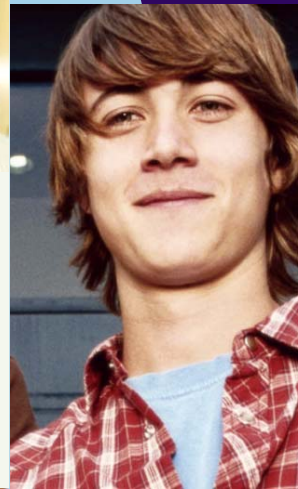


# BUILDING A COMMUNITY



**2009-10**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# BUILDING A COMMUNITY



*First it is necessary to stand on your own two feet. But the minute a man finds himself in that position, the next thing he should do is reach out his arms.*

*Kristin Hunter*



In a province as vast as Quebec, and with schools and school boards scattered over an enormous geographic expanse, the notion of bringing people together to create a COMMUNITY of collaboration may appear daunting, if not impossible. In reality, when people share similar interests and common goals, those physical impediments can quickly disappear. This is especially true when the ultimate objective is the academic success of our children in elementary and high schools. LEARN's focus is to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of communities of collaboration composed of educators, parents and students across the province. It is our organization's objective to make every effort possible to get the well-intentioned forces within the English educational milieu together to share the wealth of knowledge and experience that resides there. [Punch up last sentence & Conclude with Building a Community]

# ABOUT LEARN

LEARN is an educational foundation supported in part by funding from the Quebec-Canada Entente for Minority Language Education that offers e-learning services and support to all English educational institutions, community organizations and the private sector in rural and urban settings. In addition, LEARN supports and promotes pedagogical collaboration and innovation using information technology, and modeling best practices.

The LEARN team sees LEARN's vision and mission statements as more than words. These principles provide a call to action. At LEARN meetings, these statements are reiterated and provide the context for the course of action to be undertaken.

## Vision

### To be a beacon for excellence in education

When we think of a beacon, we picture lighthouses or buoys which help travelers find their way safely to their destinations. LEARN's vision is to serve as the model and the guide which will help both educators and students discover excellence in education. Moreover, at LEARN, the notion of excellence at LEARN means that simply getting something done is not sufficient. Our services and resources must necessarily stand out and lead the way.



## Mission

To provide access to quality learning material, educational technology, and e-learning resources in a timely responsive manner to the Québec English Education Community.

Knowing what the educational community needs and what is essential to educators and students is insufficient. Delivering pre-identified resources and services is the greatest challenge to our endeavors. LEARN has worked diligently to deliver material and services throughout the entire province and these serve to contribute to student success. In addition, LEARN has, and will continue to deliver those resources and services as requested and needed.

## Values

### Leadership, Innovation, Responsiveness, Openness, Equity

The L in LEARN stands for *leading*. An organization cannot lead by being reactive. As a result LEARN is frequently at the cutting edge of best educational practice. *Innovation* is part of the very fabric of LEARN. LEARN has and continues to respond and to work openly with representatives from every sector of the educational community everywhere. Last but not least, *equity* is the active form of the word equal. For the LEARN team, the process of sharing and being accessible to every member of the milieu is critical. As with everything done at LEARN, all of this is done with heartfelt passion.



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Leading English Education and Resources Network (LEARN) has evolved significantly in the past few years.

Now considered a major contributor and building block for English language education in the province of Quebec, we are now recognized as a major player, which has resulted in increased attention and funding.

Only five years ago LEARN was formed by amalgamating the Distance Education and Community Network (DECN), the English Education and Resources Network (EERF), and the Quebec English Schools Network (QESN). The concept was to provide the students and staff of English schools with a high quality cost effective place to get support, find resources, communicate and collaborate in ways designed to make everyone's educational day to day easier. During a time of decreasing enrollment and budgets this has become even more important. LEARN is in the process of becoming that place. We are becoming widely known and greatly used.



Challenges include the long term goal of being self sufficient. Establishing a “for profit” wing (I-EDIT) under the LEARN umbrella is a first step toward this. Because we have evolved quickly, particularly over the past two years communication has become a challenge. We need to ensure clear, appropriate, and positive messages are delivered, not just to the English community, but to all so that people truly understand who we are and what we stand for. Working more precisely with all our partners in the English community has become a priority. LEARN is “learning” as well - growth can be challenging!

All this said, I am proud of our organization, the staff, and the Board of Governors. We have worked hard to establish LEARN. It has already accomplished much and even greater things are in our future.

Mike Dawson  
Chairman



# WORDS FROM THE CEO

## Review of 2009-10

Year five: LEARN has moved on and issues about integrating three different organizations into one dynamic whole have evolved and now the focus as an organization is on becoming better and more responsive.

As a non-profit operation with a mandate to serve the educational needs of the English community or Quebec, our success can only be realistically based on how often our resources and services are called upon. With this notion in mind as the primary indicator of success, it is with pride in our team that I unequivocally claim this past year as a success. With millions of hits monthly on our site and with literally thousands of attendees at our many workshops, LEARN is serving a vital role in the milieu. The ties with SSCAAA are solid and based on mutual respect and appreciation for our respective roles. In this past year we have co-piloted a number of important projects and the shared leadership in these endeavors should serve as a model to those who prefer to work in silos and isolation. LEARN's objective of contributing to student success is supported as well by the many





collaborators we have in the schools and school boards across the province. LEARN is also committed to forging ties with Quebec universities in order to identify services and means which support teachers in the classroom as well as helping pre-service teachers ready themselves for the “real world”.

As always, LEARN remains committed to the principle of creating partnerships and collaborations beyond its borders and, as a result, ties with Taking it Global, the Weizmann Institutes and others are still in place and are being enhanced. Despite our many accomplishments, we recognize that much work remains. Usage can increase if we succeed in heightening our visibility and getting out the message that resources and services do exist for our teachers and students. If members of our community still do not know about LEARN, we must re-double our efforts and energies to make sure that any who can benefit from our organization, do so.

Michael Canuel

CEO



# YEAR IN REVIEW

LEARN takes a result-oriented approach in fulfilling its mandate.

In 2009-10 we set out objectives we are convinced helped us move in this direction. Below is a brief summary that details some of the more visible objectives.

Objectives 2009-2010	Status June 2010
1 20 new Cycle 2 LES	Completed and Posted
2 Online courses	5 School Boards
3 SOS LEARN	Over 4000 students registers with tutorials/high school and elementary
4 Creation of online communities	Created 6 online communities with over 700 participants
5 Co-pilotage/MELS	Peliquan–Community Forum–Direction Lecture–Goal and Centerpiece–ALDI–Art Smarts and SAST–Direction Lecture–PDIG–ELA Resources–ERC–DEELA
6 Community partnerships	McGill/CEL and IPLC, Concordia LTK–Bishops Pre-service teachers–Université de Montréal–ACFAS–Blue Metropolis–CEFRIO/BCT–Moovjam–Encounters Canada–Academos–GRICS–Parks Canada/Our Noir–McCord Museum–QESMAP
7 Acquire additional content/tools	Media Awareness–Toon Boom–Asynchronous tutorials–NFB–School Wax
8 Launch Dotplan 2.0	Completed and posted
9 CMS navigation improvement	Completed



10	Update previous material (interactivity)	Ongoing, 60% completed.
11	Upgrade Portal-Sakai	Completed
12	Increase resources for Science (Sec 4)	Completed
13	Update and increase physics (Sec 5)	Completed
14	Update and increase chemistry (Sec 5)	Completed
15	Provide workshops to teachers	Completed (Approximately 2,000 teachers in over 50 workshops)
16	Convert digital files for PDFs	Completed
17	Learning landscapes 2 new editions	Fall Completed—June Edition out in 3rd week of June
18	Participation on DEEN Sub-committees	Completed
19	Community presentations	18 during the course of the year

## LEARN by Numbers

When asked about our reach into the community, the numbers tell the tale.

1. Average of 2,200,000 hits per month on the LEARN website
2. Average of 9000 unique visitors daily on the LEARN site with average time spent at 2.1 minutes per site
3. Total registration to date for SOS LEARN: 4200
4. Average downloads of Learning Landscapes per month: 10,000
5. Google ranking in top 1.5% of all sites world-wide
6. Total number of teachers who participated in LEARN workshops this year: +2000
7. Project Retained Earnings as of June 30, 2010 approximately \$1,500,000 (Revenue generation/sustainability planning).
8. Vodzone viewings/downloads this year: +500,000
9. Total Media Awareness access this year: Approximately 30,000

## Growing the community!

- Kativik School Board and Cree School are now both accessing LEARN resources and services.
- Online communities of practice with more than 900 participants.



# OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

LEARN's activities are divided into three general divisions that represent the nature and scope of the work that is done for the community.

## 1. E-Learning Resources and Services Director: Margaret Dupuis



This particular division of LEARN focuses on both delivering e-learning services as well as supporting and adapting resources which can be used by both teachers and students in the classroom. LEARN's approach to e-learning is innovative and the subject of much interest to academic institutions. The real-time delivery of classes to students across the province on a daily basis using a web-conferencing tool with an interactive white board and application-sharing is the technical foundation for what LEARN does in terms of e-learning.

What makes it all stand apart is the integration of socio-constructivist methodologies in the online class. Through the use of the Sakai Learning Management System, the online teachers and students can employ blogs, wikis, and participate in ongoing threaded discussions. At the heart of the pedagogy is a learner-centered approach which drives enquiry and which illustrates how thoughtful and purposeful learning activities can help students

become self-aware and effective learners. In addition, LEARN has made sure that students feel part of a vibrant and organic social dynamic, which counters the mythology of a cold and unfriendly environment.

From a practical point of view, the courses LEARN delivers online helps students in high schools across the province take courses and get credits they might not otherwise have been able to acquire. Not only are students able to complete their high school diploma, they are able to apply for course programs at the CEGEP level. Research has shown that LEARN's online students continue to score as well, if not better than their counterparts in the conventional face to face settings.

Added to the online classes, LEARN's evening tutorials provide a service the entire community is pleased to have. Students at the elementary and secondary levels are able to interact four evenings a week with tutors who provide remediation, enrichment and review for students in all subject areas. The intent during these tutorials sessions is offer more than homework support. The online tutors are experienced teachers who are sensitive and understanding of students' needs and concerns and who quickly adapt their tutorial sessions in order to respond to these needs and concerns.

Finally, LEARN's printed material is all in the process of being adapted for delivery online. This division's responsibility is to convert this material for use by the community thereby rendering excellent pedagogical material which was hitherto only available in textbooks, accessible on LEARN's site.



# OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES [cont'd]

## 2. Community Outreach and Support Director: Bev White



Serving the English educational community of Quebec requires that LEARN interact on a continuous basis with the key stakeholders of the community as well as those organizations and institutions. As a member of numerous committees and organizations, LEARN is able to get a pulse of the community's needs and to respond in a timely and effective manner. In addition, LEARN's ongoing collaboration with Quebec's three English universities allows for the range of services and resources to be enriched in a variety of ways. This is best illustrated by the work done in the creation and field-testing of a digital portfolio as well as a software platform designed to deal with early childhood literacy.

Most importantly, LEARN's outreach and support is done in a partnership fashion with the Ministry of Education—SSCAAA—which shares and supports the organization's goal of creating a milieu where collaboration and sharing are valued and promoted. The SSCAAA's support has allowed LEARN to make important inroads in a number of areas as it reaches out to support. Even as LEARN reaches out to serve, new members from the private school sector as well as the aboriginal school boards are becoming part of the LEARN family which uses the services and resources the organization has to offer.

### 3. Educational Resources and Services Director: Bev White



At a time when the new curriculum has finally reached secondary level V, the need for new resources has never been greater and the demand for upgraded and refreshed pedagogical material is unending. The challenge for LEARN has been to be able to answer and deal with this demand. Needless to say, alone LEARN cannot do this, but in collaboration with educators at all levels, new learning and evaluation situations has been posted along with countless pages of complementary and supplementary resources.

LEARN's Content Management System now includes tens of thousands of pages which have and will continue to help everyone across the province deal with the demands of a new curriculum. LEARN's workshops given to thousands of teachers as well as our regular presence in schools and conference helps explain why when the word **learn** is googled, LEARN, the organization appear in the top two or three positions. LEARN's resources are used and appreciated. It is an ongoing process which is complex and organic, but vital to the community.



# LOOKING FORWARD

LEARN is continually forging new alliances and partnerships with a view to enriching the range of options available to students and educators.

Below are some of the new partnerships which will be in place for 2010.



LEARN

2009-2010  
Annual  
Report

1. **Toon Boom:** Through LEARN students across the English educational community will be able to utilize animation software developed by Toon Boom, the same company which provides the software to major animation studios like Pixar and Disney. The software will allow students to create their own animations and integrate them into projects across the curriculum.
2. **National Film Board of Canada Archive:** The NFB's archive of films and educational resources will be added to LEARN's repertoire of resources which will be accessible at all times to teachers and students. For teachers, many of these resources will come accompanied with guides and activities.
3. **Encounters Canada:** LEARN will be running a contest with Encounters Canada and will select 10 students who will be sent



on an all expenses paid trip to Ottawa to spend a week learning about our nation and its workings.

4. **Ask a Tutor:** To supplement the online live tutorials which LEARN offers students during the course of the year, an added program in various subject areas will be made available to students. This program will help students assess their own strengths and weaknesses and engage in a study plan which will help them build on their strengths and address those areas which need special attention.
5. **Moovjam:** LEARN has partnered with Moovjam. Moovjam is an organization of health care professionals responding to the escalating rise in child obesity and inactivity among youth and young adults. Moovjam's mission is to promote the social, behavioral and environmental conditions that favor healthy eating and increased physical activity among youth and young adults; to encourage the collaboration of industry, government and communities who recognize the importance of proper nutrition and physical activity; to see a world where everyone can feel good about the food that they eat, the activities that they participate in, and the products that they buy.



# i-EDIT

In 2009-10 LEARN created a new fully-owned commercial subsidiary called i-Edit.

Funded out of commercial activities, i-Edit's business mandate is to create and to deliver educational resources and services which will not be part of LEARN offerings.

The intent of this for-profit company is to help LEARN become financially independent in the coming years. The other important consideration is that LEARN's focus will remain on its mandate thereby allowing it to continue to provide the community with resources and services. This approach is modeled on the concept of social entrepreneurship which is growing across North America.

## **Social entrepreneurship:**

1. applies **practical, innovative and sustainable approaches** to benefit society in general
2. captures a **unique** approach to community problems and issues, an approach that cuts across sectors and disciplines
3. is grounded in certain **values and processes** that are common to



each social entrepreneur, independent of whether his/her area of focus has been education, health, welfare reform, human rights, workers' rights, environment, economic development, agriculture, etc. or whether the organizations they set up are non-profit or for-profit entities.

It is this approach that sets the social entrepreneur apart from the rest of the crowd of well-meaning people and organizations.

### i-Edit Activities

The focus of i-Edit's work will be on the development of e-books, translations and web conferencing tools for the educational world. Having already partnered with a number of companies in Quebec, i-Edit will pursue commercially viable synergies that are aligned with its current activities. In the coming months, i-Edit will become an event organizer for the educational world and generate revenues in this fashion as well.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As per the incorporation papers, the members of LEARN's Board of Directors are private individuals

who are called on from the nine English School Boards of Quebec, the Littoral School Board, the Quebec Association of Independent Schools, the Association of Jewish Day Schools, and the Quebec English School Board Association.

The Assistant Deputy Minister as well as two delegates from the SSCAAA are permanent guests to all board meetings.

Chairman: Mike Dawson

Vice-Chairman: Robert T. Mills



## Members of LEARN's Board of Directors:

Michael Dawson – Director General, Western Quebec School Board

Robert Mills – Director General, Lester B. Pearson School Board

Rémi Poliquin – Legal Counsel , Lester B. Pearson School Board

Anne-Marie Lepage – Director General, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Robert Stocker – Director General, English Montreal School Board

Stephen Lessard – Director General, Riverside School Board

Wayne Goldthorpe – Director General, New Frontiers School Board

Ron Corriveau – Director General, Central Quebec School Board

Dave Royal – Director General, Eastern Shores School Board

Lucy De Mendonça – Littoral School Board

Michel Lafrance – Director, QAIS

Charley Levy – Association of Jewish Day Schools

Gilles Rimbaugh – Assistant Director General, Eastern Townships School Board

David Birnbaum – Executive Director QESBA



# OUR TEAM

The LEARN team is composed of a group of individuals who have an incredible skill level and whose educational prowess cannot be doubted. They are remarkable, however, for their inspired dedication and devotion to LEARN's vision which is to be a beacon for excellence in education.

## LEARN Executive Directors

Michael Canuel, Chief Executive Officer

Bev White, Director of Educational Services and Community Outreach

Margaret Dupuis, Director of e-Learning Services

Patrick Bérubé, Director of Operations

## e-LEARNing Adaptation and Support Team

Christy Schwartz • Deborah Stafford-Turcotte • Linda Monette •  
Shelley Orr

## Technology Team

Tim Scobie – Manager • Louis Gilles Lalonde • Jeremy Dubeau •  
Kevon Licorish



## Finance, Accounting and Administrative Support

Doris Kerec • Stephanie Stockl • Rosie Himo

## Pedagogical Consultants

Paul Rombough • Alessandra Pasteris • Julie Paré • Thomas Stenzel  
• Christiane Dufour • Christine Truesdale • Sylwia Bielec • Joanne  
Malowany • Suzanne Longpré • Susan Van Gelder • Melanie Stonebanks

## Virtual School Team

Dianne Conrod – Principal • Kerry Cule • Andy Ross • Audrey  
McGoldrick • Peggy Drolet • Tamara Vaughn

## LEARNing Landscapes

Mary Stewart • Lynn Butler-Kisber



# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## What the community has to say about LEARN!

Hi Ms. Conrod,

*"I would like to thank you so much for setting up the online classroom for me to use with the student who is out sick. It has been working out great so far, with no issues and it is definitely making life easier on everyone. He has been able to participate in both Math and Science classes at the same time as the class. I have not had any major issues and have worked out the basics of Wimba through trial and error and the reading of the manual. I know that you offered a training and I will let you know whether I will take you up on that. To be honest, at this point in time it all seems very user-friendly!"*

Million of thanks again!  
Evergreen High School

**From: Wendy**

Date: January 2010

*"We're giving an ERC workshop in a couple weeks and again we'll be directing teachers to the site. It's such a wonderful 'gathering place' for so many resources! Keep up the good work and thanks for all you do for us."*

**From: Jennifer (Arthur O's mother)**

Date: January 20, 2010

*"Dear Mme Seely,*

*I am writing to thank you for sending my son, Arthur the chem worksheets which he received few days ago. The warm and comfortable setting of your tutorials encourages him to participate continuously every week. Also, your knowledgeable input has helped him greatly at school. In addition, he has visited the chemfiesta site and found it very useful. Thanks a millions again. "*

Sincerely, Jennifer (Arthur O's mother)





## LEARNing Landscapes

From: Monica Prendergast, Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences

Date: January 20, 2010

*"This is just fantastic! I've been showing it to my colleagues and their mouths are dropping... outstanding work and a real contribution to arts education."*

From: Ruth Leitch, Queen's University (Belfast)

Date: January 20, 2010

*"I had already visited the LEARNing Landscapes site and read various articles from the current issue. It is fantastic. Huge.... but really, really interesting and varied and such a valuable resource to refer to for those interested in artful inquiry."*

## ERC McGill Workshop

From: Mary Sue Gibson, ECS

Date: November 04, 2009

*"Just a quick note to say a big THANK YOU for the wonderful ERC McGill workshop yesterday. First of all, your enthusiasm, good sense of humor and attention to detail were very much appreciated. All the presenters shared valuable information and you and Paul were a great team. And it didn't hurt that the view was beautiful and lunch delicious! Although I was concerned about missing a day of school at a busy time, the experience was very valuable and I've already shared with some of the resources with my junior school colleagues."*



# 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT CONTENT



BUILDING A COMMUNITY	2
ABOUT LEARN	4
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	6
WORDS FROM THE CEO	8
YEAR IN REVIEW	10
OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES	12
LOOKING FORWARD	16
i-EDIT	18
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	20
OUR TEAM	22
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK	24