

## **Our work is guided by principles:**

### **Commitment to Public Education**

*Because we believe that publicly funded education is the foundation of a strong, pluralistic and democratic society...* CEA promotes public support for a dynamic and effective public education system where all individuals have equal opportunity to become community and global citizens. Schools are one of **the** primary social institutions that build understanding and community among diverse groups and interests.

### **Leadership**

*Because we believe in shared leadership...* CEA serves as a dynamic voice, robust advocate and strategic catalyst for learning and educational excellence across Canada. In a vibrant and continuously changing context, we promote informed dialogue and debate about issues, and provide sound research-based analysis and synthesis of complex and controversial subjects to clarify issues, create meaning, and facilitate shared understanding.

As a meeting place for education leaders for over 100 years, CEA balances historical perspective and stability with innovation and optimism in future planning. Within CEA we model shared leadership, providing a forum for reflection and development, as well as inter-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary networking.

### **Focus on Children and Youth**

*Because we believe that children and young people are the heart of the educational endeavour...* their needs, best interests, education and development are the primary consideration in determining CEA priorities and directions. CEA serves as an advocate for the education of all children and youth in Canada. We works to heighten and focus public understanding of the responsive and caring supports and opportunities young people require in order to develop their potential and become participating citizens. In advocating on behalf of young people, we honour their voices and recognize and affirm the central role of their families, schools and communities.

### **Equity and Respect for Diversity**

*Because we believe that education is a key process for promoting equity and respect for diversity within the broader society...* CEA reflects, affirms and nurtures the inherent value and unique contribution of each person and the richness of Canada's diverse peoples in all aspects of its operations. This includes membership, planning and governance structures, communications, and priorities.

CEA will aggressively strive to include groups traditionally underrepresented in dialogue about education in an environment that fosters diversity.



### **Cooperation**

*Because we believe in working together ...* CEA programs and activities are developed, supported and delivered through partnership and collaboration with students, family and community members, business and industry, different levels of government and educators. By engaging a diverse range of individuals and interest groups, CEA broadens the base of participation and support for students and learning, and contributes to addressing complex social, political and economic issues impacting on students and learning. In its various activities, CEA fosters open, transparent, inclusive and respectful participation in shared planning and problem solving.

### **Community/Common Good**

*Because we believe in community and the common good...* CEA maintains and supports a clear focus on the role of education in the development of young people as responsible and participating members of community. The concept of community embraces an understanding and commitment to a common good, founded on a sense of shared destiny and shared responsibility for human justice and cooperation.

### **Comprehensiveness**

*Because we believe in comprehensiveness...* issues are addressed by defining and dealing with them as a **whole** rather than as parts. Solution-finding focuses on identifying root causes of problems, not simply addressing symptoms. It is understood that issues are complex and multi-faceted and that solutions are interconnected and interdependent, requiring coherent and meaningful approaches crossing traditional organizational boundaries.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

*Because we believe in the importance of knowledge and understanding...* CEA priorities, policies and programs reflect and promote current Canadian and international research and knowledge of learning and development issues and advances, and society's expectations. We identify and promote effective educational practices, innovation and continuous improvement in education.

### **Accountability and Shared Responsibility**

*Because we believe in accountability and shared responsibility ...*CEA supports and promotes high quality accountability and assessment practices that enable informed planning and decision making. We believe that good assessment demonstrates what children and youth know and can do, as well as the effectiveness of curricula and learning programs and the performance of education systems as a whole. Broad-based assessment and accountability practices collect and report on context and process indicators in addition to outcome information, to inform decision-making, continuous program improvement and positive educational change. They comprise a cycle of assessment and public reporting that leads to action.