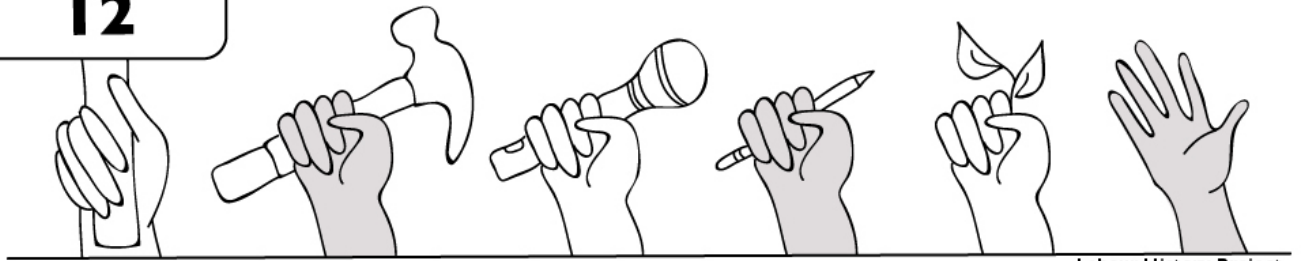




Lesson 3: The Folks Who Brought You the Weekend



Labour History Project

Lesson Summary: Activity for students to consider the role of the labour movement in achieving many social programs, policies, and laws we take for granted today.

Time: One-two periods

Essential Question: What is the contribution of the labour movement in achieving many social programs, policies, and laws in Canada/BC today?

Summary of the Lesson Activities

Students will evaluate rights and practices that the labour movement helped achieve (or are still trying to achieve) in Canada.

1. Show clips from **Canadian Labour Congress' One Minute Message Contest**. According to the Canadian Labour Congress, what is the contribution of Canadian unions to social justice in Canada? Have them list and discuss as a class.
2. Distribute **Handout #3a: From The Folks Who Brought You The Weekend**. Under the opinion column, students will individually give each a number between one and four in relationship to their value to Canadian society. Then in small groups attempt to reach consensus.
3. When the small groups have finished a class consensus may be attempted with the teacher facilitating the discussion. If students wish to add up their opinion totals, the total might reflect their belief in social justice and workers rights.

Learning Objectives

The practices listed in Handout #3a and videos are benefits and rights that exist largely because of the labour movement (although some have not yet been realized). Men and women organized and, in some cases, died to have these rights and benefits achieved. The labour movement has fought and continues to fight for social change and social justice in the workplace and society.

1. Identify the contributions of particular groups associated with the struggle for social justice.
2. Apply principles of social justice to analyse examples of injustice in Canada related to...workers rights...women (ex employment equity, labour exploitation)

Materials and Resources Needed

- Handout #3a: From The Folks Who Brought You The Weekend
- Access to <http://www.youtube.com/user/canadianlabour> from The Canadian Labour Congress' One Minute Message Contest.

Backgrounders and Other Materials

- “Thank the Unions”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XRrCldfHs0&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLHF5HMk0EugesZRPBI40T-e4MVfGwxKIK>
- “Stand Up for Fairness”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsCi-uhHh9Y&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLHF5HMk0EugesZRPBI40T-e4MVfGwxKIK>
- “Are Unions Useful Anymore?”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCTEqsSGk_s

Extension Activities

1. Students may wish to research one of the items on the list to determine if the right is fully achieved, somewhat achieved, or not yet achieved. They can provide a brief history or overview of the issue in Canada regarding dates, groups and individuals involved, and importance to Canada.
2. Students may wish to explore as per the Social Justice Prescribed Learning Outcomes:
 - limitations on human rights laws such as the Charter and Human Rights codes where certain groups are not protected, like socioeconomic status
 - how certain laws and polices contribute to social injustice such as exemption of certain occupation sin employment laws such as migrant labourers, child labourers, and farm labourers.

This research could culminate in a long response or presentation to answer the question: Is Canada a “just society”?