

For Immediate Press Release

July 22, 2010

Hundreds of ICED 2010 participants and members of the BC Deaf Community add signatures in support of the New Era Document presented at the Opening Ceremonies of the Vancouver Congress.

The Organizing Committee of the 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf and the B C Deaf Community continue to receive overwhelming support from all parts of the world for the New Era Document presented at the start of the Vancouver Congress this week. This document rejected the resolutions of the 1880 Milan Congress, which banned the use of sign language from educational programs.

At the Closing Ceremony of the Congress, July 22nd, a book of signatures in support of the New Era Document was passed on to Markku Jokinen, WFD President, who will continue to collect signatures at the 16th Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Durbin, South Africa next year. The book will then go to the next ICED Congress in Greece in 2015.

Dr Joe McLaughlin, Chair of the sub-committee that wrote the document, thanked everyone who signed the book and said "We have made history in Vancouver and all the participants of ICED 2010 have a right to be proud of this exciting legacy".