



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



• UNESCO Chair in Reorienting
Teacher Education towards
Sustainability (Toronto, Canada)

CHAIRES UNESCO CHAIRS

IN/AU CANADA

UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability

UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability

Room 339 York Lanes
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York ON
M3J 1P3

Chairholder:
Mr. Charles Hopkins

Objective

The principle objective of the Chair is to advance education for sustainable development (ESD) globally, especially related to teacher education.

International Network of Teacher Education Institutions

The UNESCO Chair was established in 1999 to write guidelines on reorienting teacher education to address sustainability. The Chair formed an international network of 35 teacher education institutions (TEIs) from as many countries. The Chair convened biennial meetings of the International Network (IN), starting in 2000. The IN members carried out action research in their respective institutions and nations. After 3 years of research within their institutions, the chair surveyed the IN members concerning their experiences and recommendations. The results of the survey were used to create the *Guidelines and Recommendations for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability*. A second publication titled *Good Practices in Education for Sustainable Development: Teacher Education Institutions* was also produced.

In accord with the Bonn Declaration and UNESCO priorities, the International Network expanded and now involves TEIs in 60+ countries. IN members are forming regional, national and local networks to implement ESD in teacher education.

The goals for the IN are:

- To implement ESD in teacher education based on the *Guidelines and Recommendations for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability*.
- To capture learning and new insights related to teacher education and ESD.
- To work more closely with ministries of education, other UNESCO and UN teacher education initiatives, and school systems to embed ESD in TEIs.
- Carry out action research and write case studies to capture good practices in teacher education and ESD.
- To assist in the implementation of the Bonn Declaration on ESD regarding TEIs.

Sustainability and Education Academy (SEdA)

The Chair is Co-Director of SEdA at York University, which works with ministries of education, faculties of education, large school districts in Canada, and leading international researchers/administrators in ESD to explore moving from “whole school” approaches to ESD towards “whole school system” approaches.

The Chair and SEdA are also involved in exploring the role of the core disciplines in delivering ESD, especially at the secondary school level. The Chair convened a provincial working group consisting of the subject association presidents, Ministry of Education officials, and a broad representation of professors of Faculties of Education to examine how the various disciplines can be coordinated to develop a comprehensive ESD program for secondary school students.

Regional Centers of Expertise

The Chair works closely with United Nations University and their Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) program. The Chairholder was part of the group that developed the RCE concept, and continues as a developer of RCEs globally. The Chairholder also sits on the UBUNTU committee that approves new RCE applications.

On Campus at York University

The Chair has taken a role in reorienting the Faculty of Education at York over a long-term basis. Undergraduate and post graduate courses are now offered in ESD. There is a stand-alone additional certification in ESD at the Masters and Doctoral level. The graduate course attracts candidates from many faculties and schools including Education, Environmental Studies, Law, Business and Health. In addition, there is now a working committee of faculty members looking into how ESD can be integrated into the overall pre-service and in-service programming.