

The FQPPU celebrates World Teacher's Day and the Unite for Quality Education campaign launch

Montréal, October 4, 2013 — The Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU) joins many international organizations in celebrating World Teacher's Day. Launched by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1994, this annual celebration on October 5 is a reminder of the important work carried out by millions of people all over the world. At every level of education, teachers play a crucial role for individuals and communities, one that is necessary for the common good.

This year, UNESCO chose the slogan "A Call for Teachers!" to celebrate World Teacher's Day with its partners: the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Education International (EI). According to the organization's website, "since teachers are the most powerful force for equity, access and quality education, a call for teachers means calling for quality education for all. Quality education offers hope and the promise of a better standard of living. There is no stronger foundation for lasting peace and sustainable development than a quality education provided by well trained, valued, supported and motivated teachers." For her part, UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova noted that "teachers' professional knowledge and skills are the most important factor for quality education. This World Teachers' Day, we call for teachers to receive stronger training upfront and continual professional development and support."

This same call applies to the academic world. For several years, it has been suffering from a shortage of faculty members as well as a lack of general resources needed to fully carry out its mission, one that includes the responsibility of training teachers. UNESCO's website states that "the focus of the 2013 World Teachers' Day celebration will be on tackling the teacher gap, barriers to better quality education and teachers' role in developing globally-minded citizens," and that the "huge shortage of professional, well-trained and well-supported teachers [prevents achieving a] better quality education."

Today, together with UNESCO (in Paris) and the UN (in New York), EI is launching a campaign to promote "quality education." With the slogan of "Unite for Quality Education," this campaign's goal is "to ensure that universal, free quality education remains at the top of the political agenda for a sustainable future." The next year will be replete with events "that will culminate on a World Day of Action in October 2014." One of these is the Global Education Conference in Montréal in May 2014, with the FQPPU participating as a member of Education International, "the voice of the teaching profession worldwide," bringing together over 400 unions in more than 170 countries and territories, or about 30 million people.

As for the FQPPU, it will host a forum in spring 2014 on university teaching, an essential component of professors' responsibilities.

Established in 1991, the FQPPU represents the majority of professors from English- and French-language universities in Quebec.