



The Bark

Spring 2014

Spring! Is it here yet? – Harold Neth, Editor

The extra hours of daylight, the song birds cheerily singing, fresh buds on the trees, and the few brave tulips and daffodils poking green shoots tentatively out of the ground suggest it is spring. The snow last weekend around Alberta tell of another season.

At The Bark, we're optimistic. This is your Spring Edition!

Yes, something is finally here – *Common Ground: Defending the Public Sector*

The Social Studies 30-1 lesson and activities for the documentary film, *Common Ground* by Tom Radford, are now available for download on the Aspen website at afle@telus.net. The final product is still in the works as we await the addition of graphics and a final edit.

The activities and the 42 minute video help students take a look at government policies that, in recent years, have increasingly led to more privatization of public services. These resources also lead students to consider the impact that privatization has on government workers and citizens. The critique presented in the video focuses on a contrast between policies and events here in Alberta with those in Wisconsin where the public sector has been greatly reduced.

While the lesson and activities for *Common Ground* for Social Studies 30-2 were to be posted on the Aspen website by now, we have encountered unexpected delays. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Should you use the lesson and activities for Social Studies 30-1, we invite you to provide feedback and suggestions as well as adaptations you may have made.

Teachers' Conventions Workshops

Thank you to all the teachers who attended the Aspen Foundation workshops presented by Barb Maheu at Conventions. We offer a special thank you to those who provided comment on the workshop and the resources.

News & Events

- April 18, 2014. **For a summary of the Public Interest Alberta's Annual Conference, a challenge to PC leadership candidates, and notes on upcoming AGM, please go to the link below:**

<http://pialberta.org/content/e-newsletter-conference-review-pc-leadership-race-pias-agm>

- April 30 – **Public Interest Alberta launched its “Fair Tax Clock”, showing revenue that could be raised each day if the AB Government implemented a modest progressive income tax & raised corporate taxes effective April 1, 2014. See the campaign website at:** www.AlbertaCould.org.

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

-May 8-9 - [Remember lives lost in WW II](#)

- May 21 – [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#)

- May 29 – [International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers](#)

- May 31 – [World No-Tobacco Day](#)

- June 2 – [Aspen Foundation AGM](#)

- June 5 – [World Environment Day](#)

- June 11 – **Public Interest AB AGM at Barnett House – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

- June 12 – [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#)



Aspen Foundation for Labour Education



Your donation dollars at work

“Our donors support is critical to Aspen Foundation’s development of lessons and units that meet the requirements of Alberta’s social studies curriculum and provide workshops to teachers as follow up. Donor support is also key to our Social Justice Learning Grant Program to teachers and students in their classrooms and schools.” – Gary Hanson, Executive Director, Aspen Foundation

With your support, Aspen offered workshops at the Annual Social Studies Conference last October along with further workshops on the grade 4 teaching resource, *Stories of People Working Together to Build Alberta*, and the grade 10 resource, *Globalization*, at five Teachers’ Conventions this year.

We have recently developed the Social Studies 30-1 resource for the video *Common Ground* and are still working to complete the final product along with its companion for Social Studies 30-2. We also plan to offer workshops on this resource.

Work is also planned on a resource for teachers and students on the GWG plant and its history here in Edmonton.

Aspen further provides Social Justice Learning Grants of up to \$1500.00 to teachers and students in at least five schools throughout Alberta, annually, for projects that meet our criteria. Aspen also contributes funds for a Social Justice Conference offered to high school students and hosted at Jasper Place High School in Edmonton.

Social Justice Learning Grants

If you are a teacher or a parent who wants to encourage a teacher to apply for up to a \$1500 grant from Aspen, please go to our website, afle@telus.net for further information and the application form. While the application deadline is October 6, 2014, planning a project and engaging students in the planning requires time.

Community Service Learning

The Aspen Foundation has had the benefit of working with the University of Alberta Community Service Learning Program and thanks Matt Zilinski, the student whose time and work on the Board was much appreciated.

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

It’s friends like you who make Aspen’s work possible. You too think it important that schools teach the perspective that allows for youth to change and build a new, fairer, more kind, and more just workplace, community and society,

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

To donate, see our website and contact information at the bottom of this page or go to CandadHelps.org

Related Links & Info

-Union Style!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhKJEuoOvcU>

- AFLE Teaching Resources

<http://aspenfoundation.squarespace.com/teachingresources/>

- ATA Magazine Vol. 92: DEHR to make a difference

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20Magazine/Volume%2092/Number-3/Pages/Dehr-to-make-a-difference.aspx>

- Social Studies Council

<http://www.atasocialstudies.ca/>

Always review resources before using them in class.



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