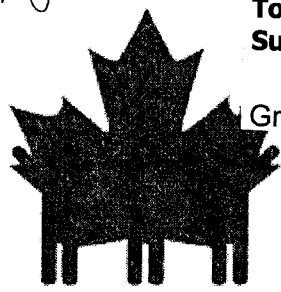
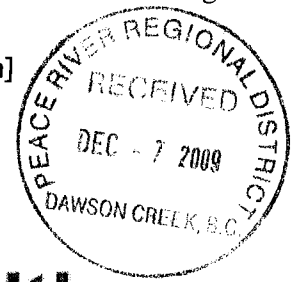


FB
Agenda

From: Marylou Leung [mailto:Marylou.Leung@JusticeEducation.ca]
Sent: December 7, 2009 1:42 PM
To: Marylou Leung; Lillian Tse
Subject: Being an Active Citizen



Greetings,

Being an Active Citizen C-2

Law, Government and Community Engagement in BC

Schools throughout the Lower Mainland and Victoria are piloting a new resource that will better prepare students to be informed and engaged citizens in their communities.

Being an Active Citizen teaches Social Studies students in grades 7-11 about their important role as citizens. They learn about the structure and operation of government and their justice system while gaining experience with tools that can be used by active citizens, such as petitions, election ballots and letters to the editor. Students will be encouraged to apply critical thinking skills and engage in discussions of questions such as "What is it?", "How does it work?", "Is it important in my life?", "Why should I care?" and "How can I participate?" Engaging in community events and with community organizations is being encouraged.

The pilots are being held in two elementary and 10 secondary schools in six school districts. More than 650 students in 23 classes will be providing their feedback.

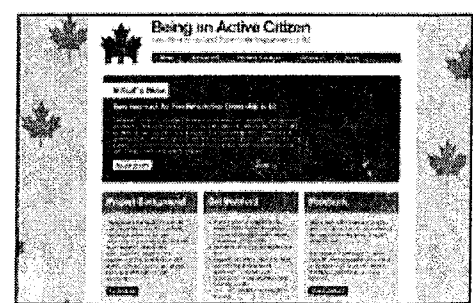
The project has received letters of support from the Union of BC Municipalities as well as numerous cities, including Fort St. John, Williams Lake and Kelowna. The District of Squamish appointed its mayor to be the "point person" to participate in the project with local high schools.

The pilots will end in early January and the final materials will be distributed to schools in Spring 2010. The resource package for each grade will be sent, along with the letters of support, to the BC Ministry of Education so it can consider adding the materials to the present Social Studies curriculum.

We need your help.

Get involved

1. Participate by providing information and volunteer opportunities to students if called upon.
2. Visit the project's website, review the resource package outlines and give feedback.
3. Write a letter of support for the inclusion of the materials in the present Social Studies curriculum to the Ministry of Education and send it to the Justice Education Society (260-800 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2C5 or contact Marylou.Leung@JusticeEducation.ca).



www.BCCitizenship.ca

January 14, 2010

Why support this project?

In 2007, the Ministry of Education conducted a Needs Assessment for Grades 8-12 Social Studies Curriculum. The summary report identified issues such as inadequate exposure to citizenship, law and government and recommended a more in-depth coverage on these issues to enrich and advance the curriculum. The assessment found that:

"Fewer than a quarter (22%) of educators feel that students have ample opportunity in required social studies courses to practise active citizenship" (p.4)

"Fewer than half of parents feel that adequate time and attention are devoted to developing students' citizenship skills or that students acquire a good grasp of how government works in our country from the social studies grades 8 to 11 curriculum." (p.4)

"Many feel that the curriculum does not adequately help students feel connected to Canadian politics or develop the attitudes and abilities to be active participants in democratic society." (p.4)

We believe that this program will enhance the present courses and will address these issues. For more information visit www.BCCitizenship.ca.

Marylou Leung | Project Manager

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Formerly the Law Courts Education Society of BC