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President's Message, April 2022

The past few months have been filled with challenges and opportunities for social studies teachers across Canada. Our member associations have been working together to support teachers who are navigating classroom discussions on the war in Ukraine, the polarizing convoy protest movements, and the ongoing effects of a global pandemic. While the challenges are many, so are the opportunities.

Our directors met in person at the end of March in Toronto, for the first time since 2019. This meeting of social studies teachers was made possible in part by the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, the time and dedication of our volunteers, and our partners at Canada's History Society.

The meeting was a chance for many of us to meet new representatives who have joined us since 2019. While we have been meeting monthly online, we all felt the enormous value of the in-person meeting to establish trust and working relationships in our network.

Our agenda was packed with discussions and work to get our website content finalized and plan for the future of the network. We discussed and approved position statements on defining good social studies, historical and geographic thinking, citizenship education, and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. We revisited our governance structures, worked on our communications plan and established a funding structure to ensure the sustainability of our organization for the future.

We heard from each province and territory about the particular challenges and opportunities for social studies teachers. This was a powerful discussion where we heard many repeating themes across Canada and particular challenges in each jurisdiction. All of our members are working to support teachers in inquiry learning and disciplinary thinking, French immersion, and in rethinking assessment. They are all continuing to engage their members despite many challenges including a lack of substitute teachers and release time, vast geographic distances, and the general lack of specific social studies



SSENC / RESSC Team Meeting April 2022 With Social Studies educators from Vancouver to Nunavut to St. John's Newfoundland, we are truly connecting with teachers from coast to coast to coast. Rachel Collishaw - President, seated in the middle front row.

support within school systems.

Our work is clear, we will continue to support provincial and territorial social studies teachers' associations and networks, work with our partners to connect them with teachers and ensure that resources are meeting the needs of teachers, and continue to build our own networks to support social studies education across Canada.

Rachel Collishaw
President, Social Studies Educators Network of Canada
President, Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association

First Hand Experience with Trusted Canadian Resources



Rockridge Secondary School (West Vancouver BC) Grade 9 Social Studies students in Ms Selzer's class learning from and on a giant floor map courtesy of Can Geo Education.
Photo Credit: Jacklyn Lather

Classroom experience with resources

Canadian Geographic Floor Maps - delivered directly to your school!

I have two maps I use regularly: the Energy Production and Transmission map and the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada map. The Energy map was the first one that was made available to schools and we used it for the Resource Management Unit in grade 9 Geography class in Ontario. The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada is especially helpful in getting the Indigenous perspective across and help students better understand conflicts and collaborations that have arisen between the Indigenous populations of Turtle Island and its settlers. One key feature of this map is the border detailing significant dates and events from European colonization to the 2000's involving Indigenous and Settler Interrelationships. Both of these maps are a great way to incorporate the Canadian Geographic Learning Framework, especially the concepts of thinking: spatial significance, patterns and trends, interrelationships, and geographic perspective.

I have the map delivered one day before I plan on using it. At my school, I am able to use the staff meeting room as it is large enough to accommodate the floor map. I need to ensure that the space is not in use so that I do not need to fold up the map at the end of the day. I will try to have the map for two or three days to ensure all Geography classes have a chance to experience the resource.

The Canadian Geographic Education lesson plans are a great resource and each Giant Floor Map has several lessons/activities that can be used depending on how the teacher would like to use the Floor Map.

The students almost always respond in awe and wonder after seeing just how big the floor map is. Students usually experience a map visually but with the Giant Floor Map they can physically experience the map by moving on and around the map, in their socks of course. The physical experience students have of the map by walking on it, manipulating its educational tools, and utilizing its rich information is very powerful.

I have incorporated the Giant Floor Maps almost every year. It is a particularly powerful tool for fostering a love of Geography, and, selfishly, it is always a joy for me to see the students' reaction when they see the Map for the first time. The map is truly a hands-on, or more accurately, feet-on learning experience that engages students of all levels.

*Ewan Geddes, Assistant Curriculum Leader Canadian and World Studies
York Mills Collegiate Institute*

Who cares about truth in a world of entertaining deep fakes?

How do we encourage our students to care about the veracity of the narratives they consume on the web? One way to address this gap in media literacy skills development is to use documentary film to teach students how stories are intentionally crafted to persuade viewers to think, feel and ultimately, agree with the director's point of view.

The Docs for Schools program offers film from many perspectives. The Docs for Schools Today site offers programming with subject headings: Being Black in Canada, Indigenous, Environment and Voices to Hear, to name a few.

Teachers are encouraged to preview each film to determine the appropriateness of the content for their students. Each film offered in the specialized programming is accompanied by an indepth high quality teacher's guide, written by educators.

The educational resources include summaries of the film, biographies of the filmmakers, activities for pre-viewing, viewing and post-viewing for students to utilize their prior knowledge and engage deeply with the content. The educational resource also provides vetted websites and online resources to further investigate, including quotations from the film to explore and a culminating activity. A notable media literacy resource is the Hot Docs' Looking

at Documentaries: A teaching guide that sets out questions designed to help teachers include the study of documentary film in their curriculum. It is crucial when watching documentaries to be aware of the intentions of the filmmaker and to test their ability to convince you of the truth they are trying to convey. Students are also encouraged to think critically about the ethical implications of how the director portrays their subjects and how they are represented in the films they make.

In my opinion, teaching students to be deeply skeptical of media products is imperative to preserving our democracy in a time when intentional disinformation is being used to undermine the truth.

*Sarah Murray, Teacher-Librarian
Immaculata High School, Ottawa*

Recommended Resources SSEC/RESSC

Please share how you have used these resources in your classroom! @SSENCRESSC

Red Cross: Humanitarian education

The barrage of images in social media and video games; of refugees, child soldiers, violence toward women, and environmental destruction can be disempowering for many students. Tackling these global issues through the lens of humanitarian education and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) can help students understand states' responsibilities in reducing suffering and protecting civilians in times of armed conflict.

One innovative tool that can help students learn about IHL is Forced to Fight, a FREE online interactive resource for teachers and youth that explores IHL and related themes in a choose-your-own adventure format. The dilemmas in each story reinforce the theme that there are no easy answers in armed conflict. Learning points help students think critically and problem solve about real world issues.

In recent years, teachers have expressed interest in exploring the links between armed conflict and the environment. Our newest story in Forced to Fight profiles IHL is through the eyes of 18-year-old Miguel who fights to protect his Indigenous community in South America from the environmental and human indignities of war.

The Canadian Red Cross offers free resources and professional development through our website [here](#).



Musée de l'Holocauste Montréal | Musées Montréal

The Montreal Holocaust Museum

Via virtual and in-person programming, our goal is to develop students' critical thinking and empathy while building engaged citizens.

Can't make it to the Museum? We offer a wide range of free, bilingual resources for Gr. 6 - 12 classes. Our virtual history class is an interactive presentation exploring Holocaust history by showcasing key artefacts and testimonies from our permanent exhibition. Have your class meet a Holocaust survivor for a virtual testimony and hear a personal dimension from the millions of victims. During virtual workshops, students encounter a survivor's story, then conduct historical research by analyzing relevant primary sources.

New to teaching about the Holocaust? We recommend our History of the Holocaust and Antisemitism in Canada reference guides and our articles on best practices for teaching elementary and high school students. Try our interactive timelines and maps on themes including Deportations, The Nazi Path to Power, and The World Responds to complement your existing lesson plans.

Bring history to life with historical objects and survivor testimonies. Read our guide to teaching with testimony, then deploy these handy analysis sheets paired with resonant objects and survivor stories from our collection.

Contact us: education@museeholocauste.ca



Photo: Twelve Mile Coulee School in Calgary

Veterans Affairs Canada – Putting a face to Remembrance all year long

Perhaps you are already aware of Veterans Affairs Canada’s free, bilingual Veterans’ Week learning resources, but did you know we also have a wide variety of other educational materials about Remembrance and our country’s proud military history that can be used throughout the year? Explore our classroom-ready lesson plans for students of all ages by visiting www.veterans.gc.ca/educators and clicking on “Learning Modules.”

One activity that resonates with students by helping them “put a face” to the many Canadian service members who have lost their lives features our Remembrance dog tags. These printable tags cover a variety of conflicts and themes, like the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Dieppe Raid and Indigenous soldiers. Through this classroom activity, students can research “their” fallen Canadian using primary sources such as First and Second World War service records (available online). For a complete list of available themes, Google “Remembrance dog tags.”

We often hear from teachers that students can be profoundly affected by learning about an individual fallen Canadian—especially if they have a picture of them. Twelve Mile Coulee School in Calgary even sent us a photo of an evocative school display they created using dog tags made by their 850 grade 5 to 9 students!

For more information on those who have served our country and how to order free educational resources like historical sheets or multimedia learning kits, visit the “Remembrance” section at www.veterans.gc.ca or send us an [email](#).

Tell Our Story: Japanese Canadian Educational Resources

In the Japanese Canadian community, as in many others, we have fought for the right to tell our own story, instead of having those in power tell it to us. But we also want to empower educators of all backgrounds to share this story with students, in ways that are accurate and culturally sensitive.

The Nikkei National Museum offers a diverse array of educational programs and resources on Japanese Canadian history and heritage, and Japanese culture. Teachers anywhere in Canada can book digital field trips that bring our gallery exhibits and tour guides to your classroom via video call, or borrow a hands-on Journeys Education Kit to be shipped to your classroom.

Two of our newest online resources are the Writing Wrongs digital exhibit (writingwrongs-parolesperdues.ca) and the Journeys Digital Resource website (nikkeinationalmuseumjourneys.ca). Both share new research on the Japanese Canadian internment era from the Landscapes of Injustice research project, and are available for free in both English and French. Writing Wrongs features a searchable archive of over 300 primary-source letters from Japanese Canadians protesting the forced sale of their property. The Journeys Digital Resource shares curated resources including government case files for seven Japanese Canadian families and an interactive walkthrough of the Broken Promises museum exhibit.

Nikkei National Museum staff developed these offerings in partnership with Landscapes of Injustice researchers and working teachers. We consulted with the broader Japanese Canadian community to create these high-quality and practical resources that share our community’s stories for Canadian teachers and students. Visit our website [here](#).

Vimy to Juno Online Exhibition: Canadians Through Two World Wars

This NEW [website](#) tells the story of Canada’s involvement in two world wars and the intervening period. It fulfills the needs of educators to have access to vast primary source materials that gives more details and different perspectives on powerful stories.

Educators have told us that one of the biggest challenges of on-line learning is getting students equal access to the same resources. You are not alone in this often stressful and awe-inspiring profession. We made these NEW online resources for you. Consider this a virtual textbook for students to access as a group or on their own time.



Inviting Educators: Upcoming Events

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Month	Date	Province	Event Description	Language
October	13-15	Alberta	Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Council (ATASSC), Banff	English
	14-15	Saskatchewan	Social Studies Saskatchewan (SSS), Regina	
	19-21	Northwest Territories	Northwest Territories Educators' (NTE) Conference, Yellowknife	
	21	Manitoba	Manitoba Social Science Teachers' Association (MSSTA) MTS PD Day, Winnipeg	
	21	British Columbia	British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association (BCSSTA), Vancouver	
	28	Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association (NSSSTA), Halifax	
November	3-4	Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island Teachers' Association (PEITF), Charlottetown	English
	23-25	Québec	Congrès annuel Association québécoise pour l'enseignement en univers social (AQEUS), Québec Hotel Delta	French
	25-26	Ontario	Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association / Association des enseignantes des sciences humaines de L'Ontario (OHASSTA / AESHO) conference, Hamilton, McMaster University	English and French

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