



Focus on Peace and Global Education

With Remembrance Day just around the corner, this issue of *Seeds of Social Justice* is focused on peace and global education.



Canada's reputation as a humanitarian leader at the global level has deteriorated over the past several years. Some concerning changes include [redirecting funding from humanitarian aid to Canadian economic development](#), Canada's role in [human rights abuses](#) linked to resource extraction overseas, antiterrorism policies and issues, and alarming changes in [Canada's citizenship and immigration policies](#).

The Liberal Party's [campaign platform](#) included several promises that, if carried out, could constitute the initial steps in putting Canada's foreign policy back on a more humanitarian path. These promises include reallocating foreign aid to the poorest nations, increasing investment in refugee sponsorship, reinstating Canada's involvement in peacekeeping, and ending our combat mission in Iraq. Important global issues that are notably absent from the Liberal's platform include addressing Canada's role in global warming and human rights abuses.

As social justice advocates, we can play a key role in holding the new government accountable for its campaign promises. While many teachers participated in the Student Vote program, it is important to raise students' awareness that our role as citizens does not end with the casting of ballots. A simple peace and global education activity for your classroom could consist of students analysing the Liberal platform, identifying one campaign promise they support and one issue that they feel has been overlooked, and following up this analysis with a letter addressed to the Prime Minister and their Member of Parliament.

The promised changes in immigration policy will have a definite impact on our classrooms. An investment of \$250 million in refugee processing, sponsorship, and settlement services and the reduction of barriers to sponsorship of family members should result in significant increases in numbers of refugees immigrating to Canada, particularly from Syria.

What role can BC teachers play in supporting their students and communities in welcoming these new immigrants, especially given the undercurrent of Islamophobia highlighted during the election campaign? The [Peace and Global Education webpage](#) contains a number of workshops, resources, and lesson plans to support teachers. The Peace and Global Education Action Group (PAGE) is also in the process of developing resources focussing on refugee issues.

BCTF Social Justice Program Calendar of Events

Veterans' Week and **Remembrance Day** start off the month of November in the BCTF Social Justice Program [Calendar of Events](#). Teachers may want to consider participating in the White Poppy Campaign this year. The white poppy was created in 1933 as a symbol to commemorate all victims of war, and to challenge the belief that war is inevitable. To help raise awareness of the increasing percentage of civilian casualties in war, while also honouring the sacrifice of veterans, consider wearing a white poppy in addition to a red one on Remembrance Day, choosing another day to wear a white poppy, or creating mixed red and white poppy wreaths. The [Peace Poppies website](#) provides information on how to buy or

November	
5–11:	Veteran's Week
11:	Remembrance Day
15–21:	BC Multiculturalism Week
20:	National Child Day
20:	Transgender Day of Remembrance
25:	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—16 days of action begins
27:	Buy Nothing Day



make white poppies, veterans' testimonials in support of the campaign, and recommended activities and resources for students at all levels. For more information, see the article on Peace Poppies in the fall 2014 [Social Justice Newsletter](#).

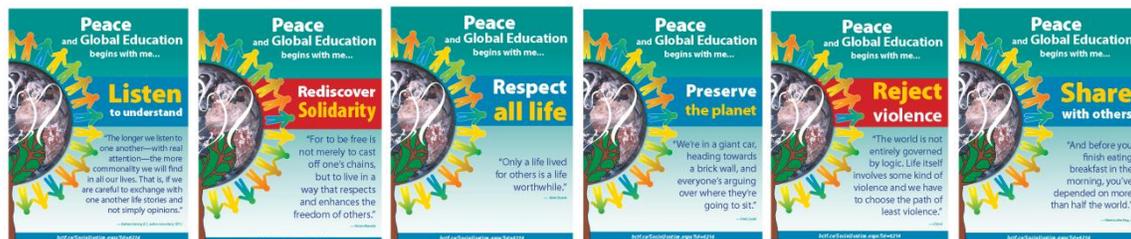
The Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) [Antiracism webpage](#) offers lesson plans and resources that teachers can use to take **BC Multiculturalism Week** activities beyond a superficial coverage of culture by supporting students in developing inclusive and welcoming attitudes.

The **Transgender Day of Remembrance** was initiated to honour Rita Hester, a trans* individual who was murdered on November 28, 1998. The [LGBTQ Lesson Plans page](#) provides teachers with resources that help increase students' respect for trans* people and gender diversity. The latest edition of the [Social Justice Newsletter](#) contains an article describing steps teachers can take to help make their schools trans* and gender inclusive.

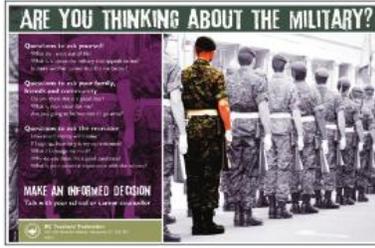
Links for resources supporting classroom engagement in the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** and the **16 Days of Action** can be found on the [Status of Women webpage](#). Status of Women's issues will be the focus of the December edition of *Seeds of Social Justice*.

Peace and Global Education Resources

Posters



The six PAGE posters have been updated with new quotes, lesson plans, and links to resources. You can find them on the [Global Education Posters page](#) on the BCTF website.



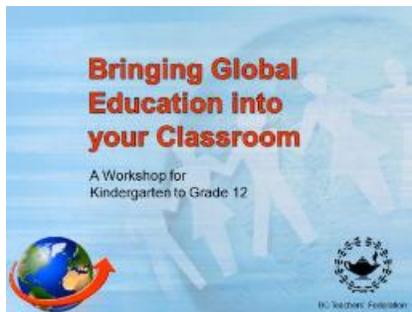
The [Make an Informed Decision poster](#) can be used in your class to address military recruitment as a social justice issue. The back of the poster includes links to resources and suggestions for activities and actions.

Workshops

The following PAGE workshops can be reserved free of charge for your school or local with the [Faxback Workshop Request Form](#) .



The objectives of this workshop are to clarify the meaning and develop a deeper understanding of peace education, and to provide hands-on peace activities for use in the classroom.



Through a variety of student-centred activities, this workshop gives participants new strategies to bring global education into the classroom. Participants will gain perspective on what global education is, and how to use a global education lens when planning units to ensure more holistic implementation. (Also available in French)

Sharing Social Justice Resources on TeachBC



The [TeachBC website](#) contains lesson plans for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Lessons addressing all areas of the curriculum can be found on this site and can be downloaded for free.

The lesson plan [God Loves Uganda](#) contains activities for Social Studies 11 and 12 students. Created by CASJ's LGBTQ Action Group, it helps students to examine the oppression of LGBTQ Ugandans and consider the role that colonialism and globalisation play in this oppression.

You are invited to take a few minutes to look over this and other interesting lesson plans on the TeachBC site, and to post some of the social justice lessons you are using in your classroom.

Increasing Member Engagement in Social Justice



What initiatives are you carrying out in your classroom to support peace and global education? Please send descriptions of successful activities you have carried out with your students to bryeburn@bctf.ca.

Grants and Awards



[Regional Social Justice Conference Fund](#)

This grant provides up to \$25,000 on a biennial basis to fund social justice conferences in different regions across the province. The overall goals of these conferences include building capacity and supporting the growth of social justice within the region. Social justice contacts from different locals within a zone are encouraged to collaborate with members of the Committee for Action on Social Justice as well as community groups to plan the conference. The application deadline is November 16, 2015.

Two other deadlines for grants and awards are fast approaching. The application deadline for the [Ed May Social Responsibility Fund](#) is November 23, 2015, while applications for the [Bob Rosen Social Justice Award](#) can be submitted until December 15, 2015. For more information on these and other grants and awards, see the [Grants and Funds page](#) of the BCTF website. For additional information or support with your application, please contact Barb Ryeburn at bryeburn@bctf.ca.

Opportunities for Members



The Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ)—LGBTQ and Status of Women Action Groups

November 12, 2015, is the deadline to apply for a position on the CASJ committee as a member of the LGBTQ or Status of Women Action Groups. One three-year term position is available on the LGBTQ Action Group, which supports teachers and students by improving access to resources on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) issues.

Two one-year term positions are available on the Status of Women Action Group, which provides information, lesson ideas, and professional support for classroom teachers. Additional roles of CASJ members include making recommendations to the BCTF Executive Committee on social justice issues and policy; promoting and assisting in the development of networks of teachers; assisting locals and zones in developing social justice programs, projects, and events; and developing links with other groups. For information on how to apply, see the [BCTF Committee/Facilitator Postings page](#) under Opportunities for Members on the BCTF website.

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