

MEDIA RELEASE

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Brothers in Education

Alla Stepanova, founder of the Moscow International Film School (MIFS), visited two schools in 2004 to observe innovations in education. She was eager to tell Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, who was scheduled to tour MIFS, about the “brothers in education” she met in Canada.

George Harris’ Gulf Islands Film & Television School (GIFTS) in British Columbia and his brother John’s Harris Institute in Toronto have been developing innovative programs taught by award-winning music and media industry leaders for 15 and 20 years respectively.

They have partnered with organizations in Ireland, Israel, Scotland, Palestine, the US, Russia and across Canada. At the height of the Middle East crisis, GIFTS ran a program for Palestinian and Israeli youth. During the “Troubles” in Ireland, Harris Institute delivered six annual “peace and reconciliation” programs for young adults from the areas in conflict. Both schools partnered with MIFS in a program for youth from Siberia and Salmon Arm Reserve.

Films created by GIFTS students have won 312 national and international awards. The school offers immersive programs for teenagers and teachers on scenic Galliano Island. It has developed courses with the National Film Board of Canada, Creative Peace Network, Health Canada, Women’s Television Network, Environment Canada, Directors Guild of Canada, Sierra Club and has the First Nation Media Program for eight years.

Harris Institute’s partnership with the University of the West of Scotland enables graduates to earn BA and BSc degrees in 8 months in Glasgow with tuitions waived. Supported by Ontario’s Ministry of Culture, the college established the Professional Development Program (PDP) in 2008. It was selected in the US as one of *Mix Magazine’s* “Finest Media Arts Institutions” and is the only college or university to achieve 0% Student Loan Default Rates.

As part of their milestone celebrations, the schools are introducing bursaries for 50% tuition discounts on PDP and GIFTS courses to graduates of both schools.



Gulf Islands Film
& Television School



HARRIS



George Harris, Founder, GIFTS



John Harris, Founder, Harris Institute