

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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## Showcase Your School and Jurisdiction with Teacher Exchange and School Leader Exchange

The International Educational Exchange (IEE) program is a unique professional growth opportunity that gives educators and school administrators the chance to take part in year-long teacher exchanges or short-term teacher/administrator exchanges. A variety of exchange terms, ranging from one week to one year, and destinations, such as Quebec, Colorado, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and the United Kingdom, are offered.

What are some of the advantages of teacher and school-leader exchanges?

- International collaboration and cultural diversity delivered straight into the classroom
- Profound short-term and long-term impact on students, teachers and school communities
- Enhanced repertoire of teaching and leadership strategies
- Opportunity to experience the fresh perspective of an educator from a different system
- International friendships that last beyond the term of the exchange



If you have a great ambition, take as big a step as possible in the direction of fulfilling it. The step may be a tiny one, but trust that it may be the largest one possible for the moment.

— Captain Mildred H McAfee, who, during the Second World War, was the first director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) in the US Navy



Plus, the cost of the exchange to the jurisdiction is relatively neutral, because the majority of the costs are borne by participants.

New this year is the possibility for school leaders to participate in a short-term hosted exchange for approximately two weeks; in this exchange teachers/administrators billet each other and show each other their jurisdiction. Usually, the overseas visitor comes to Canada in August, and Canadians go abroad in October, but with additional overseas partner interest, more options for dates and duration may exist. Please direct your inquiry directly to the IEEP educator exchange coordinator (contact information is at the end of this article).

Our future success as global citizens will emerge from students' ability both to compete globally and to collaborate, cooperate and communicate effectively with people from other countries and cultures. International education initiatives like this teach educators and students about the world and its people, systems, problems and opportunities. Globalization has made international education more valuable and relevant than ever.

Exchange is about more than just two people changing places; it's about creating a larger space for participation and collaboration. The ripple effect of international partnerships extends from the classroom and broadens from one to many. Exchange is an opportunity to grow professionally and to get out of one's comfort zone; it offers time to collaborate and a year to harvest. We all benefit from exchanges—the participants, the students, the community, on both sides of the globe—and the positive effects continue long after the exchange is over.

“My two-week visit in August to a K–9 school in Kolding, Denmark, was by far the best PD experience I have had as a school principal,” says Garnet Goertzen, past president of the Council on School Administration. After Goertzen returned from Denmark, a Danish principal visited Alberta and shadowed him at his school for two weeks. The school visits and resulting conversations between principals from two different countries and cultures helped each of them to reflect on their leadership and see new possibilities. “It's been three years since my exchange to Denmark,

but our friendship has continued over the phone, and through e-mail and follow-up visits,” remarked Goertzen.

The deadline for applying for a year-long exchange is December 31, 2011 (other jurisdictional deadlines may apply) and the deadline for applying for short-term teacher/administrator exchanges is March 1, 2012.

For more information about international educator exchange opportunities, contact Carolyn Freed, IEEP educational exchange coordinator, by e-mail at [Carolyn.Freed@ieep.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Freed@ieep.ca) or visit [www.ieep.ca](http://www.ieep.ca).

## Interesting websites

### The Equality Trust

The Equality Trust is an independent, evidence-based campaign that works to reduce income inequality to improve the quality of life in the UK. Studies show that people in more equal societies live longer, have better mental health and are more socially mobile. Community life is stronger when income gaps are narrow and children do better at school. More equality also translates into less violence and lower rates of imprisonment.

The Equality Trust works with others to build a social movement for change through analysis and dissemination of research, promotion of robust evidence-based arguments and support for a dynamic network of campaign groups across the UK.

[www.equalitytrust.org.uk](http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk)

### The Center on Media and Child Health

Based at Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School, the Center on Media and Child Health (CMCH) aims to educate and empower children and their caregivers to create and consume media to optimize children's health and development. To do this, CMCH conducts, coordinates and compiles research on how different media affect children's health and provides expertise to initiatives and programs that address children's involvement with media.

[www.cmch.tv](http://www.cmch.tv)



**Q & A**  
**GORDON THOMAS**  
 Executive Secretary

**Q:** As an incentive for teachers to take students on international travel, a travel tour operator says it will give teachers credits for free flights or merchandise of their choosing. Is it OK for teachers to accept these incentives?

**A:** It has been common practice for teacher chaperones to accompany their students on international travel at no cost if a certain number of students signed up for the trip. Because the teacher is supervising students during this excursion

and acting as an employee of the district, this is acceptable because the teacher should not incur costs for accompanying students on a school-sanctioned excursion. However, more recently, tour operators have been offering teacher chaperones credits to use for flights of their own choosing or for merchandise; if the teacher books early, the number of incentives increases. Accepting such incentives could be deemed a contravention of the Code of Professional Conduct, article 7 of which states: “The teacher may not take advantage of a professional position to profit from the sale of goods or services to or for pupils in the teacher’s charge.” If a teacher takes flight credits or merchandise and keeps them for personal or family use, a professional conduct committee could find that teacher guilty of unprofessional conduct. It would be acceptable for teachers to take these incentives and to turn them over to the school to offset costs of travel for extra supervisors or to allow a student or chaperone, who would not otherwise be able to take such a trip, the chance to attend. Alternatively, merchandise could be raffled off to students and staff and the proceeds used to lower the costs for all students attending subsequent trips. Simply keeping these incentives for oneself would not be acceptable.

## Administrator Survey

Leger Marketing, the contractor commissioned by Alberta Education to undertake the Alberta School Leadership Framework Study, launched the study on Wednesday, November 16. Alberta’s principals and superintendents should have received e-mail notifications, staggered over two days. The study includes online surveys for superintendents (or their designates who work directly with school leaders), principals, assistant/associate/vice-principals and teachers.

The survey should take about 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Respondents need not complete the survey in one sitting; that is, they can save their work and return to it. **Deadline for completion is November 30.**



**To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) and click on Other Publications (under Publications), then go to School Administrators.**

**Feedback is welcome. Please contact Konni deGoeij, associate coordinator, administrator assistance, Member Services, at [konni.degoeij@ata.ab.ca](mailto:konni.degoeij@ata.ab.ca).**





# BANFF LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

## Leadership Development for Action on Inclusion

Sponsored by the Council on School Administration (CSA) of the Alberta Teachers' Association. CSA is proud to present Dr. George Theoharis, author of *The School Leaders Our Children Deserve: Seven Keys to Equity, Social Justice, and School Reform*.

**March 22 and 23, 2012**  
**Banff Park Lodge, Banff, Alberta**

### Leading Equitable and Inclusive Schools

This two-day multimedia workshop will provide participants with practical strategies for creating and maintaining equitable and inclusive schools. Theoharis draws upon his own experiences and those of other educational leaders who have been successful in creating equitable and inclusive schools in their district. The first day will focus on the role of the school leader, and the skills and strategies leaders need to carry out work in the area of equity and inclusion; the second day's focus will be on how to create inclusive classrooms, schools and districts. Both days will give participants the information they need to create their own equitable and inclusive learning environment.



### About George Theoharis

George Theoharis is associate professor in educational leadership and inclusive elementary education in the Department of Teaching and Leadership at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He has extensive field experience in public education as a principal and as a teacher. George teaches classes in educational leadership and elementary/early childhood teacher education. His interests and research focus on issues of equity, justice, diversity, inclusion, leadership and school reform. He has published articles in such journals as *Teachers College Record*, *The School Administrator*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Educational Leadership and Equity & Excellence in Education*. His new book, *The School Leaders Our Children Deserve: Seven Keys to Equity, Social Justice, and School Reform*, is about school leadership, school reform and social justice.

### Wednesday, March 21, 2012

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Conference registration

### Thursday, March 22, 2012

7:00 am – 8:45 am Conference registration  
Breakfast

9:00 am – 3:00 pm General session with George Theoharis  
5:30 pm Pub night at St. James's Gate Olde Irish Pub  
(hors d'oeuvres and first drink included)

### Friday, March 23, 2012

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm General session with George Theoharis  
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Conference closure

### Conference fees for two-day seminar

(includes a copy of *The School Leaders Our Children Deserve*, two buffet breakfasts, two buffet lunches and four refreshment breaks.)  
CSA members: \$325.00 per delegate  
Non-members (includes one year membership in CSA): \$375.00  
Those ineligible for ATA membership or who chose non-membership: \$650.00

Register online for the Banff Leadership Seminar at  
[www.event-wizard.com/events/LeadershipSeminar/](http://www.event-wizard.com/events/LeadershipSeminar/)

Make your reservation at the Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel and Conference Centre today.

Call 403-762-4433 or toll free 1-800-661-9266

Conference room rates per night (not including taxes)  
Superior room: \$128.00 deluxe jacuzzi room: \$188.00  
Executive, parlour or lodge suite: \$248.00

Who should attend? education leaders, administrators, teachers, inclusive learning coaches, division office personnel  
Don't miss this great opportunity. Register today as an individual or as a team!  
For more information, call the conference director, Garnet Goertzen, at 780-459-3990 or e-mail [garnetg@gmail.com](mailto:garnetg@gmail.com)