

Innocent Criminals, Regulation, Property, Justice

1 of Social Justice

Seeds

Spotlight on Social Justice



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This month, we invite you to become familiar with the many social justice resources available through the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF). Did you know that the BCTF website has web pages devoted to social justice? You can find them by clicking on the Social Justice tab at the top right of the BCTF homepage, just under the BC Teachers' Federation header.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to explore these pages, discover what is available, and plan how you will integrate social justice into your classroom this year.

BC Social Justice Program Calendar of Events



October

- 1: International Day of Older Persons
- 2: Gandhi's Birthday
- 3: World Habitat Day
- 3-7: National Family Week
- 16: World Food Day
- 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 18: Person's Day
- 24: World Development Information Day



Women's History Month

October is **Women's History Month**. Visit the [Status of Women Canada website](#) for more information on how to participate in the #BecauseofHer social media campaign and for access to a variety of [teaching resources](#).

The **International Day for Older Persons** occurs on **October 1**. To download sample municipal and provincial declarations advocating for recognition of this day, visit [the Seniors' Voice website](#).

Celebrate **Ghandi's Birthday** on **October 2** by making use of resources on the BCTF [Peace and Global Education web pages](#). For more resources, see the article on Pummy Kaur's book, *What Would Ghandi Do?* in the online issue of the [Summer/Fall 2015 Social Justice Newsletter](#).

World Habitat Day, on **October 3**, was established by the United Nations in 1985 to encourage people to think and act on the state of towns and cities around the world, including every person’s right to adequate shelter. The Canadian government is hosting an online forum to gather input for the Habitat III Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Engage your students in reflecting on these issues by participating in the #NewUrbanAgenda conversation on the Government of Canada’s [Habitat III web page](#).



The first day of [Raise the Rates](#)’ 5th annual **Welfare Food Challenge** is scheduled to coincide with [World Food Day](#), on **October 16**. Join BCTF President Glen Hansman in living on \$18 worth of food for a week, and help raise awareness of how inadequate social assistance rates contribute to the hunger many of our students live with on a daily basis. For more information and testimonials from past participants, visit the [Welfare Food Challenge website](#).

On **October 17**, the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#), the national antipoverty advocacy group, [Dignity for All](#), is hosting its annual **ChewOnThis!** campaign. Dignity for All supplies postcards asking the federal government to implement a national antipoverty plan, along with paper bags with the ChewOnThis! logo. Local organizers fill these bags with snacks or lunches to hand out to the public at rallies across the country. To see Dignity for All’s antipoverty plan and join or organize an event in your community, visit the [ChewOnThis! web page](#).

Persons Day, on **October 18**, commemorates the 1929 Court of Appeal decision to include women in the legal definition of “persons.” Your students can learn more about the history and legacy of this decision by visiting the [Persons Day website](#).

On **October 24**, celebrate [World Development Information Day](#) by exploring the United Nations’ [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Each of the goal icons links to a short, simply worded description of the goal and its current status. The report from the BC Council for International Co-operation, [Keeping Track: Measuring Progress Toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), provides a deeper analysis of Canada’s progress at meeting these goals.

Resources



Social Justice



The [Social Justice Lens](#) teaching resource guide is a useful tool for assessing social justice-related resources and activities for your classroom, school, and local.

This guide explains how the filters of access, agency, advocacy, and solidarity in action—along with a focus on equity—are all important aspects of social justice. The guide provides definitions and takes users through a series of examples and checklists to help broaden their understanding of each of these components of social justice. As a final step, the guide supports teachers in selecting a social justice resource or activity and analyzing it using the lens.

The [Social Justice Lens](#) can be downloaded from the BCTF Social Justice web pages under Publications. To request hard copies of this resource, email socialjustice@bctf.ca.

Opportunities for Members



The [Peace and Global Education Provincial Specialists Association](#) (PAGE PSA) invites you to participate in their conference, *Infusing Perspectives: A Dialogue on Social Justice and Curriculum*. The conference will be held on the provincial professional development day, on **October 21**, at Fraser Heights Secondary School in Surrey.

To open the event, keynote speaker Kau'i Keliipio will engage those attending the conference in a participatory dialogue. Issues addressed will include how to incorporate Aboriginal content and world views into the new curriculum, equity and equality in our classrooms, and anti-oppression strategies in our school communities.

For more information and to register, visit the [PAGE BC Fall Conference website](#).

Grants & Awards

Do you know someone who has made a significant and sustained contribution toward social justice leadership within your local and the BCTF? Consider nominating them for a Bob Rosen Social Justice Award.

This award was established in 2012 to honour the memory of Bob Rosen, a BCTF social justice activist. Award winners are honoured at the BCTF Annual General Meeting. For more information and a [nomination form](#), visit the [Grants and Funds page](#) on the BCTF Social Justice web pages. The submission deadline is January 31, 2017.

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