



Education Convergence Assembly

August 23, 2014

SUMMARY

The Education Convergence Assembly reiterates that education is a lifelong fundamental right of all human beings.

The Education Convergence Assembly at the Peoples Social Forum stressed that access to education is part of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which Canada ratified.

The Education Convergence Assembly therefore demands that education be public, accessible and free.

The Convergence Assembly urges recognition of the importance of all forms of education and learning, including popular education and that offered by community groups.

The Convergence Assembly wishes to reassert that education is first and foremost a human relationship. The Assembly therefore condemns all forms of commodification of education.

The Convergence Assembly invites teachers, students, support staff and professionals to participate actively in the advisory and decision-making bodies of teaching institutions in a collegial spirit.

The Convergence Assembly also condemns the private sector's hold on funding for education and its influence on scientific research and development.

The Convergence Assembly condemns the involvement of big private foundation in education, which undermines the work of grassroots organizations.

The Convergence Assembly condemns the attacks on teachers' professional autonomy, their freedom of expression and academic and pedagogical freedom.

The Convergence Assembly condemns the deterioration of financial, geographic and accessibility to education.

The Convergence Assembly denounces growing student debt.

The Convergence Assembly denounces budget cuts in support and supervision for learning and teaching.

The Education Convergence Assembly condemns the deterioration in the working conditions of education workers.

The Convergence Assembly deplores the treatment of undocumented children, denied access to the public education system.

To find solutions to these problems and achieve our objectives, the Convergence Assembly suggests that we set strategic goals for mobilizing the world of education on these issues.

That all groups be invited to have their organizations discuss concrete actions to defend education that is free, accessible and free of charge, in keeping with the diversity of tactics.

That there be a meeting soon to discuss actions in response to the concerns raised during the Peoples' Social Forum.

The Convergence Assembly invites groups in education to seek the broadest possible alliances in action.

The Convergence Assembly wants education to become a real priority for our governments.