

"Effective questioning brings insight, which fuels curiosity, which cultivates wisdom."- Chip B

Thinking out loud

The Globe and Mail of August 22, 2014 carried an item on renewing the Federal public service (Five ways to renew the public service by David McLaughlin). Item number three on his list was to "think out loud with smart, committed Canadians."

According to McLaughlin, "fear of failure is endemic to large bureaucracies, but fear of facing others in case one is challenged over politics is a recipe for idea ossification and policy stasis." This fear is a major barrier to change in education as well.

While the count of words about education in print and on air is increasing, at the moment it is mostly educators talking to educators and members of the public talking to other members of the public; too seldom do the groups talk to each other – and education suffers as a result.

It's alright to think out loud about education – especially if you are a taxpayer, parent or employer. Teacher or student? Probably not.

It is unlikely, at least in the short run, that educators will do an about face and start conversations about education with the public, so why not the reverse? Let the public initiate conversations with teachers and other educators. If you are a member of a group, ask the program chair to organize a program on education. For the first invitation, let the speaker choose the topic; for the second presentation, select a topic, then find a speaker. Begin thinking out loud about education - today.

Best Wishes
Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year

...and in New Zealand

The New Zealand Herald of December 13, 2014 carried a story about a new education initiative. Eleven communities and ninety primary, intermediate and secondary schools throughout the country have signed on to a new program designed to raise achievement in schools. Each community will choose one problem to work on, and a Principal and some teachers will mentor other teachers and schools, a responsibility for which they will receive extra pay.

Add a friend to our mailing list

If you have friends or colleagues interested in education, we'd be glad to add their names to our mailing list; simply send us their Email or have them contact us at the address below; it's published monthly – ***and it's free.***

Guest editor - Don Glendenning

Education 20/20 Inc.

101 Kent St., PO Box 624 / 101, rue Kent, B.P. 624
Charlottetown, PEI / Charlottetown (Î.-P.-É.) C1A 1M0
Canada

Tel./Tél. : 902-892-2060

Email/Courriel : pei@education2020.ca

URL : www.education2020.ca