



The Bark

Winter 2016

Harold Neth, Editor

News & Events

- February - [Black History Month](#)
- February 20 - [World Day of Social Justice](#)
- February 24 - [Pink Shirt Day](#)

- March 1 - [Zero Discrimination Day](#)
- March 3 - [World Wildlife Day](#)
- March 8 - [International Women's Day](#)
- March 21 - [International Day for the Elimination of Racial discrimination](#)
- March 22 - [World Water Day](#)
- March 25 - [International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)

- April 6 - [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#)
- April 7 - [World Health Day](#)

- April 14-15 - [Public Interest Alberta Conference](#)

- April 22 - [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- April 23 - [World Book and Copyright Day](#)
- April 28 - [National Day of Mourning](#)

- May 3 - [World Press Freedom Day](#)

New Kid on the Progressive Block

Many readers of *The Bark* will be familiar with progressive groups like Public Interest Alberta, Friends of Medicare, and the Parkland Institute. The new kid on the progressive block is Progress Alberta.

While the senior members on the block have had success in getting their messages out and changing the social, political, and economic discourse in the province, [Progress Alberta](#) is aiming to be more of the media go-to source for progressive views on issues and counter groups like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation or the Fraser Institute.

They burst on to the media scene on January 6th, 2016, with the release of survey results from a survey conducted for them by Abacus Data. This was an online survey with 1,000 adult respondents and conducted between Dec. 2 and Dec. 7, 2015.

The main question of the poll reveals that the majority of Albertans, 59%, identify as progressive while 41% see themselves as conservative. Surprised?

The result does not fit with the image that Albertans hold of other Albertans. Another survey question result revealed that 53% think that Albertans are conservative, while 26% see the province as centrist, and 21% believe Albertans to be progressive.

The survey also revealed wide-spread support for a number of the NDP government's initiatives. To illustrate, 72% support the ban on corporate and union donations, 66% support increasing taxes on high income earners, 48% support phasing out coal-powered electricity generation, 47% support a carbon tax, and 47% support setting limits on oilsands omissions.

Progress Alberta is a "multi-issue, independent, non-profit advocacy organization" that is headed up by 10-member advisory board. It includes NDP candidates for the last federal election: Lewis Cardinal, Gil McGowan, Cheryl Meheden. Others include Raj Pannu, former Alberta NDP leader, and Dave Cournoyer, a political blogger and Communications Officer with United Nurses of Alberta. The Executive Director is Duncan Kinney, a writer and activist.

Progress Alberta suggests a shift in views has occurred in Alberta over the past 20 years. They note that Alberta's population has increased by 1.46 million people for a 54% increase. 892,000 Albertans or 21% of Alberta's total population have moved here since 1995.

The new kid on the block joins other progressive groups working to gather ideas, inform, and work for change in Alberta.



Aspen Foundation for Labour Education



The GWG: Piece by Piece—A Resource for Alberta Teachers

Aspen Foundation is pleased to announce that the lessons for social studies grades 4, 5, 7, 9, 10-1 & 10-2 and 12-1 & 12-2 are completed and are posted on our website at: www.afle.ca/aspen-teaching-units.html. This huge project has been in the works for some time.

The lessons are based on the Alberta Social Studies curriculum and identify Outcomes, Competencies, Concepts and Inquiry Questions for each of the grades. At the lower grade levels, the lessons are cross-curricular integrating drama, music, art, language arts and mathematics. Each project and lesson is based on a song or songs from the video ballad titled *GWG: Piece by Piece*.

The 60-minute video ballad features a musical performance with songs by Maria Dunn, audiovisual materials filmed by Don Bouzek, and research interviews and archival materials provided by historian Catherine C. Cole. Included in the video are clips of women being interviewed and a song that captures each of the women's experiences. Hence the title for the grade 4, 5 or 7 activity is: *Interpreting the Stories of the Women of GWG – Readers Theatre*.

The other learning activities are:

The Chocolate Bar War: Story Approach for grade 4 or 5.

Another grade 5 learning activity is: *A Snapshot of Immigrant Life in Western Canada: Project-based Learning*.

The grade 7 mini-unit is called, *Let's Make Blue Jeans – A Factory Line Simulation*.

The title of the grade 9 simulation activity is: *Taking Collective Action*.

The lesson for Social Studies 10-1 & 10-2 is called, *The Stories Behind Our Clothes: Project-Based Learning*

Great Western Garment Factory: Collectivism in Action forms the title of a lesson for Social Studies 30-1 & 30-2.

Welcome!

Aleah Loney joins Aspen Foundation as our Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Aleah comes from a background in social justice work and advocacy for progressive organizations across the country. We wish her much success in her new role.

Your Support is key to offering Social Justice and Labour Education in our Schools!

Participate in our Annual Appeal & get a tax receipt

It is important that schools teach youth about building new, fairer, kinder, and more just workplaces, and communities. Friends like you make Aspen's work possible.

Thank you to the unions and individuals who have already donated. If you have not yet donated, please send your contribution. Aspen Foundation is a registered charity and provides income tax receipts to individual donors.

See our website and contact information at the bottom of this page or go to: CanadaHelps.org

Related Links & Info

- [The Big Short](#)
- [Speak Truth to Power Canada](#)
- [The Tyee](#)
- [Aspen Foundation on Facebook](#)
- [AFLE Teaching Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Council](#)
- [Public Interest Alberta](#)
- [UN Observances](#)

***Always review resources before using them in class.**



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