



# Chalk Talk

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

Dear Educators,

In the [Nov. 11, 2009 issue](#) of **Chalk Talk**, I recounted the story of a friend, an MBA graduate in her early 30's, who had moved back in with her parents in order to save money. Difficulties arose — she wanted them to treat her like an adult and they wanted her to contribute to the household chores and finances. In other words, her parents were negotiating the terms for what they believed would be short-term co-habitation.

A few years later, I ran into her after a concert. Glad to have this opportunity to catch up, we decided to meet the next evening for dinner. I asked after her career, her parents, and her younger brother, who had been living in the basement of the family home. I was pleased to hear that her career was progressing well. I was cautiously optimistic as the conversation turned to her family. She told me that until a year earlier, she and her brother had continued to live with her parents. One evening, she returned from work to find her parents sitting at the dining room table, looking serious, saying that they wanted to speak to her and her brother as soon as he returned home. Her immediate thoughts, of course, were that something serious had happened to a family member. When the brother took his seat at the table, the parents informed them that they had decided to take early retirement..

Surprised but relieved that there was no 'bad' news, the pair soon understood that there was more to this than just retirement. The parents had decided to move, lock, stock and barrel, to a sunnier clime. They had sold the house and everything in it except for their children's furniture and some family heirlooms. Incredulous, my friend and her brother began to think this might be some kind of joke. But it wasn't. The parents explained that they wanted to get on with the next stage of their lives and were concerned that the comfort of living at home might be inhibiting their children (37 and 35 years old respectively) from doing the same. Tough love? Perhaps. Closing all options, except the one leading to independence, forced this brother and sister to examine their lives and to make some long-overdue decisions.

Setting career goals that lead to independence can be challenging for young people. This week's issue features career planning information for students. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. Please visit [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free resources available. [Your feedback is welcome!](#)

Mary Kovack

**'Career Connections' Resources**

## Insurance Institute

Choosing a career path is one of the most difficult and yet one of the most important decisions a young person makes in their life. Having all the available tools and information to make an informed decision is crucial in making the right decision. As most people plan a career path for themselves, they tend to overlook insurance as an option for them. Why should young people consider insurance as an option? Because the insurance industry offers a broad and diverse selection of interesting and rewarding career paths suitable to all types of people. Insurance can offer a career that fits a wide range of personalities and interests. **The Insurance Institute's Career Connections program** is a national career awareness initiative aimed at providing students with the relevant information to explore a career in insurance that is suitable for them.

### Why Use These Career Resources?

Insurance affects virtually everything we do in life and in business and because it is all around us, the industry has a wide variety of careers to match the ambitions and interests of just about any student with the flexibility to change directions along the way. Our goal at Career Connections is to provide both students and teachers with information about the insurance industry and the variety of careers options available to help students make informed decisions about their career path and to put it on the spectrum of careers a student might consider for their future. Teachers can request a free career kit for presentation in the classroom that includes a career video and career brochures, students can explore the career profiles and education pathway information provided on our Web site at [www.career-connections.info](http://www.career-connections.info).

**It's not only children who grow.  
Parents do too. As much as we watch to see  
what our children do with their lives, they are  
watching us to see what we do with ours.**

**I can't tell my children to reach for the  
sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself.**

**~ Joyce Maynard**

Website of the week



CAREERCONNECTIONS™  
find your place in insurance

Educators are invited to visit the **Career Connections Web site** to review all the career development tools available on-line. Simply go to the 'High School Student' section at [www.career-connections.info](http://www.career-connections.info) to view an 8-minute career video, read on-line career profiles and watch the short video clips for the 9 roles in insurance that are identified. You can order a **FREE 'Careers in Insurance' teacher kit (shown, right)** to lead the lesson, show the career video and handout career information to your students.

The Insurance Institute's revised **Career Connections** program makes it as easy as possible for teachers to bring the real world into the classroom and to help students find their place in the insurance sector. The Insurance Institute works on behalf of the entire insurance industry representing those who help manage home, auto and business risks. As one educator to another, its aim is to build a better understanding of insurance among tomorrow's consumers and to promote career opportunities in this little-known industry – as there are many opportunities currently and forecasted, given the changing demographics of those employed in the industry. It's relevant and timely to introduce insurance concepts and careers to high school students just as they are about to earn their driver's license, or leave home, or start a business or do some career exploration.

Your gateway to the  
property and casualty  
insurance industry

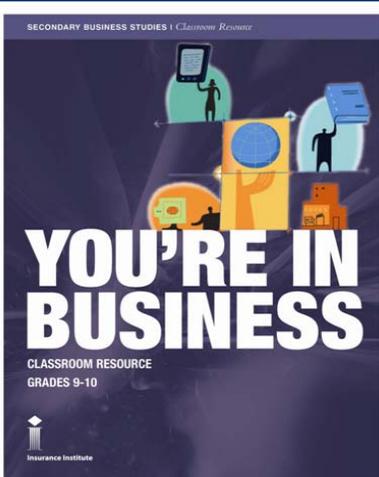


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CAREERCONNECTIONS™  
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FIND YOUR CAREER IN IT.

## Ethics in Business Contest – April 15 to May 15, 2010



To help teachers introduce insurance and risk concepts into the classroom in a way that is exciting and relevant to the curriculum and the lives of students, the Insurance Institute provides a wide range of teacher resources. To demonstrate the relevance of our resources, we are once again hosting the **Ethics in Business contest** to accompany **lesson 5** of our **You're IN Business** resource. **NOTE: This is an on-line contest for students in grades 9-12 in Ontario and BC.**

The contest runs from **April 15-May 15** and allows teachers to lead their students through a learning and interactive exercise on business ethics in the workplace using real world examples. The contest consists of a quiz and a response by students in regards to a scenario presented to them. For more information, [click here](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS — Conferences & Workshops

### 'Career Connections' conducts workshops at teacher conferences throughout the year.

To help teachers gain a better understanding of the insurance industry and how Career Connections connects insurance to students in a real way, we will be attending a number of teacher conferences across Canada this spring. Our booth will display our free teacher resources and we will be there to show teachers how relevant the lessons are to the provincial curricula. At some conferences, we will also be presenting workshops to demonstrate how our resources help explain the important role insurance plays in our everyday lives and how we make learning about insurance relevant and informative to students and their future career and life decisions. Below is a list of the conferences where representatives of Career Connections will be in attendance.

April 7, 2010	OSCA, Waterloo, ON
April 22-23, 2010	OBEA, Toronto, ON
April 25-27, 2010	OCEA, Niagara Falls, ON
May 7, 2010	NBTA, Moncton, NB
May 13-15, 2010	OAME, St. Catharines, ON



**Sign up today! Hope to see you there!**

If you miss any of these Spring teacher conferences, check out future opportunities, [on-line](#).

### Education News and Related Articles

[Secret Life of Girls: Making a mark in math](#) — Andrea Gordon, Family Issues Reporter, ParentCentral.ca, TheStar.com, March 05, 2010

"Ask Mubina Chunara how to solve a high school algebra equation and chances are she will come up with the solution lickety-split. But ask the 15-year-old Brampton student about the range of career choices she might have as a math major and the answers haven't always come as easily. It wasn't until Mubina spent a girls-only weekend at University of Waterloo, hosted by a team of enthusiastic female math graduates, that the possibilities multiplied. "Before I went, math was something I was good at but wouldn't necessarily look at as a career," says Mubina, who attended the first **Think About Math** conference last spring. "But it opened my eyes. I will definitely stick at it." Mubina and 39 other girls had discussions with women in a range of math-related careers. They learned they could use math skills to develop online social networks like Facebook, build fashion businesses or help the environment. In small groups, they pooled their problem-solving skills to navigate a race around campus, analyze results from a survey of female alumni and choose the most economical cellphone plan. Mubina had never heard of an actuary. Now, she just might become one. That's just what Fiona Dunbar likes to hear. She's a math lecturer at the university and the director of the conference, which will hold two weekend sessions this spring, starting April 29 and May 27, for 80 girls."

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416.955.9526  
416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) • [info@4edu.ca](mailto:info@4edu.ca)