

**Our School is Wired, Now What? Make a Difference, That's What!
An Introduction to iEARN (or Change the World 101)**

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In this session, noted educator Bill Belsey will introduce participants to iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network, (www.iearn.org). iEARN is the world largest and most experienced k-12 global learning network of over one million teachers and students in over 110 countries who share a common vision of 'Connecting Youth and Making a Difference". and the wonderful learning opportunities that this global family of learners offers Canadian teachers and students through iEARN-Canada, for which Mr. Belsey is the Executive Director.. Our educational systems have spent billions of dollars putting computers, Internet access and other various information and communication technologies (ICTs) into our schools. Now many people are beginning to ask critical questions about how ICTs should best be used to support teaching and learning. IEARN is a world-class example of how to best answer the question, Our Schools are Wired, now what?" Make a difference through iEARN, that's what!

Theme: Pedagogy

"Students and teachers in every part of Canada now have a unique opportunity to broaden their individual horizons while adding a new dimension to their country's outreach. They are discovering the wonders of iEARN, a global network that provides the means to achieve a broader perspective of the world in which they live while developing meaningful relationships with young people in its many diverse regions. Through the miracle of advanced technology they can communicate quickly and effectively with students in over 100 far-flung countries -- they can be in touch personally and get to know the desires and ambitions of young people from different cultural and historical backgrounds. They can come to a better appreciation of what it means to be a Canadian, while at the same time learning about the challenges faced by young people on the other side of the world and the difficulties they have to overcome to achieve their goals. iEARN is making this possible, and the outcome may well be a network of global states whose citizens are more tolerant, more understanding and more willing to work towards a world in which global peace is the predominant wish. And Canada will be the better for it."

-The Honourable Flora MacDonald, former Canadian Federal Minister of External Affairs; Employment & Immigration; Communications and iEARN-Canada Board member.

"I would like to wish iEARN success in your commitment to a better world through the education of youth globally -- a mission shared by The Carter Center" - Jimmy Carter, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and former President of the United States.

Workshop presenter Bill Belsey is eminently qualified to respond to these questions. His remarkable teaching career has included living and work with the Inuit of Canada's Arctic for nearly twenty years. He introduced the very first computer and the Logo Programming language into a Canadian Arctic school. He also helped to establish the very first Community Access Centre in the Canadian Arctic. He is a winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, the Roy C. Hill Award for Educational Innovation. His work has been featured in the Canadian Museum of Civilization as one of Canada's "Global Heroes" and the book "Visionaries, Canadian Triumphs". He is a much sought-after speaker and has presented at many conferences around the world. Mr. Belsey is the Canadian Coordinator for iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network (www.iearn-canada.org). He most recently was an Senior Education Advisor for Canada's SchoolNet and was also SchoolNet's National Coordinator for the Network of Innovative Schools (NIS - www.schoolnet.ca/nis-rei/)