The Sustainability and Education Academy (SEdA)

Developing and Implementing a System-Wide Sustainability Plan

Symposium:
Environmental Education in Ontario:
Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow
February 25/09

Brian Kelly
Charles Hopkins
In the year 2014, at the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, all students in grades K to 12 across Canada are being educated in the basics of sustainable development and are being prepared to take their places as ecologically, socially and economically literate citizens, consumers and leaders in Canadian and global society. This fortunate situation is the result of a decade of intense activity in the formal education sector to integrate Education for Sustainable Development into curriculum, teacher education and extra-curricular activities. Canada is widely recognized as a leader in preparing its students for life in the 21st Century and many other countries are adopting the Canadian model.
To inspire leaders to create a culture of sustainable development integrated into all aspects of the K to 12 education system – policy, curriculum, teaching, learning, professional development and the sustainable management of human, physical and financial resources.
What Is SEdA?

- A collaborative program between the Schulich School of Business, the Faculty of Education, the UNESCO Chair on ‘Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability” at York University and Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)

- Targeted to senior levels of the formal education sector in Canada: school boards; ministries of education; faculties of education

- Primary offering: The Education Leader Seminar

- Other possible offerings:
  - ESD Best Practices Portal;
  - Case Studies;
  - Model Curriculum;
  - SEdA Alumni Network;
  - Benchmarking and Research on ESD;
  - ongoing PD programs for administrators and teachers;

- Designed to partner with other Faculties of Education to offer Seminars and other services
SEdA Supporters

Corporate Supporter

SUNCOR ENERGY FOUNDATION

Government Supporter and Initial Funder

Environment Canada

Environnement Canada
Year of Peak Fish Harvest

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Sea Around Us project
Year of Peak Fish Harvest

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Sea Around Us project
Trends

What is decreasing, becoming more scarce?

What is increasing, becoming more abundant?

Time
Not Limited to Environmental Issues

- Not just aware but understanding......
- 50 % under $2.00
- $30.00/month dream
- Accumulation of wealth
- Free trade/fair trade
- Quest for development
- Economic migrants
Many Initiatives are Necessary for Sustainable Development

- Good legislation/governance
- Economic incentives
- Overcoming corruption
- Environmental protection
- Human rights/security
- Infrastructure (roads to banking)
- 40 issues identified in Agenda 21
- Education, Public Awareness and Training (ESD) key
Understanding ESD


We are not creating Sustainability Education as #81
Not the addition of “sustainability ed” to the long list of adjectival educations to be added to formal education where and whenever possible

But rather

Engaging all formal, non-formal and even informal education, public awareness, and training programs at all levels to learn and to educate our way out of what currently appears as an unsustainable future
UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014)

- Global response
- Co-coordinated by UNESCO
- Each country/region to develop locally relevant and culturally appropriate response
- Formal, nonformal and informal ed. Included

- Key Agents – Canada
  Canadian Commission for UNESCO
  Environment Canada
  Canadian Council of Ministers of Education
Four Major Thrusts of ESD

1. Access and retention to quality education
2. Reorienting existing education
3. Public awareness and understanding
4. Training programs for all sectors

Agenda 21 -92, UNESCO -96, UNCSD -98, JPOI -2002
Facilitating Development Through Improving Quality Education

- 100 million children ages 6 to 11 never attend school in the developing countries
- 90% of school aged are in developing/emerging nations
- Millions more are “under-educated” in both the South and the North
- Adult / Lifelong learning issues and the role of public education
Facilitating Development Through Improving Quality Education

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Most Educated nations = deepest ecological footprint

Equity at present standards means we need 2 more Earths!
Reorienting Existing Education Means Addressing:

- Buildings
- Program
- Practices and actions
- What we value and evaluate
- Modeling sustainability
- TVET
- ECE
New Learning Perspectives - ESD

- Traditional – Learning as “acquisition” model
  Knowledge, solutions, true/false right/wrong

- Plus – Learning as “participation” model”
  complexity, reflexive, reflection, negotiation

- And – Learning as a “response model" ambiguity in world, taking
  charge-life, tolerance, engagement
Strengths Model: A Starting Point for Formal ed.

- No single discipline/group/teacher/employee can do it all
- Every discipline/group/teacher/employee can contribute something
- Some individuals or sectors can take lead roles in directing/managing the reorientation
- Leadership and coordination of these “strengths” are key as we “learn” our way forward
Global Concern and Awakening

- Formal education leaders are taking action
- Collaboration at Regional levels – UNECE, Asia Pacific, etc.
- ESD Indicators are being developed
- Engagement of the core disciplines’ professional organizations
- ESD research platform being established collaboratively
- New ESD Research Journals
- Countries such as Sweden, Netherlands, Australia, Latvia, India, China, India, South Africa all launching ESD initiatives from senior levels of government
- Countries drafting UN Decade progress reports on ESD for major invitational conference in Germany in 2009.
- South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) meeting again in 2008 to address ESD and TVET
A Brief History of SEdA

- Conceived in the Fall of 2004
- Funding from Environment Canada for Phases 1&2
- Phase 1 – Consultation and Design – Jan. to June 2005
  - Sustainability Education Summit – Mar. 10/05
  - Initial Design Plan – June 30/05
- Phase 2 – Program Development – July to Dec. 2005
  - Development & Advisory Teams meet – July 11&12/05
  - Final Design Plan – Sept. 20/05
  - Development Team meeting – Sept. 28&29/05
  - Education Leader Seminar outline approved – Feb.6/06
  - Funding from Suncor for Phase 3 and 4
  - Seminar detailed development over fall 06
  - International Symposium Feb 18-20/07
  - Case study preparation
  - Inaugural Education Leader Seminar, Oct. 22-25/07
- Phase 4 – Full Program Implementation – 2008-2009
  - Education Leader Seminars May 4-7/08 and November 23-26/08
Upcoming SEdA Seminars

- April 26-29, 2009 at Executive Education Centre, York University, Toronto

- October 4-7, 2008 at Hecla Oasis Resort, Manitoba (to be confirmed)
Who Should Attend?

School Board Teams

- Directors
- Deputy Directors
- Area Superintendents
- Curriculum Superintendents
- Managers of Business, Finance, Buildings
- Principals
- Other key system roles
Return on Investment

1. Techniques for Educational Leadership
2. Student Success for All
3. Literacy and Numeracy
4. Action Learning
5. Safe Schools and Healthy Students
6. Improved Educational Buildings, Better Student Achievement
7. Parent and Community Connections
8. Attract Develop and Retain Top Educators
9. Academy Network Support
Participation in the April 09 SEdA Seminar will prepare your board to:

Meet and exceed the requirements of the Ministry of Education’s new Environmental Education Policy
4 Domains of ESD

1. Governance
2. Curriculum / Teaching / Learning
3. Human Capacity
4. Facilities and Operations

ESD is broad in scope and covers all aspects of a school board’s activities
The Educational Pyramid: Current ESD Leadership Wedges

THE LONELY LEADERSHIP WEDGES

MINISTRY

BOARD

SCHOOL

CLASSROOM

teacher

student

COMMUNITY
The Educational Pyramid: **NEW** ESD Leadership Wedges

**THE GROWING LEADERSHIP WEDGE**

- **MINISTRY**
- **BOARD**
- **SCHOOL**
- **CLASSROOM**
- **teacher**
- **student**

**COMMUNITY**

**SUPPORT!**

**EXPERIENCE!**

**COMMUNITY**
The Educational Pyramid: MATURE ESD Leadership Wedge

THE MATURE LEADERSHIP WEDGE

MINISTRY
BOARD
SCHOOL
CLASSROOM
COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY

teacher
student
The Educational Pyramid:
Current Domains

- MINISTRY
- FACILITIES and OPERATIONS
- GOVERNANCE
- BOARD
- SCHOOL
- COMMUNITY
- CURRICULUM TEACHING / LEARNING
- CLASSROOM
  - teacher
  - student
- COMMUNITY
  - HUMAN CAPACITY

SedA
SUSTAINABILITY and EDUCATION ACADEMY
Faculty & Coaches

- **Steve Alsop** - Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, York U.
- **Chuck Hopkins** - UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability, York University
- **Brian Kelly** - Co-director, SEdA
- **David Leeder** - Co-director, SEdA
- **Graham Pike** - Dean, International Education, Vancouver Island U.
- **Pamela Schwartzberg** - Executive Director, Learning for a Sustainable Future
- **Bryan Smith** - President, Broad Reach Innovations Inc.
- **Bob Willard** - Author and Lecturer
The bottom line:

Welcome to our next SEdA
April 26-29/09