

Finally, A Canadian Voice

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Entering a new millennium—whether on January 1, 2000, or on January 1, 2001, as pedants would have it—is a momentous and symbolic event. A time for looking back with pride, perhaps tinged with some regrets, at where we have come from and what we have achieved. A time, too, for looking forward with hope, anticipation, and determination, and perhaps a little apprehension, to where we are going and what we hope to achieve. For science educators, it has a special significance because it reminds us that the socio-ethical issues surrounding the production and uses of scientific and technological knowledge are bound to become increasingly important in our daily lives. Therefore, whatever we mean by scientific literacy is going to be at the forefront of our concerns over the next several years. What better time, then, to launch a new journal? What better time to introduce a new and (we hope) distinctive voice to the world of science, mathematics, and technology education? Canadian science education, mathematics education, and technology education have many sources of pride. Much has been achieved, though much remains to be done. Canadian educators have made many significant contributions to research and to international debate on the major issues in curriculum teaching and learning, but usually through journals published in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere. Now, at last, we have our own mouthpiece.

We are a diverse community, and a community that values this diversity as a source of emancipation for everyone. We therefore aim to produce a journal with a distinctive and independent voice, a voice that not only welcomes but celebrates diversity and promotes a fundamental concern for excellence and equity in science, mathematics, and technology education. It is this spirit that has prompted us to include *Viewpoint* as a regular feature of our journal; its goal is to provide a forum for the expression of individual views and position statements. It is intended to be provocative, even controversial. We hope that readers thus provoked will be moved to respond—preferably in time for their comments to be included in the next issue.

The Canadian voice will also be heard and represented in the *Newsround* feature, a column collated and edited by David Blades. The intention is to provide readers—and not just Canadian readers—with an update on major events and initiatives across the whole country and with an opportunity to publicize their work, make new contacts, and perhaps gather feedback. Items for *Newsround* should be sent to Dr. David Blades at IONCMASTE, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E2. We hope, also, that our *Review* section will include a substantial number of books, videos, CD-ROMs, and the like produced in Canada or written by Canadians.

Our special pride is that we publish academic work and carry opinions and news items in both of Canada's major languages. Sadly, and to the detriment of both communities, francophone and anglophone scholars often inhabit different academic worlds. We frequently draw on different academic experiences and histories; we cite different literature; we often write in different styles. By bringing these different traditions together, we all benefit. We all learn. We all grow. *CJSMTE* looks

forward to a long and productive library shelf life as one of Canada's principal vehicles for academic growth among science, mathematics, and technology educators.

Words of Welcome

The editors of several other journals have been kind enough to write letters of welcome to *CJSMTE*:

The *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education* is a most welcome addition to the international literature, on several grounds. First, it will bring together the anglophone and francophone communities, between which there has hitherto been poor communication, to the detriment of both. Second, by being willing to publish articles arising from historical and philosophical scholarship, empirical enquiry, curriculum development and teacher education, it will do much to bridge the gulf between theory and practice. Third, it will bring together the three disciplines: we must offer every help to pupils and students in integrating the educational experiences that they have.

Every language opens a unique window of perception. The world is moving, via ever-advancing telecommunications, towards 'the global village.' It is vital that all major languages, and as many minor languages as possible, both retain their 'voice' and are able to talk to each other. Welcome to *CJSMTE* as a substantial contribution to these goals. (John Gilbert, Editor, *International Journal of Science Education*)

Congratulations on the launching of your new scholarly publication, the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*. I warmly welcome you to take your place among the growing community of international scholars engaging in the pursuit of research and development in education. Your multicultural society is well positioned to help others, and other nations around the world, build bridges of communication. Best wishes on your new enterprise.

During my time as editor of *Science Education*, I have learned that the strength of a good journal grows out of the scholarly perspectives represented by members of the editorial board and reviewers. You will receive a wide variety of manuscripts. While many will judge the quality of the journal in terms of the printed pages, the actual quality of a journal is best assessed by the conversations that take place between authors and referees, mediated by editors. How well you provide authors with quality feedback during the peer review process will determine your long term success. The legitimization of new ideas, new methods, new theories and new tools occurs during the peer review process. The leadership, structure and organization of the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education* will, by design, merge together important scholarly communities. Such cross-fertilization will, I predict, have a very positive effect on the growth of knowledge in educational research.

Again, all the best in your new enterprise. The poignancy of launching this important journal at the beginning of the new millennium speaks for itself. (Rick Duschl, Editor, *Science Education*)

It is always a pleasure to welcome initiatives which add to the number of voices and perspectives which are brought to bear on improving education. This is particularly true of the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education* for at least three reasons: first, because it provides a forum which, however international in tone, is located in a country which has not yet established a journal focused on these areas of the curriculum; second because it links these sister subjects; third, and perhaps most importantly, because it builds bridges across other divisions, in this case of language. What could be more important in the world as we find it at present? I wish the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education* every success. (Jim Donnelly, Editor, *Studies in Science Education*)

It is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*. I wish to congratulate the individuals who have invested professional time and energy into conceptualizing this new scholarly venture. You are to be commended for your willingness to bring a new voice to the constituencies to be served, as well as for your insight in seeking to cross intellectual borders and engage science, mathematics and technology educators on issues of importance to society. Scholarly journals should offer both a forum for sharing and a means for expanding our intellectual horizons. In the context of fulfilling your mission to celebrate diversity and excellence, the community of scholars in science, mathematics and technology education surely will be enriched as a result of *CJSMTE*'s inception. I wish you much success in the years to come as you concomitantly pursue your goals and contribute to the scholarly community. (William C. Kyle, Jr., Editor, *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, January 1994–May 1999)

Welcome to *CJSMTE* with its distinctive mission to encourage thinking across the neighbouring areas of mathematics, science and technology education, and across neighbouring English- and French-speaking educational cultures. Welcome, also, to the journal's commitment to build a more critical, coherent and cumulative research community engaged with important professional issues, through its encouragement of rigorous reviews and analyses of research, policy and practice. (Kenneth Ruthven, Editor-in-Chief, *Educational Studies in Mathematics*)

It is a pleasure to welcome your new journal to the scholarly scene. The time could not be more appropriate. It presents an opportunity but also a challenge: an opportunity because the new century will be one in which science and mathematics will increasingly dominate every aspect of our social and intellectual lives. Yet this poses a demanding set of challenges: concerning the difficulty of unlocking these scientific and mathematical ideas so that plain folks can gain some access to them; the ever-present danger of drawing an even stronger boundary between those who have intellectual and physical resources and those who do not; and the double-edged potential of technologies to draw people together and push them apart. And above all, we are confronted with the necessity of constructing new kinds of knowledge as well as new kinds of pedagogies which can rise to these challenges. It is in this sense that a journal which sets out to be both inter-disciplinary and bilingual is particularly welcome, and, on behalf of my fellow editors and editorial board, I warmly extend my best wishes for your future success. (Richard Noss, Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Computers for Mathematical Learning*)

Congratulations on your achievement in bringing the *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education* into being. Its appearance is overdue. Canada, as with most Western countries, is beset with serious problems in science, mathematics and technology education. Worldwide there is a flight from science in high schools and in teacher education programmes. The problems are deep-seated, and require careful empirical and theoretical analysis for their elucidation. Political and economic effort is also required to ameliorate the situation. Hopefully *CJSMTE* will provide a focus for Canadian discussion of the issues, and it will serve as a vehicle for engaging with international, especially French-speaking, analysis and research in the field. (Michael Matthews, Editor, *Science and Education*)

All of us responsible for producing *For the Learning of Mathematics* welcome the newest arrival on the international scene and look forward to the contribution of another Canadian-based journal to the important area of mathematics education. (Dr. David Pimm, Editor, *For the Learning of Mathematics*)

To each of you, we say thank you for making us feel a valued new kid on the block.