



# UNESCO CHAIR IN APPLIED RESEARCH FOR EDUCATION IN PRISON

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UNESCO Chair in Applied Research  
for Education in Prison





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# BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CEGEP MARIE-VICTORIN

## Education in the Prison Environment

CEGEP Marie-Victorin (CMV) enjoys an excellent reputation as one of Quebec's institutions of higher learning. It has developed a solid expertise in pre-university education, offering innovative programs to the technical and professional sectors. For almost 40 years, the college has partnered with the Correctional Service of Canada and Quebec's ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to take the exclusive responsibility of providing college-level education in the prison environment. CVM offers diploma programs in the province of Quebec's federal penitentiaries in various disciplines as well as informal programs such as "preparation for release" and "support in the community."

CMV endorses the values of respect and appreciation for the adult learner and contributes to the reintegration of individuals subject to judicial control by creating a significant pedagogic relationship.

Over the years, CEGEP Marie-Victorin has become an essential actor and a leader in prison education. Its expertise and achievements have earned the support and recognition of a number of stakeholders and researchers in this domain.

## International Expertise

CMV is not new to the international scene. For almost 25 years, it has successfully participated in the success of programs such as Canada World Youth and École en mer [school at sea] through which hundreds of students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds have enjoyed enriching experiences. CMV also established an international development office (BDI) whose mission is to establish various tools that facilitate access to education in various countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia, thereby promoting the dialogue between North-South Axis communities.



# UNESCO CHAIR IN APPLIED RESEARCH FOR EDUCATION IN PRISON

## Background

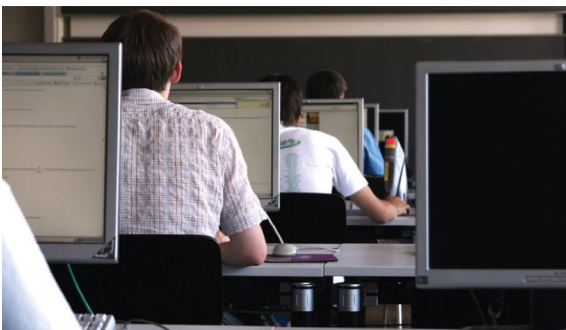
The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison is part of the follow-up to the Dakar (Senegal) Framework for Action – Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments, a framework adopted by representatives from 164 countries in 2000 and affirming that people in all situations have the right to an education and that education is an essential tool for social development.

In 2009, the Bélem Framework for Action, the final document adopted by the sixth international conference on adult education (CONFINTEA VI), went much further and recommended “providing adult education in prison at all appropriate levels.”

Taking into account the international commitment to support the Bélem Framework for Action and UNESCO’s unequivocal role and mandates for its implementation, the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison helps UNESCO provide education for adults in prison.

## Mission

Because “education for all” means that we must include our society’s most vulnerable and most marginalized members, such as prisoners, the mission of the UNESCO Chair in applied research for education in prison is to promote, stimulate and encourage applied research on various aspects of correctional education and to foster more in-depth consideration and concrete actions in this matter on an international level.



## Objectives

- I. **Applied Research.** Identify and analyze the various institutional, political and pedagogical issues that have an impact on the quality of the delivery of services related to correctional education.
- II. **Documentation Centre.** Collect, organize, handle and distribute to the international community the research and information on innovative practices related to education in the prison environment.
- III. **Community of interests.** Create an international community of interests that will enable professors, researchers, students, educators, practitioners, prison administrators, NGOs and consultants to disseminate their research and innovative practices in the area of correctional education and to discuss the common issues and challenges.
- IV. **Training and raising awareness.** Contribute to improve the quality of services in the correctional education sector; first by training the community's stakeholders and second, by raising the decision-makers' awareness with respect to the advantages of correctional education.

## Specific Objectives

- I. **Applied Research**
  - Initiate and support applied research projects conducted by instructors, stakeholders, professionals and researchers.
  - Promote new research fields.
  - Study and analyze the motivations governing the implementation of educational programs.
  - Integrate the different aspects of correctional education.
  - Analyze the impacts of privatization on correctional education.
  - Analyze the role of education within the judicial system.
  - Create work groups dealing with the most significant aspects of correctional education.
  - Update qualitative and quantitative data on education.
  - Promote interdisciplinary research projects in various institutions of higher education in domains related to correctional education.
  - Compare instructors' curricula.
  - Analyze the discussions, joint research projects and interventions conducted among decision-makers, teachers, practitioners, civil society, NGOs, families of prisoners, and prisoners.

## **II. Documentation Centre**

- Identify and catalogue the largest number of studies, research projects, articles and pertinent international publications.
- Create an electronic documentation centre for researchers, professors, practitioners and consultants.
- Collect strategic intelligence on the field of correctional education.
- Regularly publish an information bulletin (in the form of a newsletter sent via email).
- Using the Chair's website, promote all new studies or publications concerning correctional education.

## **III. Community of interests**

- Create an interactive website allowing international access to all researchers and practitioners in the education domain.
- Establish an international committee of scientists and practitioners that will form the core of the community of interests.
- Establish an online discussion forum.
- Facilitate the emergence and consolidation of interdisciplinary networks of researchers through discussion forum activity.

## **IV. Training and raising awareness**

- Identify the sector's training and professional development needs.
- Offer training sessions, first in Canada and then on an international level.
- Create a brief training curriculum for correctional education instructors and penitentiary administrators.
- Develop training tools for human resources concerned with correctional education.
- Organize an international conference. Share research results with decision-makers to contribute to the political thought and decision making processes.
- Inform the UN agencies and UNESCO's national commissions.
- Have discussions with governments and institutions, such as, the authorities responsible for penal institutions.
- Organize symposia in order to increase awareness of this subject.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Steering Committee

The steering committee is the Chair's authority on strategic direction, validation and arbitration.

Its role is to:

- ensure, with the Chair holder, the Chair's representation within UNESCO;
- adopt the Chair's charter;
- approve the action plan, working lines and annual reports;
- ensure the sound financial management of the Chair;
- guarantee compliance with the agreement signed between UNESCO and CEGEP Marie-Victorin;
- contribute to the Chair's influence.

The committee meets when convened by its chairperson, at least twice a year: one meeting is spent planning the year to come while the other is spent reviewing the report on the previous year.

Committee members have a renewable three-year mandate.

### **Steering Committee Chairperson** - Nicole Rouillier

Acting as general director, the chairperson, in conjunction with the other members, assumes all Steering Committee responsibilities and must:

- act as the link between the Chair and CEGEP Marie-Victorin's governance;
- represent the Chair in the political arena;
- lead committee meetings and maintain regular contact with the Chair holder in order to immediately receive information about any extraordinary situation requiring a special committee meeting.



## Science Committee

The science committee is the Chair's consultative authority; its members are Canadian and foreign researchers, professors, consultants and practitioners involved in applied research in the field of correctional education. This committee helps the Steering Committee attain the Chair's objectives.

Its role is to:

- suggest directions for research and training activities;
- advise and make recommendations;
- participate in the development of the documentation centre;
- contribute to the Chair's influence in national and international networks.

At the Chair holder's request, this committee meets (virtually or physically) as need be, upon being convened by its chairperson.

Committee members have a renewable three-year mandate.

**Chairperson of the Science Committee** - Paul Bélanger, professor in UQAM's Faculty of education and director of CIRDEP, the university's centre for interdisciplinary research on continuing education.

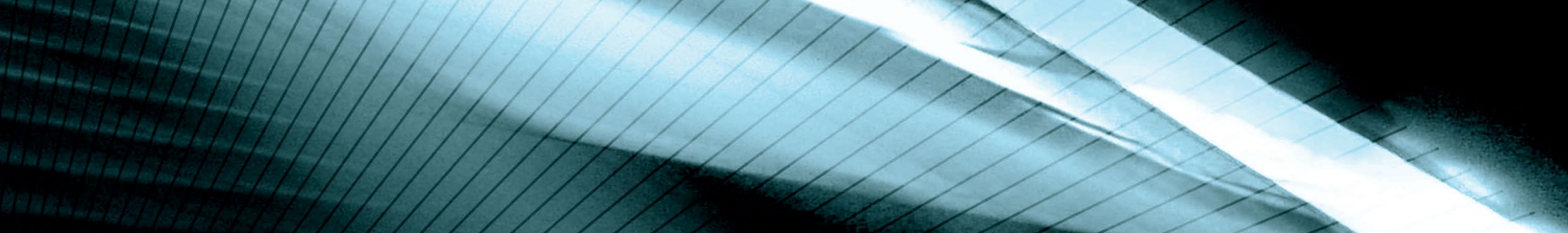
The chairperson, in conjunction with the other members, assumes all Science Committee responsibilities and must:

- lead committee meetings;
- maintain regular contact with the Chair holder in order to immediately receive information about any extraordinary situation requiring a special committee meeting.
- approve the strategic direction, action plan, working lines and annual reports.

## Team

**Chair holder** - Jean-Pierre Miron, director Office of International Development at Cégep Marie-Victorin

The Chair holder plans, organizes, directs and supervises all activities related to the Chair, its outreach and its administration, within the framework of the mission and according to the directions approved by the steering committee.



He ensures the Chair's direction and monitors its external representations and the quality of its relationships with its funders, partners and affiliated organizations. He negotiates and enters into collaboration and service agreements, in collaboration with the steering committee chairperson.

**Director of Operations** - Jean-Pierre Simoneau

This individual, who reports to the Chair holder, is responsible for managing and planning the Chair's daily functions, which include:

- contributing to and directly participating in the creation, implementation and development of the Chair and its activities;
- monitoring the logistics of events, meetings and activities;
- monitoring various files delegated by the Chair holder;
- organizing meetings;
- managing the activity schedule;
- collecting strategic intelligence (subscription/publication fall-off point);
- identifying relevant events that the Chair attends or should attend;
- seeking out private financial partners (donations and sponsorships);
- drafting the Chair's annual report;
- updating the Chair's website;
- establishing the Chair's documentation centre;
- support the development of basic and applied research.

**Associate Members**

The chair's associate members may be employed or retired professors, university researchers, practitioners or consultants who are active in the field of applied research in education in prison.

**Applied Research Advisor** - Hugo Rangel

The role of the applied research advisor involves creating a link between the Science Committee and the Chair's team members, among others, to establish the documentation centre and develop the fundamental applied research.

**Project Development Advisor** - Marc De Maeyer

The project development advisor supports the Chair holder in dissemination, training and networking activities and contributes to the documentation centre's development.

# RESULTS

In the short term (three years), the anticipated results involve disseminating the research already conducted, identifying new research domains, informing the decision-makers and actors in the field of correctional education and creating a synergy that emphasizes the quality of training and professional development offered by practitioners in this domain.

In the longer term, through a better understanding of the reality of prison life and correctional education issues (gender, ethnicity, and social, cultural, psychological and economic issues), the Chair will have an impact on the following recipients:

- learners and their families;
- practitioners who work in the field of education in prison and those responsible for prisons;
- researchers already working in the field, new researchers and interdisciplinary research;
- teaching institutions from nursery school to high school and tertiary level institutions;
- government leaders and decision-makers;
- civil society, NGOs in particular, that are closely linked to education in prison;
- the Chair's international partners;
- society as a whole.

# SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The schedule of principal activities is divided as follows:

## **Start-up Phase (1st year)**

- Official launch of the UNESCO Chair's three-year mandate.
- First meeting (virtual) of the Science Committee to define the long-term strategic objectives and solicit comments and opinions concerning the annual work plan.
- Develop and put a website on line.
- Begin collecting the data necessary to establish the documentation centre.
- Publish at least one information bulletin (electronic newsletter).
- Participate in at least one international conference.
- Prepare the inventory of training and professional development needs.
- Initiate a fund-raising activity.
- Represent the Chair in CEGEP Marie-Victorin's research development committee.
- Develop the strategic plan for the development of fundamental applied research.

### **Implementation and Viability Phase (2nd year)**

- Continue organizing regular international science committee meetings.
- Carry out at least one new research project.
- Publish at least two newsletters.
- Undertake at least one pilot project in Africa and/or one having North/South implications.
- Organize at least one professional development activity.
- Carry out a fund-raising activity.

### **Implementation and Renewal Phase (3rd year)**

- Organize and hold an international conference.
- Implement a continuous evaluation procedure.
- Present a proposal to UNESCO for renewing the Chair's mandate.
- Organize a physical meeting of the international science committee.
- Carry out fund-raising activities.
- Carry out at least two new research projects in Africa and/or having North/South implications.
- Publish at least two newsletters.
- Undertake at least one pilot project and organize at least two professional development activities.

## **FUNDING**

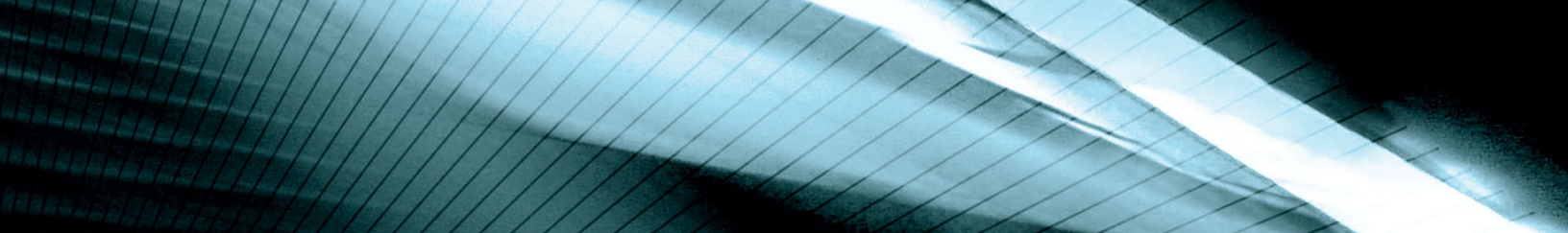
CEGEP Marie-Victorin guides and financially supports the creation of the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison. It contributes its resources and its expertise (loaning its premises, equipment and human resources) in order to ensure that the Chair has a solid base for its operations and future growth.

Funding for the Chair takes different forms:

**Partnerships.** Long-term strategic partnerships will be developed with the various organizations involved with the Chair's activities.

Examples: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec (MELS), Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), etc.

**Research Funds.** Funding sources for applied research activities will come from granting agencies, depending on the different kinds of projects undertaken. Examples: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Fonds québécois de recherche sur la société (FQRSC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Opportunities Fund (IOF) of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, etc.



**Self-financing.** Self-financing activities will be implemented beginning in the first year. These activities will bring together non-traditional partners who, along with the income from other activities, will ensure the Chair's continuity.

**Sponsors.** Sponsorship agreements will also be concluded with service delivery partners (creation of websites, printer, caterers, etc.), in exchange for a certain visibility on the Chair's media supports.

## EVALUATION AND REPORTS

The UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison operates according to a results-based management approach (RBM), the annual plans presenting objectives and clearly defined performance indicators. The Chair's Science Committee will play a major role in identifying and monitoring these goals and objectives.

The constant evaluation of the Chair's annual plans is an important part of the mandate of the Steering Committee of the Chair, which must also comply with UNESCO's guidelines concerning evaluation and reports.

## VISIBILITY

One of the Chair's principal objectives is to find a way to better publicize the issues specific to education in prison. To this end, the Chair intends to pay a great deal of attention to improve the exchange of knowledge about this significant part of Education for All. It is adopting a strategy for effective, efficient communication that includes the development of a specialized website, the regular publication of information bulletins, an interactive list server, an active presence at major activities in the correctional education field and the organization of an international conference during its first mandate.





**UNESCO** Chair in Applied Research  
for Education in Prison



United Nations  
Educational  
Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



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