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*The tragedy of education is that it could easily be different and better for everyone...  
even under current constraints - Jerry Wilhelm*

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## Support for learning

Recently the question arose as to ways we support others with their learning. It is the first time I've ever been part of such a discussion and I found it very interesting.

The focus was on learning, whenever and wherever it occurs. Every learner comes to a learning situation with a mix of previous experiences and differing motivations, ambitions, expectations, trepidations and future plans.

It was noted also that a learner's ability to learn is affected by his or her degree of wellness:

- Physical
- Social
- Emotional
- Mental

When we say support we think of showing and telling, but as one probes further, learning is supported in many ways including the provision of:

- Information
- Instruction
- Resource material
- Recognition
- Feedback
- Counsel
- Encouragement, and
- Opportunity

It's a short list, there may be duplicates or even items missing, but it is a start and may even be a first; I know it was for me. Hopefully, when our website is up and running, it will become the subject of a blog.

## The Pulse of Island Youth

The Community Foundation of Prince Edward Island recently released the results of a survey of Island youth. The report, available on the Foundation website, [www.cfpei.ca](http://www.cfpei.ca), is a snapshot of views of over 200 Island youth on a number of issues that directly affect them.

Bright spots include a positive sense of community, emerging entrepreneurial opportunities, volunteerism and new postsecondary offerings. Main concerns include lack of jobs, surviving on low paying jobs, educational deficiencies and drug and alcohol addictions.

For education and learning, the study reports a high rate of completion of high school and postsecondary education, relatively low levels of achievement on PISA tests in reading, mathematics and science but a high level of inclusivity and relatively affordable tuition costs.

Readers should take special note, however, of questions raised in the summary; most of them are directly related to education and learning.

The report identifies some outstanding issues that need to be addressed especially in the area of basic education, personal skills and transition to employment. Great issues for a round-table of stakeholders.

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