

DIMENSIONS

Spring 2012



BCSSTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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Letter From the Editor

by Amber Rainkie

It's Spring! Which means there are less than 40 school days left in the year.

Yesterday I asked my students what the capital city of Canada was. I could hear crickets. Surely these 14 year old students would know the answer to my next question. "Does anyone know the capital city of British Columbia?" I think the crickets got louder. When I told them the answer to both, I hear a chorus of "oh yeah, I knew that." Well, I hope you remember that because you have a test on it next week.

This situation reminded me of a quote I found which perfectly summed up my experience as a student, and has helped me change my perspective and pedagogical approach to teaching. "They may forget what you said but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Sometimes we can get really caught up in the drive to complete our checklist of PLOs and our stack(s) of marking that we can get

lost in trying to make our class fun – and memorable.

This issue focuses on opportunities for teachers to engage in a variety of opportunities that will provide teachers with additional tools to add to their ever expanding toolbox of tricks.



accomplish memorable things that go beyond the classroom.

As for me – I'm teaching grade 9 socials and in two weeks I will be introducing my class to bison meat as part of our People of the Plains lesson. Now if only we could travel the country and visit all the places we teach about!

If you have a favourite lesson idea, conference experience, or anecdote regarding your teaching experience, we would love to hear from you!

As teachers I hope we never stop caring and always strive to

Conference 2012

by Amber Rainkie

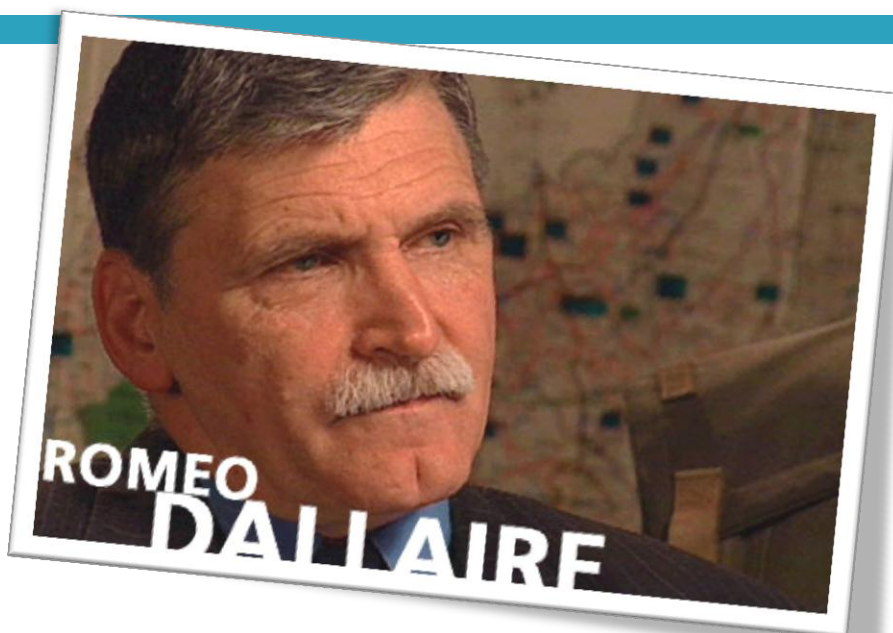
Registration will soon be open for the Provincial PSA day on October 19, 2012.

This year the BCSSTA will be hosting a variety of speakers, including L.Gen. Romeo Dallaire.

The theme of the conference is **Rights and Responsibilities: Acting Locally, Thinking Globally**

Workshop proposals are being accepted until April 12, 2012 and the full event details and open registration are expected to be available in May.

Dallaire will be an afternoon guest, and is scheduled to host a Q&A after his presentation as well as a meet and greet with a book signing. This is sure to be one event that you do not want to miss!



TO FIND OUT MORE

Go to <http://bcssta.wordpress.com/10-2/> for updated event details and conference registration

or contact bcssta@gmail.com



"O.K. Professor. Let's go. Ottawa says you're encouraging the kids to think."

Begbie History Contest News

by Charles Hou

In 2008 the Begbie Contest Society produced a CD containing all of the multiple choice, short essay and essay questions used in the first fifteen years of the contest. Thanks to a grant from the THEN/HiER history education network and the efforts of Begbie webmaster Doug Dobie the 2009, 2010 and 2011 contests, along with the answers to the multiple choice questions, are now available on our website at www.begbiecontestociety.org. We hope that students will find the website helpful when preparing to write future contests and that teachers will find it helpful when looking for primary sources.

At a recent conference held in Toronto to discuss the assessment of historical thinking we learned that the Advanced Placement history organization is planning to keep the document based question (a question based on a set of 9-10 primary sources focusing on one topic) but increase the number of multiple choice questions linked to primary sources. Stanford University is focusing on creating short essay questions based on one or two primary sources rather than on document based questions. The Begbie Canadian History Contest will continue to be based on a mix of these three ways of assessing historical thinking.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Make An Investment

The generosity of donors help to run programs and bring clean water to thousands of people. Donations are graciously accepted and nearly all the funds go directly to the projects in Uganda and Kenya.

Support A School

Individuals, community groups, businesses and churches can help start a Water School project for as little as \$10 000 dollars. For more information contact info@waterschools.com

Hosting A Fundraising Event

A great way to raise awareness about Water School is to host a fundraiser. Visit www.waterschool.com for some ideas to get you started.

FAST FACTS

1.3 billion

people in the world lack access to safe drinking water

2.6 billion

billion people live without basic sanitation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.waterschool.com to read more about the world's water crisis and what you can do to help.



A lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is the leading cause of illness in developing countries. Repeated episodes of waterborne diseases that cause diarrhea can push children to the brink of survival, leaving them weak and malnourished and unable to survive common childhood illnesses, let alone attend school.

Water School (Part 1 of 8)

by Tony Woodruff

Tony is a volunteer for a Canadian charity called the Water School. They use technology, originally discovered by an arm of the Swiss government, which uses the UV rays of the sun in the tropics to purify unsafe drinking water. They prevent diseases like cholera, typhoid, dysentery and severe diarrhea. The process is endorsed by the World Health Organization, is very low tech and cheap. Tony works with friends on the ground in Uganda and Kenya, as liaison with donors who are mainly from North America.

In rural areas of the world, especially in developing areas of the area, water is collected from surface sources such as rivers, lakes and ponds. However, these sources not used exclusively for drinking water. These areas of gathering water are also used by livestock, for bathing, and other domestic uses.

The following is from Tony's travelogue detailing his experience as part of the Water School.

Part 1 - To Kisoro

It is twenty to eight in the morning on Wednesday January 25th 2012, and I have just done my morning bathroom routine, which went better than yesterday, when I failed to work out how to get hot water. Although we are only about 100 kms south of the Equator, but high in the volcanic Ruwenzori mountains, the mornings here are cool with the constant smell of woodsmoke from thousands of domestic fires cooking and boiling drinking water. At night it is pitch black and absolutely quiet, but as the sun casts its first red streaks in the sky, the whole

world wakes up – chickens crowing, a small bell tolling, and most spectacularly of all, hundreds of birds of all sizes, shapes and colours, celebrating the coming of another day. Along the road, strands of people, wrapped up in blankets or old jackets walk quietly to their work or fields, women balancing huge loads on their heads. Others move on bicycles, or bicycle taxis (a bike can hold the rider and 2 passengers sitting on the carrier on the back), or if they come a long way, a small motorbike taxi (called boda bodas). The occasional NGO or local government vehicles also bump through the ruts of the dirt road. It's another day in Kisoro!

So let me back up a few days.

I flew from London last Saturday morning, on a British Airways flight to Nairobi. The plane was just over half full, and after an uneventful flight, and a 3 hour time change, I landed at Jomo Kenyatta International, was met by the travel agent, and checked in at the Panari Hotel. The hotel was fairly new, tried to be luxurious, but really wasn't very good. I had a couple of beers in the bar, and went to bed about 2 am.



The next day, I was picked up by Tenai and Martin, who took me back to the airport for my 1pm one hour flight on Kenya Airways to Entebbe in Uganda. It was Sunday and the normally crazy busy airport was pretty quiet. Even so, Nairobi is a big African hub, with

flights to all kinds of exotic places, like Juba or Kinshasa, and the people getting on those flights represent all humanity. It's all quite interesting.

The flight to Entebbe, over the Rift valley, and then across the north of Lake Victoria, was packed as always. (I think I saw the snow capped peak of Mount Kenya peaking above the clouds to the north, but I couldn't be sure.) This took us back across the Equator to the northern hemisphere again. After waiting in the immigration line for half an hour, and buying a \$50 visa, I found my bags, and the taxi which Zepha had sent to pick me up. After telling Wilson the driver twice that I really liked going slowly and was in NO RUSH, he slowed down and stopped overtaking round blind bends. We survived the one hour drive to Kampala, and I checked into the Kabira Country Club, where Peggy & I stayed in October. Being Sunday afternoon there were a lot of families there, hanging out round the large outdoor pool. After travelling half the day, this looked good, so I put on my swimmers and jumped in. Heaven!

At 7pm Zepha and Ignatius came to the hotel, and we had dinner together (I almost wrote "we shared dinner" which would have been a more African way of saying it, but I am realizing that this audience is pretty much non African). I was very, very tired, with jet lag still a problem, and having the last effects of the bad reaction to the first type (Mefloquin) of anti malarial pills I had taken. But as the dinner went on, and we got into business issues, I couldn't resist downloading a lot of the ideas which have been gestating in my brain for the past 2 months, and I woke up mentally. Ignatius gave me the bad news that he would pick me up at 6am the following (Monday) morning for the long drive to Kisoro. This was especially ugly by 3am, when I was finally able to drop off to sleep.

I hadn't expected the Toyota truck to be so full, when it pulled in just after 6am. In it were Ignatius, driving, as well as James, Joseph and Ajube, all with the Water School in Kampala. Luckily they weren't taking much luggage, so my there was room for my 3 bags. At 6am in Kampala, it is still pitch black, and we drove out of town on a mostly paved road. Sections of the road were just dirt and being the dry season, the already heavy traffic was creating large clouds of dust. Driving in pitch dark, heavy traffic and a man made dust storm was quite a challenge. This is not the same as North American road trip.

About 6.30, the first streaks of red came into the sky behind us. 15 minutes later, someone flicked a switch and it was day. By 7am it was bright sunshine. We proceeded west for 2 hours and stopped for breakfast – bread and margarine along with instant coffee. I'll take instant coffee over sweet, milky African tea any day though. Then back on the road, and we continued west, a bit to the north of Lake Victoria, through an extensive wetland area full of papyrus, and then the much drier Ankole region, with cattle rather than crops. In one place we passed 2 large billboards showing murals of Uganda's President Museveni and Libya's Colonel Quaddafi. These 2 countries have been closely allied, with Libya sending a lot of aid to Uganda over the years. More about Quaddafi later in this tale. This road is the main road between Rwanda, eastern Congo, Uganda and the coastal port of Mombasa in Kenya. Because it is such a key economic lifeline for all these countries, the European Union is funding a huge upgrade to the road. Massive pieces of heavy equipment were working for about 100 kilometers, making it into a decent highway. It's probably about half finished.

We passed through the towns of Masaka and Mbarara, both of which were scenes of heavy fighting in the war between Idi Amin on one side, and Tanzania and various Ugandan dissidents on the other, in 1979. This was modern Uganda's closest thing to an independence struggle (this was when Amin was kicked out – his "suicide battalion" ran away from the Tanzanian troops). Then we started to climb, and reached the town of Kabale by 12.30. Even though we were just across the Equator again, back in the southern hemisphere, and it was a sunny midday, the temperature was around a very pleasant high 20's, with low humidity. We stopped here for lunch at the Jopfan Country Hotel, in a setting of rolling hills and flowers.

Back on the road, we soon started to climb into the Ruwenzori range of mountains. This area is volcanic with some still active. Heavy forests (mountain gorilla territory), steep valleys, and some scary roads. The area is sometimes called the "Switzerland of Africa". The road used to be a narrow muddy track, which made the journey very slow and dangerous (some of this still exists, which we experienced). The African Development Bank is funding a massive project to blast away pieces of mountains, and put in a modern highway. It looks to be about 75% done, with large numbers of heavy pieces of machinery working flat out for mile after mile. Freight trucks go very slowly up the slopes, and apparently it is not uncommon for local people to jump off banks onto the

back of trucks travelling at night and off load the cargo to their friends by the roadside as the driver struggles up the hill oblivious. Prudent freight companies have someone sitting on top of the load to prevent this. Finally we crested the top of the range, and then descended into the valley which contains Kisoro.

To the outside eye, Kisoro looks like another run down, dirty, poor African town. (However writing this 3 days later, and knowing the town a bit now, I see it as an OK place, with a wonderful climate in a beautiful setting of rolling hills, with mountains all around.) We found our way through the town and turned off the road which leads to the Congo border 15 kms later, onto a dirt road which lead us to the Noah's Ark Inn (all the luxury Kisoro offers for \$25 per night!).

We occupied all 5 rooms at the Noah's Ark. It is basic (Peggy – like a small downmarket Izaak Walton in Embu), but the rooms are large- separate sitting room and bedroom, with very basic furniture (e.g. foam mattress on the bed). Dinner was served by Karen, the young attractive cook, and we ate it in one of our sitting rooms (my room has turned into the dining room). The menu doesn't vary much, but can be customized – basically tilapia, beef, chicken or beans. This is accompanied by your choice of mixed vegetables, slices of the largest Avocados you will ever see, matoke (mashed plantain), irish potatoes (what we call potatoes), Ugali (corn porridge) or chapatis. It is pretty good. I asked for beer with dinner and they sent out for a supply for me (Bell's – "Uganda's Heritage Premium Quality Lager").

We had some time before dinner, so I walked back into the town. It was market day, and hundreds and hundreds of people, mostly women and children, streamed along the road out of town, with baskets and all kinds of other items piled high on their heads. A few greeted me, and I caught the occasional word "mzungu" (all purpose bantu word for white person) in the chatter of lufumbira, the local language. Other than the very occasional gorilla tourist, there aren't many white people round here. It was getting dark, so I turned round and went back to the hotel.

Then dinner and bed. I slept most of the night, and have lost the nasty effects of the malaria pills. I am now taking the gentler, daily Malarone, which I don't react to.

Part 2 will appear in the Summer Edition of Dimensions.

Classroom Energy Diet

by Amber Rainkie

If you want some excellent resources to use in your elementary or secondary classroom, check out the Classroom Energy Diet being put on in part by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. Although the contest for classrooms is over, there are 25 great lessons plans that can be adapted to your classroom environment to educate your students on energy conservation and how to make sustainable changes to how we use energy.

Go to

<http://energydiet.canadiangeographic.ca/home/howitworks> for more information.



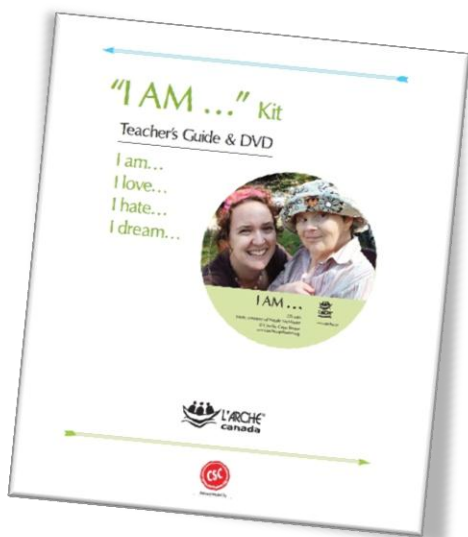
“I AM...” Kit

by Beth Porter

The “I AM...” Kit is a great little resource (DVD and Teacher’s Guide) for building understanding across differences and creating a welcoming school culture. It covers topics related to equity, inclusion, diversity, tolerance and respect.

Curriculum Services Canada has just evaluated it very positively and recommends it for 6-12 Social Studies, Civics, Citizenship, Guidance, Character Education. The Kit consists of a short, compelling DVD (7 min), and a guide that is key to creating the kind of reflection among students that will allow the video to have maximum impact.

The Kit includes art or journaling worksheets, and the Guide offers an important pre-viewing activity and some “unpacking” questions as well as inquiry or research questions on disability issues in Canada—institutions, the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The DVD in the kit has been enhanced, but you can view the original video at www.larche.ca/en/education.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to order a kit for \$20.00 plus S+H please contact the following

L'ARCHE CANADA
education@larche.ca

(Payment on receipt by cheque or money order.
 No credit cards facility.)

Short Takes

by Ed Harrison

Speaking of headlines:

I was looking at a headline in the Vancouver Sun (Saturday March 24, B 1) with respect to the NDP convention. The headline ran as follows:

Slick Videos, fast speeches, lots of pressure

Presentations no longer a test of potential leader' s ability, but Martin Singh shows he's the best natural orator of the bunch.

It made me stop and wonder what students would think about that headline. What sense would they make of it? How would they rewrite it? It also suggested that it would be interesting to add other headlines for students to consider. A recent cover of Maclean's, for example, suggested this was the year winter never arrived. What would students in the Far North or northern BC make of that headline? Would this be true of southern BC?

Political Rhetoric

Have students think about the rhetoric used by the current Conservatives to undermine Mulcair. Use some of the news clips or newspaper stories to examine their use of language. Is it fair or is it politically motivated? If so, what party or ideology does it support? Students might also look at Mulcair's response to the various comments. Students could compare the language use to Jean Chretien's comments about Kim Campbell during the 1993 election.

Editing

Last issue there was a document that should probably have been edited for students in order for them to use it. The question of editing documents is always a delicate one, particularly when it comes to intended meanings of the original speaker. Below are three edits of the original version (see Winter

2011 Dimensions) which appeared in the last issue of Dimensions.

A speech to a Liberal convention in the fall of 1859, by George Brown in Upper Canada

Meeting of the Liberal Convention of Upper Canada Thursday, November 10 [1859]

Version 1

Hon. George Brown... now came to the stand The country was appealed to send here gentlemen of all opinions on the great question of the day ... First we have arrived unanimously at the conclusion ... that the legislative union with Lower Canada ought to be dissolved... The whole question is - shall we demand dissolution ... or dissolution as regards all local affairs, but with a central government regulate interests necessarily common to both we all concur heartily in dissolving the connection with Lower Canada so far as regards all local and sectional affairs; we merely differ as to those affairs that are necessarily common to both sides... I do hope there is not one Canadian in this assembly who does not look forward with high hope to the day when these northern countries shall stand out among the nations of the world as one great confederation ...

Version 2

we have arrived unanimously at the conclusion present system of government might no longer be maintained- legislative union with Lower Canada ought to be dissolved.Canada will not consent to the continuance of the present status [Loud cheers.] we have recorded our unanimous conviction that one of the supposed remedies for our state evils - the double majority - is not a satisfactory remedy... We all agree to that. [Cheers.] ... A favorite remedy with many throughout the country has been a federal union with all the British North American Colonies; but after

mature deliberation, this assembly has an conclusion that this would be no present

remedy we demand dissolution with Lower Canada pure and simple, or dissolution as regards all local affairs, but with a central government to regulate interests necessarily common to both we have arrived unanimously at the conclusion present system of government might no longer be maintained legislative union with Lower Canada ought to be dissolved ...Canada will not consent to the continuance of the present status [Loud cheers.] We have recorded our unanimous conviction that one of the supposed remedies for our state evils - the double majority - is not a satisfactory remedy. We all agree to that. [Cheers.]

Version 3

First we have arrived unanimously at the conclusion that ... Upper Canada will not consent to the continuance of the present state of things. [Loud cheers.] the double majority - is not a satisfactory remedy....The whole question is thus narrowed down to the one proposition yet left to be decided- shall we demand dissolution with Lower Canada pure and simple, or dissolution as regards all local affairs, but with a central government regulate interests necessarily common to both we all concur heartily in dissolving the connection with Lower Canada so far as regards all local and sectional affairs; we merely differ as to those affairs that necessarily common to both Provinces. [Cheers.] Some of us advocate ...Federation all the British North American Colonies. [Hear, hear] ... I do hope there is not one Canadian in this assembly who does not look forward with high hope to the day when these northern countries shall stand out among the nations of the world as one great confederation.[Cheers.] What true Canadian can witness that tide of immigration commencing to flow into the vast territories of the North-West without longing to have a share in the first settlement of that great and fertile country - who does not feel that to us rightfully belongs the duty of carrying the blessings of civilization throughout those boundless regions, and making our own country the highway of traffic to the Pacific.

Do you have one?

The three versions were edited by different people. If you would like to send your version feel free to send it to the e mail address below. I'll include your version (name or no name) along with a `final` edit.

ed_harrison@telus.net

Historical Thinking Project

by Heather McGregor

July 9-14, 2012 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

In July 2012, come join UBC Faculty of Education's week-long Historical Thinking Project Summer Institute. This immersion program will take you on an exploration of historical thinking, while examining the themes of immigration and aboriginality. As well, the program will look at the broader substantive theme of cultural exchange across borders.

The six historical thinking concepts -- which have been integrated into a number of curriculum documents, including the forthcoming, revised Canadian and World Studies documents in Ontario -- will provide the methodological core of the program.

Plenary lectures will be presented by UBC's Dr. Peter Seixas and other distinguished guests. Field trips will enhance the work conducted during the in-class portion of the institute.

Come collaborate with history teachers, curriculum leaders, and museum educators from across Canada for an exciting immersion experience being held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

Seats are limited, early registration is recommended.

REGISTRATION: The program can be taken for credit (3 credits) or for professional development purposes (non-credit).
<http://eplt.educ.ubc.ca/htp2012>

Register By:
Monday, April 16, 2012



Special Rate for AERA Conference

by PSA Council

Great chance for teachers to take part in a major education research conference.

The American Education Research Association (AERA) is holding its annual meeting in Vancouver from **April 13 to April 17, 2012**. AERA has agreed to a **special price of \$50 registration fee** for teachers who register through the BCTF form available on the BCTF member portal <https://www.bctf.ca/myBCTF/content.aspx?id=26347>.

The AERA meeting attracts about 15,000 people and has about 1000 presentations over the five days. Participants are generally education faculty from universities around North America, as well as some from other countries. The program for the conference is online. You can check it out as a guest at <http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aera/aera12/>

The presentations cover a wide range of education issues. A Teachers' Work/Teachers' Unions Special Interest Group has a forum on how teachers in Wisconsin have responded to attacks on teachers and their union. Another session looks at the attacks on teacher unions on a global basis.

A wide range of philosophies of education are represented in the program—from critical pedagogy to accountability systems, from indigenous knowledge to technology as an agent of change. Inclusion, equity, impact of globalization, mentoring and many more topics are covered. Sessions start as early as 8 am and run throughout the day and into the evenings.

You can register onsite at the Vancouver Convention Centre beginning Thursday, April 12. Or you can register in advance by mail (allow two weeks) or fax. You will not be able to use the AERA online registration because that requires AERA membership. If you register in advance, you will receive a confirmation email from the registration company. You will need to bring the confirmation onsite to pick up your badge at the onsite registration centre.



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education

MIR CENTRE FOR PEACE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

SUMMER INSTITUTE

SELKIRK COLLEGE, CASTLEGAR

Transforming education through peace and reconciliation

This summer program will deepen your understanding of **Restorative Justice** and how its theory and practice relates to education and socialization of our children. This course will take restorative justice (*most recently called transformative justice*) far beyond the realm of victim and offender, to provide a framework for not only responding to conflict but also to **building cultures of peace in our education system**.

Learners will be enriched by local and global perspectives on issues of **peace, reconciliation and conflict transformation** that will inspire an enhanced ability to teach about peace and justice, and to implement programs and curriculum based on the tenets of transformative justice.

➤ **Registration Deadline: Friday, June 8, 2012**



Developed by the Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy (EDCP)
Delivered by External Programs & Learning Technologies (EPLT)

Revolving around the core theme of restorative justice, the course will include lectures, a workshop with **Dr. Brenda Morrison**, Co-Director of SFU's Centre for Restorative Justice, and day trips to sites rich in culture and peacemaking, including:

- a Doukhobor cultural centre,
- and a World War II Japanese internment camp.

Throughout the program, participants will engage theory with lived experience and will come away with new ideas and practical tools for relating both peace and restorative justice to curriculum outcomes and teaching practice.

July 9-13, 2012 | 9:00am-5:00pm

Registration is available for credit, or for non-credit professional development. Complete institute details are available online:

eplt.educ.ca/tfp2012

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LEGION REMEMBRANCE VIDEO CONTEST



**YOU COULD
WIN**

**A Macbook Pro, iPad
or iPod!**

Students in Grades 7 to 12 – through your lens, tell us why Remembrance is important! Use your artistic talents and make a short Remembrance video.

Deadline May 31. Submission forms & full details at: www.legionbcyukon.ca



Just For Laughs

Via Pinterest

TEACHER



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What students think I do



What I think I do



What I really do