

# Montreal High School Students Release Book with Justin Trudeau

*100 Students from Lester B. Pearson High School Together with Roberta Bondar and Justin Trudeau Publish a Collection of Literature in Response to Global Warming and Environmental Change*

Next Wednesday, May 14th at 7PM, 100 students at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal will become published authors! The students, together with Justin Trudeau, will launch their very own book titled *Down to Earth*. The collection of literature is an emotional response to global warming, environmental change and, most generally, Mother Nature's plight. The book features poems, essays and short stories which take an in-depth look at what our world might become if we do not act now to change the way we live.

The publication is a project of the award-winning non-profit educational organization Learning for a Cause founded by Montreal educator and writer Michael Ernest Sweet. Learning for a Cause aims to engage students morally and socially through the act of creative writing. The organization holds a firm belief in the idea that the quill is mightier than the sword.

"When children write, like any writer, they produce good writing and poor writing. The problem is, however, that even when the writing is good - brilliant in a lot of instances - it still ends up in the recycle bin in the traditional classroom. Students can be agents of change, they must become agents of change. Activities carried out in school must be meaningful, authentic and most of all provide opportunity for engagement," comments Michael Sweet.

The collection has already received wide advance praise. Canada's legendary environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki has said, "nature has inspired poetry for centuries, and it is clear that it continues to do so today. It is inspiring to see how the students of Lester B. Pearson have responded to the environmental changes we are beginning to witness. There are important lessons here for all of us, especially adults."

The first Canadian in space, Mark Garneau, has also endorsed the book. "I am arrested by the words in this book. They stop me in my tracks. They scream for action. I cannot dodge them, rationalize them or whisk them away. They speak of natural rhythms, of aching memories, of beauty that once was but is no longer. They sadden me. They madden me. They also galvanize me and tell me that I must act before another sun goes down." Mr. Garneau has also accepted an invitation to write the introduction to next year's student publication which will be titled "Raising Humanity".

*Down to Earth* is a different kind of book about the environment. It is not filled with facts and figures, with reports and graphs... *Down to Earth* is packed with emotion, passion and vision. It is a book which poignantly illustrates our feelings in the face of change.

Michael Sweet explains why this project is groundbreaking, "these students are not only engaging in real and important work in the classroom, but they are also providing us, all of us, with an important emotional glimpse into an issue all too often abstracted and void of human emotion."

Down to Earth will be launched at Lester B. Pearson High School, 11 575 PM Favier, Montreal, Quebec on May 14 at 7pm. The public and press are invited to attend. RSVP is required by leaving a message for Michael Sweet at (514) 328-4442 or fax (514) 328-4443.

<http://www.trafford.com/07-2868>