



# Chalk Talk

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

One has only to consider the events of this past summer to know that the Fall session of Parliament will be a busy one. A disastrous oil spill in the Gulf and catastrophic floods in Pakistan stood out on the global scene while our national headlines were filled with record breaking temperatures, the arrival on our West Coast of a shipload of Tamils from Sri Lanka, and the debates over the merits of the mandatory long form census and the long-gun registry. Canada's military role in Afghanistan, entering its final year, and fall-out from the economic crisis, now in its third year, continued to dominate the news and conversation both at the board table and the dinner table. These issues will find themselves at the centre of discussion and will form the basis for policy changes and introduction of new legislation.



What goes on in Ottawa on Parliament Hill in committee rooms, in the Senate and in the House of Commons will

impact the direction this country takes both internationally and domestically on issues surrounding the economy, the environment, immigration, culture and education. Our democracy depends on our active, informed participation as citizens.

As many municipalities and provinces across the country gear up for elections in the coming months, this and future issues of **Chalk Talk** will feature many new classroom resources and programs designed to motivate students and spark discussion. For over 18 years, CoEd Communications has demonstrated its support of the important work of teachers. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Your feedback is welcome!](#)

Mary Kovack

## FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS



In 1975, a group of community leaders involved in education and governance introduced the **Forum for Young Canadians**, a program designed to offer students the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge of the Canada's constitution and its government institutions and a deeper understanding of the meaning and responsibilities of citizenship. 35 years and 16,000 students later, FORUM is the most successful youth program of its kind.

### The experience of a lifetime!

The students selected to represent their province/territory spend 5 days with up to 100 other young leaders arriving from coast to coast. Their classroom revolves around Parliament Hill and their teachers are Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senators, senior public servants, members of the national media and business leaders ... **and FORUM is FUN!** [Program details, *below*]



New! In honour of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a Fall session of FORUM will take place from November 21-27, 2010. Limited space is still available — [Register by September 21st!](#) A young person with leadership skills and lots of opinions is just the kind of student that belongs at FORUM!



Apply Online for 2010-2011 at [www.forum.ca](http://www.forum.ca)



**BE a Voice!**

The FORUM experience brings students to Ottawa for a one-week intensive academic adventure that immerses them in the exciting world of national politics and public affairs. FORUM is a bilingual, non-partisan and AMAZING program to develop **leadership** and to learn about parliamentary democracy, how government works and how YOUR STUDENTS can make a difference in shaping Canada's future.

### **Spend a week on Parliament Hill. Learn How Government Works.**

**WHO:** Up to 100 students (aged 15-19) from across Canada, at each session. Groups of 15 students are escorted and supervised throughout by adult Team Leaders.

**WHERE:** In Ottawa, Canada's capital. Most seminars and simulations are held on Parliament Hill. [Accommodations are in a downtown hotel.]

**WHEN:** Students participate in one of four sessions, in November 21 (register by Sept. 21), February 27, March 13 or March 27. Each session is 5-days long.

Application forms are now available online for the 35th anniversary session in November (register by Sept. 21), and the Spring 2011 sessions at [www.forum.ca](http://www.forum.ca). Space is limited. **Apply NOW!**

*FORUM is a program of the [Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada](http://www.fsgc.ca).*

## **Here's what STUDENTS say about FORUM ...**



**"I absolutely loved Forum. It reshaped my entire view of Canadian government and society, and gave me a new dedication to learn French, factoring greatly into my decision to attend McGill this fall.**

**Keep up the fantastic work!"**

**"It was amazing -- by far the best week of my life hands down."**

**"Forum was an excellent life experience. I've created a strong passion for politics and I owe it all to FYC. It is a great place to meet people who share similar interests."**

**"I loved the week! I believe Forum changed my life, and I cannot stop talking about it. I only wish it was longer!"**

**"I loved my Forum experience and would go back in the blink of an eye. Keep up the great work and thank you."**

**"Forum was such an amazing experience, but what made it truly exceptional was not all the places we went to, or the people that we listened to, it was the people that I met there. Thank you so much for this fantastic experience."**





## ... and FORUM is for Teachers Too!

Take part in the annual FORUM Teacher's Conference organized in conjunction with FORUM in the Spring. For more details on how teachers can participate — go to the FORUM website, [www.forum.ca](http://www.forum.ca).

### Education News and Related Articles

[I love teaching but I hate marking](#) — Kevin Bray [Facts & Arguments Essay] Globe & Mail, Sep. 7/10

“There are seven deadly sins, seven seas, Seven Wonders of the ancient world, seven habits of highly effective people and seven years left in my career. At this auspicious moment in my working life, I have recently been inspired by the idea of outsourcing marking overseas. I hate marking. I love teaching. Teaching is a bit like being a comedian at a stand-up club. We perform for an often unruly and unreliable crowd. My classes frequently laugh at the things I never thought were funny and seem to prefer slapstick over cerebral wit. I often struggle to maintain composure when my audience ignores what might have been my best lesson on the quadratic formula. But comedians don't have to stay after the show and clear the tables and sweep the floors. That's what marking is like for a teacher.” [More](#)

[One in five older teens quit education](#) — StatsCan [The Canadian Press], Globe & Mail, Sept. 7/10

“A newly released study has found that one in five older Canadian teenagers were no longer pursuing a formal education in 2008. The 20 per cent rate among teenagers aged 15 to 19 in Canada was higher than the average of 15 per cent across the 31 countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Statistics Canada reports the OECD proportion was down from 20 per cent in 1998, but it remained stable at 20 per cent in Canada. The agency says the proportion of teenagers aged 15 to 19 no longer in school varied from 14 per cent in New Brunswick to 26 in Alberta. The corresponding estimates for the territories ranged from 25 per cent to 34 per cent. StatsCan says employment and earnings prospects increase strongly with educational attainment.” [More](#)

[Schools adapt to cyber-savvy students](#) — Michael Oliveira [The Canadian Press], TheStar.com, Aug. 18/10

“This won't be the year that back-to-school shopping goes strictly digital — smartphone apps and USB keys for the kids, instead of binders, hole-punched paper and pencil crayons — but educators say that day may not be far off. And many of them can't wait. “Kids have information at their fingertips which they never had before so the role of the school as a sort of information processor no longer has the currency that it once had,” says Penny Milton, CEO of the Canadian Education Association. “Teachers and students should be doing it together (digitally) since they can find virtually any facts online.” There is no mass push nationwide to integrate new technologies into classrooms but some school boards and individual schools are exploring new ways of teaching, which kids are eagerly embracing, Milton says... Many students — of all ages — are going to school already largely fluent in today's technology and it makes sense that schools adapt to that reality and use whatever tech tools that are available, says Sidney Eve Matrix, a Queen's University assistant professor and watcher of digital trends... Some schools are issuing laptops to every student and are making digital learning a part of every day. Video conferencing with experts is becoming a regular part of class for some students. Interactive websites are being staffed after hours to help students tackle their homework. And students are being encouraged to do work in a comic book format, a trend that's swept Ontario elementary schools.” [More](#)

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