



UPFRONT

Education Ministers' Conference

This October, Edinburgh, Scotland, will host the 15th Annual Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, with discussions on the theme of "Closing the Gap: Access, Inclusion, Achievement." This year's conference will feature the first conference for youth, and young people from across the Commonwealth will participate in their own series of debates on the same themes. A parallel symposium for educators will also be included at this event on the theme of "Building the Commonwealth Capacity: Closing the Gap." This conference is held every three years; the previous meeting was in Halifax.

For more information, visit www.15ccem.com.

Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching History

Three Ontario public school board teachers have been awarded the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History for 2002. Barbara Brockmann (Ottawa-Carleton District School Board), Nick Brune (Halton DSB) and Carol White (Limestone DSB) were joined by John Jamieson of Nunavut, Ken Marland of Saskatchewan and Josette Bucharard-Müller of Toronto. All six were presented with their awards by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson in Ottawa in November. The award, established by the National History Society, has been presented annually since 1996.

November Awards

At a ceremony in November 2002, the Ontario Principals' Council honoured Liz Sandals, past president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, with its first Outstanding Contribution to Education Award. The award recognizes Sandals's lifetime dedication and commitment to public education and democracy. Sandals has donated the financial portion of her award to the Wellington Dufferin Learning Foundation for use in literacy programs at College Heights Secondary School in Guelph.

For more information, contact Jeff Sprang, communications, Ontario Public School Boards' Association, (416) 340-2540.

Mary Gordon, founder of Roots of Empathy (see *Education Today*, Spring 2000, p. 6), was honoured with one of the inaugural Fraser Mustard Awards in November 2002. She shared this recognition by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) with two other recipients: the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, co-author of *The Early Years Study*, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's World Market Children's Miracle Foundation. All have made important contributions to children's well-being and learning.

The TFSS is a charitable organization that provides nutritious meals and snacks for schoolchildren. The award is named after Dr. Fraser Mustard, co-author of *The Early Years Study*, neurosurgeon and researcher.

For more information, contact Lorraine Nowina, executive director, Toronto Foundation for Student Success, (416) 393-8935.

Canadian Inventors

They are mothers, chemists, computer technicians and inventors, and they are all Canadian women who have created a better world for others through ingenuity, creativity and brains. The accomplishments of these women, young and old, past and present, are chronicled in a recent book geared to kids aged 12 titled *Canadian Women Invent!* The book is organized by province and is brimming with intriguing facts and information. Additional sections include notable female inventors from around the world (do you know what Hedy Lamarr invented?) and some eye-opening facts about Canadian male inventors.

For more information, contact Annie Wood, Inventive Women, Inc., 401 Richmond St. W., Suite 228, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8, (416) 595-9828; e-mail at info@inventivewomen.com; or visit www.inventivewomen.com.