



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Canadian Coalition for Learning @Home**

**Over \$50 Million in Tools & Resources Made Available to Support Continuous Learning in the face of COVID-19**

**Toronto, Ontario: April 23, 2020** — In response to the disruption caused by COVID-19, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Canadian Learning @Home Coalition supported by C21 Canada and MindShare learning, two established leaders in learning & innovation in education.

In recent weeks, we have witnessed the greatest crisis and mass disruption to student learning in the history of Canada with over 5 million K-12 students impacted, resulting in immense challenges thrust upon teachers, students and parents to ensure continuous learning at home.

The COVID-19 crisis is providing a catalyst in K-12 education in Canada to build on our strong public education systems and further support equity across schools with access to technology tools, resources and teacher training.

*“Education is a basic human right. In the short-term we need to address in-equity and access for kids and families and educators. We need to build Canada’s readiness and capacity to deal with possible mass disruptions in the future and learn from this COVID-19 crisis,”* says Robert Martellacci, Chair, Canadian Coalition for K-12 Learning @Home, *“Collectively, our goal is to lessen the burden on students and parents. It truly takes a digital learning village to raise a child in the 21st century.”*

The inspiration for Canadian Learning @Home Coalition formed as a result of the sudden shift in learning needs for Canadian students and their families in a time of school closure. The consortium aims to offer teachers, students and families equitable and relevant options for developing learning competencies in an at-home, isolated environment.

The Canadian Learning @Home Coalition members are committed to collaborating to provide support and resources across Canada. This includes: offering expert advisory capacity to provinces, territories and school districts; aggregating FREE learning resources; sharing best practices and support where possible given the vast expertise of partners. Coalition members will also explore the potential for research and innovative practices that emerge for future case studies to mitigate future disruptions to student learning.



Canadian Coalition for Learning @Home  
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**Key challenges identified during the transition from school to home-based learning:**

- The need for High Speed Internet Access
- Equity of access to digital resources and technology
- Student privacy and cyber security
- Importance of professional learning and technology assistance for educators to implement distance learning
- The need to gather research and future proofing strategy to enable education systems to adapt and engage innovation readiness

**Phase 1 Completed and ongoing:** Aggregation of excellent [FREE digital learning resources](#) from EdTEch industry and not for profits has been completed with an estimated \$50 million in learning tools and resources made available to teachers, students and parents during times of crisis.

The Canadian Learning @Home FREE Resource Hub has been met with great appreciation from teachers, thanks to the generosity of a vast number of Canadian and international partners.

*"We've seen the industry step up and offer free access to learning materials across the country. However the experience needs to be uniform, cohesive and tied to curriculum, and not a group of disparate offerings that confuse and demotivate students. Engagement and relevance will drive outcomes whether at home or in the classroom".* Said Steve Brown CEO Nelson,

**Phase 2 Strategy:** Liaise with provincial, territorial and district educational leadership to share resources, and provide advisory support.

*"Never before have we witnessed educational disruption on such a scale,"* said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. "Partnership is the only way forward.

*"In the context of widespread school closures in Canada, I commend your initiative to create a pan-Canadian K-12 online learning emergency consortium aimed at ensuring equitable formal online learning at home,"* Chantal Beaulieu, Director General, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

Coalition members include education stakeholders that share a deep commitment to supporting youth, educators and families during this time of crisis.



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## **Canadian Coalition for Learning @Home**

### **Mission:**

Sharing resources, expertise, coordinating robust solutions offerings, facilitate internet connectivity nationally, to support provinces, territories and districts and schools, to ensure for equitable K12 online learning for students across Canada.

### **COALITION SECRETARIAT**

**Robert Martellacci**, President, MindShare Learning & C21 Canada CEO, Consortium Chair  
**David Roberts**, President, C21 Canada (former ADM, NB)  
**Steve Brown**, CEO, Nelson

### **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Dr. Bonnie Schmidt** President, Let's Talk Science  
**Dr. Ron Owston** Dean Emeritus York U Fac Ed, >>Online Learning Expert  
**Dr. Alec Couros** U of Regina, Professor. Tech & Media, Faculty of Education  
**Tyson Johnson** CEO, CyberNB  
**Karen Yamada** Chief Learning Officer and CFO, C21 Canada  
**Marc Seaman** Vice-president, Microsoft Canada, Education Segment  
**Jeremy Erlick** Vice-President Sales, Central & Easter Canada, Compugen Inc.

### **About MindShare Learning**

MindShare Learning Technology is Canada's leading EdTech industry consulting, news and events company. MindShare counsels education and industry leaders in understanding the emerging needs of learners to succeed in the 21st Century global knowledge-based digital economy to support student success. MindShare Learning is also a proud publisher of Canada's Leading Technology & Learning eMagazine--The MindShare Learning Report.

### **About C21 Canada**

**C21 Canada** is a national, not for profit organization that advocates for 21st Century models of learning in education. The goal of **C21 Canada** is to witness full scale integration of 21st competencies, instructional practices, and digital resources and services across **Canada's** learning systems.

For more information, please contact, The Secretariat

Robert Martellacci, President



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