

Education Can Provide The Preconditions For Inclusive And Active Citizenship



In-Person Parallel Event

The Canadian Federation For Citizenship

March 7, 2023
12:30 PM EST



New York City
CCUN 8th Floor

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Agenda

- Digital Transformation
- Education in the Digital Age
- The Changing World of Work
- Labour Market Shortages
- Short and Long Term Responses
- Active and Responsible Citizenship



Digital Transformation

- Digital transformation is the integration of digital technology into our economies and societies.
- The global pandemic brought new urgency to meeting our digital transformation goals.
- It has forced many organizations to speed up their transformation work.
- It is changing how we operate and deliver services.
- There is no one size fits all.



Education in the Digital Age

- The last 3 years put things into perspective for parents with young children in daycares and preschools.
- Students at all levels switched to online learning as we dealt with distancing and isolating to fight the virus.
- Some people worked from home. Others had to re-skill or up-skill to work from home.
- Older workers retired before their intended time. Some engaged in lifelong learning.
- Seniors in long term care homes needed help in visiting family members virtually.



Digital Learning Benefits

- Better access to resources
- Greater flexibility
- More engagement
- Options for those struggling with traditional methods of learning
- Spontaneous learning
- Learn at own pace
- More exciting and fun
- Preparation for the world of work



Digital learning - Challenges

- Unreliable or absence of internet service
- Lack of infrastructure
- No access to devices
- More screen time, less physical activity
- Mental health affected by excessive use
- Diminished opportunities for socialization
- Misinformation and disinformation
- Cyber bullying and attacks





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The Changing World of Work

- In person, virtual and hybrid
- Essential and frontline work
- Labour shortages
- Occupations in demand
- Workplace health and safety
- Technological Innovation
- Changes in demographics
- Globalization

Labour Market Shortages

- Jobs that are undesirable due to low pay and poor working conditions
- Jobs that are located at a fair distance
- Jobs that don't fit into a life style
- Jobs that are not aligned with values
- Jobs that do not motivate or excite
- Jobs that do not offer growth
- Jobs that have no continuous learning
- Jobs that are for others



Short Term Response: Immigration

- Temporary pathways
 - Foreign Workers
 - International Students
- Permanent pathways
 - Express Entry – Skilled Workers
 - Provincial Nomination Programs
 - Caregivers
 - Pilot Programs – Rural, Agri-Food, EMPP-Skilled Refugees



Long Term Response – Education Plan

- Canadian Students – From early years to secondary education.
Technology in STEM (Why not in Languages, Humanities & Arts?)
- Coordination between governments at all levels (curriculum development and funding).
- Partnerships with academic institutions (scholarships, mentorship and sponsorship).
- Working with parents and students expectations and norms.
- Equal access to educational opportunities for all students.
- Vulnerable groups – low income families, youth at risk, indigenous immigrant, disabled, single mothers, gender-diverse, etc



Citizens' Engagement

- Are we creating safe spaces?
- Do we foster a sense of belonging?
- Are we including everyone?
- Is it welcoming to all?
- Is our gesture genuine?
- Do we embrace differences?
- Do we appreciate and recognize?
- Do our actions match our words?



Active Citizenship Can Be Cultivated

It requires deliberate and consistent effort

Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla, JD



Thank You!

We look forward to future engagement opportunities with you



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