

Secretary-General
Secrétaire général

14 May 2009

Dear Ambassador,

Please find enclosed a letter intended for The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter forwarded to him.

Yours sincerely,

Angel Gurría

His Excellency
Mr. Paul-Henri Lapointe
Head of the Delegation of Canada
to the OECD

Enclosure

ANGEL GURRIA

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13 May 2009

Dear Prime Minister,

On the eve of the Canadian Council on Learning's release of their fourth annual Composite Learning Index for Canada, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate your government on its commitment to complementing investments in physical infrastructure with workforce development investments in lifelong learning.

The research, analysis and reporting capacity of an organisation such as CCL represents an important asset in a knowledge-driven economy. At the OECD, we have watched CCL's rapid evolution with interest. I have been impressed with the above-mentioned Composite Learning Index, which integrates robust measures across varied dimensions of learning and enables individuals and communities to assess the impact of learning on social and economic outcomes. The CLI has prompted similar efforts internationally, and I am looking forward to the launch of a European Lifelong Learning Index inspired by this Canadian model.

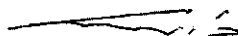
I have also been impressed by CCL's recent launch of online adult literacy assessment tests, made freely available and in confidence to individual users, workplace programmes and resource organisations supplying essential skills training. Finally, CCL's "redefining success in Aboriginal learning" initiative has garnered a great deal of positive attention, for an approach to this vital issue that is at once innovative and practical.

It has been a pleasure these past two years to work with CCL in this broad international endeavour to improve learning outcomes, within and across individual countries. These efforts are essential complements to the OECD work in this field, in particular, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) which have developed standardised international indicators.

As we know, investing in a knowledge economy not only supports economic resilience and fuels economic growth, but also improves health levels, strengthens community, and heightens employment prospects. In an ever-more globalised world, its importance will only grow.

It is a pleasure to pledge my personal support to CCL in its ongoing work.

Yours sincerely,



Angel Gurría

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
Canada

Cc : His Excellency, Mr. Paul-Henri Lapointe, Head of the Delegation of Canada to the OECD