



ISSUE ALERT #4

December 4, 2012

BCTF Year of Action

December: Valuing Diversity

Public schools are one of the most inclusive structures in Canadian society. This month we celebrate the diversity in our schools and draw attention to the need to combat racism, support LGBTQ youth and teachers, and address inequity in service to students with special needs.

December 10th is the United Nations Human Rights Day - My Voice Counts 2012

Human Rights Day presents an opportunity, every year, to celebrate human rights, highlight a specific issue, and advocate for the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone, everywhere. This year, the spotlight is on the rights of all people – women, youth, minorities, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, the poor and marginalized – to make their voices heard in public life and be included in political decision-making.

Additional resources:

https://www.historica-dominion.ca/content/heritage-minutes/john-humphrey?media_type=41&

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

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/resources/educators/lesson-plans>

<http://www.bctf.ca/GlobalClassroom.aspx>

Anti-Homophobia – Shine a Light on Belonging

Every student needs to belong and has a right to feel safe at school. Stickers will be forwarded to all schools as a renewal of this past campaign.

BCTF LGBTQ Action Group: <http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6106>

Partner groups: <http://pridenet.ca/>
<http://www.outinschools.com/>



Anti-racism – Shine a Light on Diversity

The BCTF has developed some stickers as part of their anti-racism campaign. Each school will receive a set of stickers to use as they feel appropriate.

BCTF Anti-racism Action Group:

<http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=17632>

History of Racism in Canada video produced by BCTF and teachers and students at Templeton Secondary School

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvqXh83JgM&feature=player_detailpage



Special Needs – Shine a Light on Support and Inclusion

Vancouver has a long tradition of offering a wide range of supports for special needs students. Over the past decade, budgetary pressure has increased to the point where many of these services, while not absent, are stretched very thin. The recent Supreme Court of Canada decision in favour of the Moore family is a significant victory for all students in Canada and in particular for students of BC where funding cuts have disproportionately hurt vulnerable students.

This link puts the BCTF's Better Schools for BC Plan and the impact of funding cuts on all learners into perspective: <http://www.betterschoolsbc.ca/>