



The Bark

Winter, 2014

Aspen Foundation offers workshops at Teachers' Conventions – Harold Neth, editor

News & Events

-January 30 – Public Interest AB Calgary: Alberta's Inadequate Childcare. Parkdale United, 2919 -8th Ave NW Church, 7–8 p.m.

-February 13 – Public Interest AB Edmonton: Allyson Pollock-Taking Action to stop privatization of public services, 7-9 p.m.

- February 20 – [World Day of Social Justice](#)

- March 1 – [Zero Discrimination Day](#)

- March 8 - [International Women's Day](#)

- March 21 – [International Day for the Elimination of Racial discrimination](#)

-March 22 – [World Water Day](#)

-April 11-13 – Public Interest AB Annual Conference – Edmonton, Chateau Lacombe, 10111 Belamy Hill

-April 7 – [World Health Day](#)

-April 22 – [International Mother Earth Day](#)

-Watch for Aspen Foundation Convention Presentations:

- *North Central, February 6-7
- * Northeast, February 14
- *Central Alberta, February 21
- *Central East, March 6
- *Mighty Peace, March 7

-March 13-14, - ATA Diversity, Equality and Human Rights Conference, Edmonton
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca>

Teachers' Convention season is here again! Are you teaching grade 4 or grade 10 social studies? Or do you know someone who is?

Plan to attend or encourage the teacher you know to attend one of the sessions Aspen Foundation is presenting at the following Conventions: North Central, February 6-7; Northeast, February 14; Central Alberta, February 21; Central East, March 6; and Mighty Peace, March 7. Barb Maheu, former Staff Officer with the Alberta Teachers' Association, will be the presenter.

The grade 4 teaching resource that Aspen Foundation developed is entitled *Stories of People Working Together to Build Alberta*. It is designed to meet General Learning Outcomes as well Specific Learner Outcomes in the Alberta's Social Studies Program. The relevant pages in approved textbooks are also noted for the teacher's convenience.

Active inquiry strategies help students explore the roles of working people, understand their challenges, learn how they worked together to improve working conditions, and identify ways communities celebrate working people's accomplishments. Students have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their learning and assessment ideas are provided.

The grade 10 teaching resource is entitled Globalization. It is designed to teach the third unit of Alberta's Social Studies 10-1 and 10-2 programs. The Unit has 13 activities that help students explore different facets and issues of globalization, particularly opposing viewpoints related to labour and employment.

The Activity Pack stresses active learning, requiring students analyze, interpret, synthesize, create, design, research, survey, debate, cross-examine, plan, write, perform, and evaluate.

Attend a session on Thursday or Friday of Convention and be ready to use the units on Monday morning.



Resource Review



Documentary Film Study of *Common Ground* – Harold Neth, editor

In the Fall edition of *The Bark*, we noted that teachers should anticipate lessons on the documentary film, *Common Ground: Defending the Public Sector*, produced by Canadian filmmaker Tom Radford. It is a 42 minute film that in Radford's words, "... emphasizes the importance of protecting public institutions in an age marked by the ever-present danger of privatization while exploring the legacy of populism and union history in "next year country"."

We are developing lessons for Social Studies 30-2. Jennifer Ritchie, a teacher in Edmonton, is in the process of writing these. If you have ideas for activities and are interested in working with her, contact Gary Hanson at afle@telus.net. The film and the lessons will be used to introduce the course or aid instruction in units 3 and 4 in the course. The resources will meet the General Learning Outcomes as well as Specific Learner Outcomes in the Alberta's Social Studies 30-2 Program.

For those of you teaching Social Studies 30-1, we are in the process of developing lessons on *Common Ground* for you as well. In the mean time, you might adapt the activities we have for 30-2 to suit your students.

(Editor's note: Find the link to *Common Ground* at our website: www.afle.ca.)

Not So Random "Acts of Kindness" Aspen Foundation has worked with the ATA to develop a workshop that helps "... school staffs examine various approaches for undertaking meaningful social justice activities while engaging students in every step of the process. It provides ways for teachers to help students critically examine relevant issues and then take actions designed to promote principles of fairness, equity and social justice locally and globally." To get more information and book the workshop go to ata.ab.ca.

Related Links & Info

- No Free Ride

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCqRkn1IRnM>

- 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>

- Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council

<http://www.geoec.org/>

- Social Studies Council

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

Always review resources before use in class.

Support Social Justice and Labour Education in our Schools!

If you believe it is important that schools teach a perspective that re-engages youth for change and the building of a new, fairer, more kind, and more just workplace, community and society, then please send us your support. WE are not financed by big business, but by YOU!

See our web site below for contact information, or go to CanadaHelps.org

