



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | Right To Play

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

As Canadians we love to complain that our neighbours to the south know so little about our country and that Europeans often view us as Americans. Although we live in an increasingly diverse ethnic society and are some of the best travelled people in the world, most of us will actually visit relatively little of the world that we inhabit. Our impressions of other countries will be formed for the most part from our schooling, those who immigrate to Canada or through news, entertainment programming and documentaries on television and in movies.

I learned about how Canada was perceived during summer breaks from university when I worked as a Customs & Immigration Officer on the Canadian end of the bridge which connected my small border town to the United States. For four fascinating summers, I asked visitors wanting to enter Canada "What is your citizenship?", followed by "Where are you going and what is the purpose of your trip?" While the questions were predictable the answers and the people were anything but. Many of the first-time travellers to Canada arrived with pre-conceived notions. On occasion, a traveller would pull up to the 'little booth', usually on a hot day in July, with parkas and downhill skis strapped to the top of their cars ready to take on the slopes of the Land of Ice and Snow, only to realize that they were a couple of thousand kilometers south of the nearest skiing opportunity.

The upcoming Olympics offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about the host country and its culture and to vicariously land a 'perfect 10' alongside some of Canada's and the world's best athletes. This week's issue contains a classroom resource that combines learning about world cultures with promoting sport and play for all children. 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

China Supplement Features Olympians

Did you know the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically says that every child has the right "to engage in play and recreational activities..."? Unfortunately, millions of children don't have access to organized sport and play programs that can help them grow and develop. It may be because they are caught in a war zone, or struggling with poverty or disease, or have been marginalized because of their gender or disability. Whatever the reason, they do not know the incredible joy that comes from simply *playing a game*.

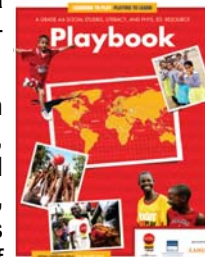


Right To Play is a Canada-based athlete-driven humanitarian organization committed to improving the lives of children in the most disadvantaged areas of the world through the power of sport. By providing children with the opportunity and tools to engage in regular sport and play, Right To Play enhances their physical and social development and helps foster safer and stronger communities in 23 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

When Children Play, the World Wins!

Right To Play offers elementary teachers — grades 4-6 — a free, curriculum-based teachers' kit packed with ideas for creative play and activities featuring an exploration of the lives of children around the world, the countries they live in and a study of our rights and responsibilities in the world community.

Created in partnership with Silken Laumann's *Active Kids Movement*, **Right To Play's** Canadian school program — **Learning To Play, Playing To Learn** — promotes educational play and awareness of global issues among Canada's schoolchildren. **Available in English and French**, well over 5,000 **Playbook** kits are now being used in classrooms across the country.



To order a kit, go to www.richtoplay.com/teachers or [click here](#).

NEW! The 2008 China Supplement features four Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors who will be competing at either the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games August 8-24 or the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games September 6-17. To find out more about the new supplement, see **Website of the Week** feature, **below**.

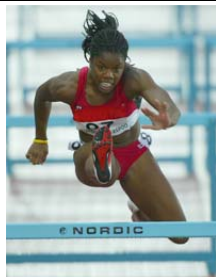
Right To Play *Learning To Play, Playing To Learn* — 2008 China Supplement

Just in time for this year's Summer Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, Right To Play has included a China Supplement which include Lesson Plans and Student Worksheets relevant to Language, Social Studies and Health and Physical Education curricula. Activities include:

- **Chinese Chopsticks** — involves students in a game that combines learning Chinese symbols and words with sport, play and daily physical activity.
- **Athlete Collector Cards** — provides students with the opportunity to learn about four Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors (see below) representing Canada in the 2008 Olympics or Paralympic Games in Beijing. Student can build an Athlete Collector Cards series that will feature biographical details and sport quotes from their favourite local/school athletes, including themselves!

To order your free kit of *Learning To Play, Playing To Learn* containing the new 2008 China Supplement, go to www.righttoplay.com/teachers. If you already have a copy, you can download the China supplement at www.righttoplay.com/teachers!

Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors in Beijing



Perdita Felicien

100m Hurdles — Two Time Olympian and Two time World Champion

[Photo Credit: Claus Andersen Photography]



Adam van Koeverden

Flatwater Kayak — Olympic Gold medalist and World Champion



Chantal Petitclerc

Wheelchair Racing — 16 Paralympic medals and Paralympic Gold Medalist
[Photo Credit: Claus Andersen Photography]



Simon Whitfield

Triathlon — Olympic Gold Medalist

[Photo Credit: Spomedis/triathlon.org]

Right To Play's 'Make Your Goals Count' Initiative — an opportunity for school athletes and minor sports teams

SUPPORT A CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

Right To Play's newest initiative — **Make Your Goals Count** — encourages Canadian students and athletes of all ages to bring the joy of sport and play to children around the world who need it most. **Make Your Goals Count** empowers Canadian athletes to have an

impact on more than just the scoreboard. By collecting pledges in support of their on-field or on-ice successes, athletes will allow children on the other side of the world to share in their celebrations while raising awareness of the power of sport as a force for positive social and individual change.

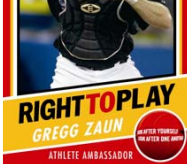
Here's how it works for schools: First, student athletes are educated on Right To Play and its work. Then they are encouraged to collect pledges from family, friends and the community for every goal their team — or a particular individual player — scores during the season. For example, one hockey player's parents might pledge \$5 for every goal their son or daughter (or team) scores during the season. At the end of the season, the players are asked to collect their pledges and combine them with any personal donations from team members. All funds will be used to support Right To Play's *Sport for Development and Peace* programs in 23 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



The University of Toronto swim team is supporting every child's right to play through the **Make Your Goals Count** initiative



Teams that don't score goals (eg. swim team, track team) can track their laps in a daily log and ask for pledges for their laps. A total distance goal can be set for the team to "Swim/Run Across Canada." This is a great way to promote teamwork while supporting every child's right to play.



Make Your Goals Count has already been taken up by Toronto Blue Jays catcher and Right To Play Athlete Ambassador Gregg Zaun, who donated \$25,000 to Right To Play based on runners thrown out in the 2007 season. Now it's your turn. No contribution is too small, as the need and potential impact are so great.

Make Your Goals Count fundraising is easy through Right To Play's on-line pledge software mechanism. Schools, individuals, minor sports teams and other sport organizations can get involved by visiting www.righttoplay.com/goals, or by contacting Right To Play at 416-203-0190, x. 252.

News & Related Links

[Johann Koss: Making Miracles One Ball At A Time](#) —John Budris, Hall of Fame Magazine[HOFMAG.com] Exclusive, Autumn, 2007

In a sporting universe fretted with greed, ego and money – all three in growing abundance – one demure star is a guiding light. Johann Olav Koss. That Johann Koss is not a household name today underscores the success of his own humility. Yet he is no less a sports, humanitarian and philanthropic giant, the perfect antidote to Michael Vick, Barry Bonds and much of the athletic world that clutters newspaper front pages. Distilling Johann Koss' athletic résumé is a golden litany. The four-time Olympic Gold Medalist in speed skating owned world headlines in 1994 when he won three gold medals at the Lillehammer Winter Games in the 1500, 5000 and 10,000-meter events. During his skating career, he broke 11 world records, took three World All-Round Championships, and won 23 World Cups and numerous National Championships. Koss first became engaged with Right To Play – formerly known as Olympic Aid – in 1993, when as a volunteer he visited the African country of Eritrea. In the aftermath of a long and bloody civil war, Koss observed kids kicking cans, rolled-up clothing and pieces of wood as substitutes for balls. "Yet even in such poverty, danger and seeming hopelessness, there you see the purest joy of play," says Koss. That was Koss' eureka moment. Shortly thereafter at the Lillehammer Olympics in 1994, he donated his prize money from his victories to Olympic Aid and challenged other athletes to match his gesture. Olympic Aid ultimately raised some \$18 million. [To read the whole story, click here.](#)

[2006 Census: Ethnic origin, visible minorities, place of work and mode of transportation](#) — *The Daily*, Statistics Canada, April 2, 2008

Statistics Canada today releases detailed analyses of data from the 2006 Census on ethnic origin, visible minorities, place of work and mode of transportation. These analyses are now available in two online documents: Canada's Ethnocultural Mosaic, 2006 Census, and Commuting Patterns and Places of Work of Canadians, 2006 Census. More than 200 different ethnic origins reported. Each wave of immigration to Canada has increased the ethnocultural diversity of the nation's population. In fact, more than 200 different ethnic origins were reported in the 2006 Census. In contrast, just about 25 different ethnic groups were recorded in Canada in the 1901 Census.

[Class Project is Making a Global Impact](#) – News Release, [up-dated April 4, 2008], **Right To Play** online Université de Moncton's Physical Education and Sport and Leisure Management students recently hosted an Ultimate Frisbee tournament to raise funds for Right To Play Trophy. This year, Professor Roger LeBlanc challenged his students for the second year in a row to organize and host a fundraiser for Right To Play as a class project. The students took to the challenge with enthusiasm." To learn more, please visit: www.rightto play.com/udem.

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