

# S·A·L·O·N

## President's Message, Winter 2022

Welcome to a new year and for secondary teachers, a fresh semester. I've been thinking of these special partner issues of Salon as our gift to you in a time where you might be learning to teach a new course, or working with your colleagues to learn new perspectives and pedagogies to better support all of your students. We have so many resources to share that we are extending them over our next two issues. I hope these will help you to find teaching resources and stories that enrich your practice now and for some time to come.

The SSEC directors have been busy this fall working on projects to better connect social studies teachers across Canada. Our biggest task is building our website, which will be ready to launch this spring. In February and March, we'll be piloting our Korean War Legacy inquiry lessons in classrooms across Canada. Contact your provincial association or representative to find out how you can get involved.

Our Twitter account ([@ssencressc](https://twitter.com/ssencressc)) is active and growing with monthly activities. In December, we gave away prizes to teachers across Canada with our #DecemberGiveaway, and in January we encouraged teachers to complete the Thinking Historically for Canada's Future landmark history teachers' survey. Follow us to learn about the engagement event each month, whether resources, webinars or conversations across Canada.

We're looking forward to our director's meeting in Toronto at the end of March where we'll be working together on our long-term vision and setting the foundations for the kind of network that will bring us together, help our member associations to thrive and continue to grow and support social studies teachers across Canada.

Sincerely,



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



Social Studies Educators  
Network of Canada  
Réseau Pour l'Enseignement des Sciences  
Sociales du Canada

## First Hand Experience with Trusted Canadian Resources



Fig 1: Students in Manitoba enjoy Festival du Voyageur, 2018

### Festival du Voyageur

February in Manitoba can be harsh. Friends from warmer climates are often shocked to hear that, as a teacher in a rural Manitoba school division, I can anticipate having a handful of school days canceled per year when the temperature reaches  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the school buses won't run. Yet, February is also a month that many Manitobans look forward to because it means it's time for the Festival du Voyageur!

The Festival du Voyageur is held every February in Winnipeg's "French Quarter" of St. Boniface. The festival's mission is to promote *joie de vivre* and extend the reach of the French language and culture throughout the year through artistic, educational, historical and cultural experiences inspired by the voyageur era. The February festival celebrates Manitoba's Francophone culture and history and invites attendees to enjoy Franco-Manitoban food, drink, and music.

Festival du Voyageur has also had an extensive school program since 1971. A big component, and what many educators are looking for, are programs that can be delivered in French to students of various levels of comprehension. Everything the education program produces is bilingual and accessible to students at their own pace.

Colin Mackie, the Heritage and Education Programs Director for the Festival du Voyageur, describes some of the changes to the Festival in 2021. "We have had to shift entirely to an online model, which is far different from our normal catalogue of activities. We decided to pivot to a virtual program early on in the planning stages (June/July) due to the uncertainty of what was to come in the fall. For 2021, we offered five paid craft programs that include an instructional video, three pre-activity lesson plans and three reflection activities. The instructional videos feature educators with years of experience in a classroom. We have also developed five livestream programs that are available throughout February. Students can interact with a blacksmith, a NWC Clerk and a Voyageur all from the comfort of their classrooms or from home. The programs are around 40 minutes and also include pre- and post-activities/lesson plans for teachers. One of the unexpected outcomes of this odd COVID year is that we were joined virtually by schools from Vancouver to Toronto!"

For the 2022 festival, the organizers are continuing the virtual programme, with a range of free and paid activities for classrooms across Canada to join in the festivities. Festival organizers have craft kits ready to send out to classrooms so each student can join in making games, beadwork, and other handicrafts while watching an instructional video. Registration for virtual events closes February 16, 2022. Many free activities are available throughout the year, with the Activity Guide of the Canada Life School programme online at [www.heho.ca](http://www.heho.ca)

*Kevin Lopuck, Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School  
Selkirk Manitoba*

### Project of Heart

In May 2021, all Canadians were taken aback when the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation shared the devastating finding of 215 unmarked graves of children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

As families worked through the grief over the announcement, many teachers looked for ways to build reconciliation and create commemorative projects with their students to honour those lost and those who survived Canada's Residential School Program. The Project of Heart website provides links to several resources created and used by teachers across Canada. Their biggest project has been the [creation of decorated tiles](#) by students across Canada.

Thousands of the student-decorated tiles became part of an exhibit at Beechwood Cemetery, Canada's national cemetery in Ottawa September 30 - the inaugural National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR). The exhibit

of 57,000 tiles, each one representing the life of a child who died in an Indian Residential School, were put on display by Indigenous youth, members of the [Assembly of Seven Generations](#).



Fig 2: Project of Heart, Manitoba, 2021

“From Project of Heart’s point of view this day was a day to be cherished”, said Sylvia Smith, creator of the teaching resource that has been taught in every Canadian province and territory. “We had POH alumni from across Ontario and Quebec - teachers and students alike - come to Beechwood to see the tiles they had created join with the 57,000 others to be displayed as an entire collection for the first time ever - it was incredibly moving. And it was a wonderful opportunity for many of the alumni to meet each other at last, instead of just seeing each other’s name on an email chain all these years.”

Beechwood Cemetery has worked with the Indigenous community to create a [Reconciling History Tour](#), which acknowledges the active role played by many prominent Canadians in the Residential School System. Tours are free for school groups, and further information can be found online for teachers outside of the Ottawa area.

### Provincial Politics?

A challenge for many social studies teachers in Canada is presenting a Canadian governance unit in a way that is relevant to our students. Often the subject is met with groans, yet it is of such great importance. If done poorly, we reinforce the belief that politics are boring; If done well, we can show our students the value of democratic processes and engage them as active citizens.

While many resources exist online and through various organizations to support us in teaching governance, few are as tangible, engaging, and eye

opening as the BC Teachers’ Institute on Parliamentary Democracy, which is offered each year at the provincial legislature in Victoria. I had the privilege of participating in the 2019/2020 session and would recommend this memorable opportunity to any teacher, K-12.

Over four action-packed days myself and several colleagues from all over the province were fully immersed in all aspects of parliamentary life. We engaged in Q and As with MLAs from all parties, we met the Speaker and began to understand how the legislative assembly works both behind the scenes and during the debates, we met representatives from each non-partisan office of the legislature, we spent time with a Supreme Court judge, and were provided with incredible resources to implement in class. At the end of the institute, we were able to collaborate to create lessons. These are just a few of the rich experiences provided by the Teachers’ Institute.

The Institute is not only highly educational and rewarding but also validating as teachers are celebrated and honoured by the Speaker of the House. I left the institute with a better understanding of all aspects of the legislature, and felt better equipped to explain these to my students and to anticipate any of their questions. Most importantly, I also left with some of my faith in democracy restored— no small thing for a cynic like me.

*Melodie Klein, École secondaire Chatelech  
Sechelt BC*

*Some provinces continue to offer in person and virtual teachers institutes in 2022, including BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan. Check with your legislative assembly to find online educational resources and opportunities for student visits.*



Fig 3: Ryan Judd, Victoria Parliament Building, 2016





## Recommended Resources

SSENC/RESSC

[Defining Moments Canada \(DMC\)](#) is a Canadian heritage organization dedicated to commemorating 'definitional moments' in our shared histories through the stories that have made them significant. 'Defining Moments' are those moments of shared national importance to Canadians, like the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin.

All of our Defining Moments include relevant interdisciplinary teacher resources, such as lesson plans and 'Inquiry Toolkits', curated by leading educators. DMC is committed to creating new and innovative content to help teachers bring Herzberg50, Insulin100, Juno75, and our other projects into the classroom. DMC has also developed curatorial thinking as a method to help create opportunities for teachers and students to engage in critical inquiry via multiple entry points.

Faced with a deluge of information in their daily life, it is essential that students become masters of their own knowledge building both inside and outside the classroom. Curatorial thinking empowers students not only to demonstrate their learning, but to discover new connections allowing them to contribute to our understanding of the past and to positively influence the future.

**The/La Collaborative** Classroom guests can bring a new perspective and give students an opportunity to ask questions directly to an expert in their field. The/La Collaborative brings a twist to the idea by connecting Canadian K-12 teachers with Social Science, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA) experts from universities across Canada to support inquiry and project-based learning.

A new kind of resource for Canadian teachers, The/La Collaborative Inquiry Learning aims to enhance the student learning experience by having subject-matter experts act as an additional resource for classroom activities. Experts are available to support different stages of the inquiry-learning process your students work on, including developing guiding questions, collecting data, or presenting results for formative or summative assessment, among others.

The/La Collaborative's connection brokers use an online platform to manage the collaboration process for everyone, easily connecting K-12 teachers with academic experts who are eager to support student learning. All teachers must do is complete a collaboration request!

Students feel inspired to pursue new topics, ideas, and disciplines after engaging directly with SSHA experts in the classroom. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about organizing a classroom collaboration with an expert please visit [our website](#) or contact Phillip Rich by [email](#).

**Senate of Canada's** youth outreach program [SENgage](#), provides young people from across the country with the opportunity to connect with senators and learn more about the work they do in Parliament. Students learn about the role of the Senate in our democracy, and how senators provide leadership on important issues and strengthen legislation.

The Senate's YouTube channel features series such as A Day in the Life where students can see what being a senator is all about. The Senate Explained series unpacks Senate procedures in short videos under a minute. Challenge your students to a fun Senate-themed quiz on Kahoot! Using computers or their own device, elementary and high school students are prompted to answer a series of multiple-choice questions relating to the Red Chamber, senators, and the legislative process.

Invite a senator to speak to your students this spring! Fill out the invitation on the [SENgage](#) webpage. An events coordinator will work with you to organize the session from start to finish. To frame the visit, we have prepared a digital kit with activity sheets and suggested questions students may ask the senator. Adaptations of these resources are available through Google Drive for elementary and high school levels.

**Hot Docs** is excited to offer Citizen Minutes, a series of short documentaries highlighting ordinary Canadians doing extraordinary things to improve their communities. Through these documentaries students meet bold and unlikely change-makers who can inspire them to jump in and get involved in issues close to their homes and hearts.

At a time when citizen engagement is needed more than ever students will meet civically minded Canadians who have all exercised their democratic rights and used different democratic processes and channels to effect social change.

With a selection of stories as diverse as the communities they represent, there is something for everyone with the Citizen Minutes films, along with an education package for each. There are eight films each under eight minutes and although under the theme of civics, each is an individual stand-alone story applicable to other subject areas too: Politics, English, Media, Equity, Gender Studies,

Geography. The films and education packages are available in English and in French.

This recently launched Series is the latest offering from the popular free and accessible Hot Docs Docs For Schools program. To book and learn details of the films and program visit: <https://hotdocs.ca/p/dfs-citizen-minutes>.

**Questions?** Contact Docs For Schools coordinator Elspeth Arbow via email at: [earbow@hotdocs.ca](mailto:earbow@hotdocs.ca)

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

**[@SSENC/RESSC](#)**

Social Studies Educators  
Network of Canada



SSENC/RESSC



Fig 4: Leah Judd, Manitoba Legislature, 2018