 1990s.

School partnerships, exchanges and international trips have proven to be an excellent vehicle to promote second language and immersion programs as well as internationalism in Red Deer public senior high schools.

Resources

Explore the teaching resource websites below to get additional ideas on how to develop the global dimension into your classroom and inspire your students to become active global citizens.

Below are websites that contain lesson plans that are linked to the Alberta Curriculum:

- The 2Learn.ca Education Society talks about how global citizenship fits into the curriculum and provides teachers with sample lesson plans, media gallery and other online tools.

- Canadian Council for Geographic Education includes a search engine that allows you to search for lesson plans by theme.

- Society for Safe And Caring Schools and Communities includes classroom-ready resources for grades 3 to 12 with links to the Alberta curriculum, on topics that include: children's rights; daily life in developing countries; media analysis of stories on developing country issues; consumerism and ecological impact; UN Millennium Development Goals; what Canadians NGOs are doing overseas; HIV/AIDS; and globalization.

- Media Awareness Network provides lessons by grade level and subject or by Alberta curriculum outcomes.

Additional Resources

- Alberta Education - International Education Services has developed resources for jurisdictions and schools that are seeking to participate in international education initiatives. These resources include the:
  - Handbook for International Education Administrators 2010 which guides jurisdictions and schools step by step through the process of becoming active participants in international education programs.
    - Chapter 7: Curriculum Links of the Handbook outlines the links to international education that exist in some of the programs of study.
  - Guide to International School Partnerships which supports interested schools in locating partners abroad and plan effective learning partnerships.

The views presented in the sites below do not necessarily represent those of the Ministry of Education or of the Government of Alberta.

- Classroom activities by Canadian International Development Agency

- The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network has education kits for teachers on a variety of global issues.

- Oxfam Education
  - Visit Cool Planet to see how young people are affected by the issues which are addressed in the Millennium Development Goals.

- United Nation's Cyber Schoolbus
- **National Geographic Education**
  - Visit the [Thinkfinity Search Engine](https://www.thinkfinity.org) to access to all of the educational resources created by the Thinkfinity Partners, plus Partner reviewed materials.

- **The Global Education Website** supports the Australian Aid program and its strategy is to provide an Internet Site and curriculum material that is of high professional standard, is attractive, teacher friendly and accessible.

- **Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC)** provides resources to teachers on international issues. “Development in a Box” incorporates global issues into junior-senior high school curriculum with lesson plans and activities. Boxes are delivered to schools free of charge.

- **The Alberta Teacher’s Association** provides workshops for teachers on global themes such as:
  - Building Bridges Toward Effective Partnerships with Schools in Developing Countries
  - Building Human Rights Communities
  - Our Circle and Beyond – Becoming Global Citizens
Promotional Material

Promotional items have been developed for your use to help you spread the word about International Education Week within your organization. Please visit the “Promotional Material” section of the IEW website and help yourself to the various IEW promotional materials, such as the IEW visual identifier, a fact sheet and much more.