

Report on the Initiative for Democratic Education (IDEA) Women's Seminar - Quebec City April 16 and 20

Format:

The Seminar was divided into two parts that took place just prior to, and following the Peoples' Summit of the Americas Education Forum. This format enabled participants in the IDEA Seminar to also attend both the Education Forum and the Peoples' Summit Women's Forum.

The first session involved representatives from Educators Association Women's secretariats from Mexico, Central America, the Andes, the Caribbean, and the Southern Cone of South America, and representatives of Canadian Teachers organizations.

The Second (April 20) session was incorporated into a broader meeting of organizations participating in the IDEA process. This meeting involved male and female representatives from 36 educators, student, women's, community and native organizations from 18 American Countries. The morning focussed general discussion of the work of the IDEA process while the afternoon was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the conclusions and proposals of the April 16 Women in Education session.

Attending April 16 session: *Christine Stewart Aboriginal Women's Representative – BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), Julia McCrae – Surrey Teachers Association, Susie Ma – Vancouver Elementary School Teachers Association, Jinny Sims – Vice President – BCTF, Greer Kaiser – BCTF, Marie Josée Caron – Women's Commission, Central des Syndicats du Quebec, Linda Shuto – Director, CoDevelopment Canada, Aracely Moreno, President – National Union of Educators, Ecuador (UNE), Jane Goyes, Women's Secretary – UNE and IDEA Women's Network Coordinator, Leticia Sánchez Farfán – Mexican Section, Trinational Coalition to Defend Public Education, Ana Maria Grajeda – Section IX – National Union of Education Workers, Mexico, Carolina Abrales Sfeir – Confederation of Education Workers of the Republic of Argentina, Virginia Albert, Women's Secretary – Caribbean Union of Teachers, Nubia Turcios de Díaz – Women's Secretary, Federation of Central American Teachers Organizations.*

A total of 14 women representing 11 organizations from seven jurisdictions participated in the April 16 session of the IDEA Women's seminar. These same women met on several other occasions during the week to further their work and to prepare the agenda for the April 20 meeting. The women also presented recommendations to the Peoples' Summit Women's Forum held the evening of April 16.

April 16

After introductions, Jane Goyes, Coordinator of the IDEA Women in Education Network reviewed the objectives of the meeting and the Network. The objectives of the Network are:

1. To establish permanent communication and coordination among the women and organizations that participate in the IDEA process.
2. To exchange experiences, knowledge and information that will help us with a general analysis of gender issues in the Americas, and more specifically, in the area of public education.
3. To promote, both within our organizations and beyond, the concerns of the Women's Network.
4. To incorporate the agenda of the Women's Network into the work of the IDEA Process.

