

Ninth Conference: Trinational Coalition for the Defense of Public Education
(Canada, the United States and Mexico)

**“TOWARDS PUBLIC AND DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION IN
NORTH AMERICA”**

May 7-9, 2010

UQAM, 405, rue Ste Catherine Est,
Salle Marie Gérin-Lajoie, Local J-M400 (Niveau Métro)
Montreal, Québec

AGENDA

Friday May 7th

- 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm** Guided tour of “L’autre Montréal” with a stop at a Cégep
(Pre-university college).
- 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** Possibility of a meeting of national delegations and supper
- 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm** Public conference

“TOWARDS PUBLIC AND DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA”
The numerous attacks on public education in North America follow the same logic but take many different forms. In order to counter the devastating effects of privatization, we must understand its mechanisms. This conference will focus on the current state of public education and privatization in Mexico, the United States, Canada and Quebec.

Saturday May 8th

- 8:00 am to 9:00 am** Registration
- 9:00 am to 9:30 am** Plenary session
General orientation for the day, presentation of workshops, official addresses.
Workshop objectives: Put forward proposals for promoting the development of truly public and democratic educational systems for North America.

9:45 am to 12:00 pm

Workshops

1. Schools and Marginalization

Schools do not treat all students equally. It has become increasingly difficult for the poor, and cultural minorities to pursue their education with success. Priority must be given to developing schools that can meet the growing needs of these communities and ensure their academic success.

2. Winning Strategies

The current state of public education in the face of constant privatization can seem overwhelming. However, several victories have been achieved by educators in the past few years. This workshop will provide an overview of these victories in order to inspire others. Focus will also be put on the possibility of modeling future campaigns on these successful struggles.

3. Making Education a Priority: Democratization and State Funding of Primary and Secondary Education

For many governments, education is far from being a priority. In fact the biggest constant is their blatant and long-standing under-funding of public school systems across the board. The economic crisis has exacerbated this phenomenon. This workshop will focus on developing strategies to raise public awareness and promote the importance of an adequately funded and quality education system, with increased input from those who use the public education system (students, parents, and teachers) .

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Workshops

4. Education and Native Americans

The state of education in almost every Native American community is alarming: marginalization, social issues, poverty, under funding, low graduation levels etc... We must support native peoples in their struggle to improve this situation and in developing strategies.

5. The Many Faces of Privatization

Privatization is gaining ground in Canada, the United States and Mexico, in many different forms. The examination of the various forms privatization takes in each region is essential in order to stem the tide and to promote the development of public education.

6. Making Education a Priority: Democratization and State Funding of Post-Secondary Education

With the constant undermining of our post-secondary educational systems in Canada, the US and Mexico, focus needs to be oriented towards the value of higher education. This focus must start with significant state investments in order to increase access to post-secondary education.

3:45 pm to 5:30 pm Plenary Session

Presentation of workshop proposals

Each facilitator will present the proposals put forward in each workshop. Discussion with all participants.

7:00 pm Supper and Entertainment

Sunday May 9th

9:00 am to 12:30 pm Plenary session

- Debate on workshop proposals
- Discussion on the future of the Trinational
- Reading of the closing declaration

Participants will be invited to comment the proposals put forward by the six workshops, followed by a discussion on the future of the Trinational, closing with the adoption of the final declaration.

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Tour of the city