



CIES (West) Annual Conference

Sept. 29 to Oct 1, 2005

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER



Opening Session
Sept 29, 2005



The far-reaching changes in the traditional pattern of life require of us a better understanding of other people and the world at large; they demand mutual understanding, peaceful interchange and, indeed, harmony - the very things that are most lacking in our world today.



The Commission has put greater emphasis on one of the four pillars that it proposes and describes as the foundations of education: **LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER**, by developing an understanding of others and their history, traditions and spiritual values and, on this basis, creating a new spirit which, guided by recognition of our growing interdependence and a common analysis of the risks and challenges of the future, would induce people to implement common projects or to manage the inevitable conflicts in an intelligent and peaceful way.



Utopia, some might think, but it is a necessary Utopia, indeed a vital one if we are to escape from a dangerous cycle sustained by cynicism or by resignation. (UNESCO (1996), Learning: The treasure from within, p. 22)



We are surrounded by a pragmatic discourse that would have us adapt to the facts of reality. Dream, and utopia, are called not only useless, but positively impeding. (After all, they are an intrinsic part of any educational practice with the power to unmask the dominant lies)

P. Freire (1994), *Pedagogy of Hope* (p.7)

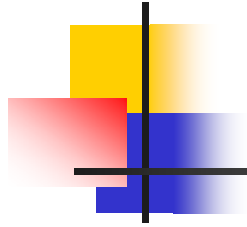


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