



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!**Letter from the Editor**

Dear Educators,

“So set ‘em up Joe ... Make it one for my baby and one more for the road” — Frank Sinatra

The hit TV show, MAD MEN, is set in a transitional period of history that is often idealized by Boomers as a time when life was safe, clean and perfect. But the truth is that the early 60's signaled the end of the post-war naiveté that pervaded our social consciousness. Racism, sexism, ethnicism, homophobia and The Cold War ruled the day. Social norms like smoking and drinking were not only acceptable but encouraged. I recall commercials that claimed that smoking, with its calming properties, was GOOD for you. Drinking was widespread — de rigueur after work, before and while driving, and during pregnancy. It was also a time of big, shiny, gas guzzling cars with no seatbelts or car seats. Babies were held in mothers' arms in the front seat, or worse, lay rolling around the back seat. It was not unusual for children to sit between their parents in the front seat or in the back of a station wagon facing oncoming traffic, waving and laughing all the way. It's a wonder any of us survived!

Thanks to the 60's cultural revolution and the rise of activists such as Ralph Nader, great change took place. At the same time we began to realize that industry and our lifestyles were destroying our environment. It seems unbelievable that so much sludge and sewage was dumped into our lakes and rivers before the resurgence of the 'Back to Nature' movement. I remember the summer that Lake Erie's *sun-block free* beaches were closed due to the large quantity of dead fish found floating on the water's surface. And LITTERING — garbage everywhere — in parks, along roads, tossed out of car windows ... don't get me started!

This week's issue features environmental programs that encourage students to observe their world and participate in finding solutions to our eco-challenges. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

Mary Kovack

Environment Canada's Biosphère offers customized training for teachers in English and French

The Biosphère is pleased to offer free training in English and French for elementary and secondary school teachers, educational advisors and science teachers across Canada. These training sessions will help teachers integrate environmental concepts into their teaching and encourage young people to take action to protect the environment. Varying in length from one to two days, the sessions are offered at the Biosphère or at your school on request and during specific periods throughout the year.

Environmental education and engagement: fundamentals and practice

Introduction to the concepts, principles, and practices of teaching about the environment and environmental engagement. This intensive training facilitates an understanding of the various levels of commitment and integrates this concept into teaching.

Environmental education and experiential learning strategies

Experiential learning strategies can be used to help students acquire new behaviours and new competencies. The aim of this training is to develop and enrich the competen-

cies of teachers in using these practical techniques. After this session, participants will be able to use strategies such as nature field trips, decision making, and resolving environmental problems.

Environmental Training

Block I: Climate Change and Energy

Block II: Water and Forests

Offered in two separate blocks, this training allows educators to learn about climate change and energy or about water and forests. Participants will receive practical tools to help them design learning activities on these subjects and the issues involved.

For more information on the Biosphère's teacher training:

- www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca, section **Activities for groups**
- telephone: 514-496-8282 or 1-866-487-8282 (toll free)
- fax: 514-496-8588
- email: reservations.biosphere@ec.gc.ca

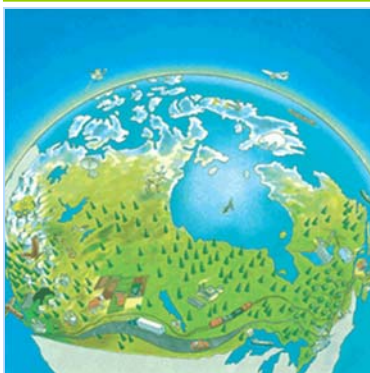


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Statistics Canada ... Newsworthy Everyday!



[Households and the Environment Survey, 2007](#) — *The Daily*, Statistics Canada, February 10, 2009

Increasing numbers of Canadian households are taking advantage of energy and water-saving devices in their home...In 2007, 62% of Canadian households reported they had a low-flow shower head, up from 54% the year before.

This latest Household and the Environment survey reports on several behaviours related to energy and water conservation, indoor environment, pesticide use and consumer habits. See the report's [highlights](#) and check its [tables](#) to compare your province to the rest of Canada.

[Study: Participation in environmentally active lifestyles, 2006](#) – *The Daily*, Statistics Canada, December 9, 2008

About 45% of Canadian households had very environmentally active lifestyles in 2006, as measured by their participation in at least four of six selected environmental behaviours. The most environmentally active province was Prince Edward Island, where close to two-thirds of households participated in four or more environmental behaviours. In comparison, Quebec and Manitoba had the lowest proportion of households engaged in four or more behaviours.

Find these and other key information sources in the [Environment: Key Resources](#) page of "Learning Resources" in the Statistics Canada website.

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The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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