AlbertaRegionalConsortia
www.arpdc.ab.ca

EDMONTON Regional Learning CONSORTIUM
Partners in adult learning for students' sake
www.erlc.ca

Parent Information About the New Alberta Social Studies Curriculum

Active and Responsible Citizens

Social Studies provides opportunities to enable students to become engaged, active, informed and responsible citizens. Global citizenship is part of national identity, in which students come to see themselves as members of a world community.

Elements of participatory citizenship:

- Honour and value the traditions, concepts and symbols that are an expression of Canadian identity.
- Develop a sense of belonging to their communities, Canada and the world.
- Be aware of multiple identities, such as regional, cultural, ethnic, religious, class, gender.
- Know the political, legal and social systems of our country.
- Understand and believe in basic rights and duties of citizenship.
- Recognize and responsibly address injustices as they occur in their schools, communities, Canada and the world.
- Engage in problem solving and conflict resolution.

Students can become engaged and actively involved in their communities by:

- Asking questions.
- Making connections with their local community.
- writing letters and articles.
- Sharing ideas and understandings.
- Working with others to design the future.
- Recognizing the viewpoints and positions of others.
- Creating new ways to solve problems.

How might I support my child/youth in active and responsible citizenship?

- Take your child/teenager with you when you vote. Talk with him/her about the candidates, the political parties and their positions on key issues.
- Encourage your child/youth participate in community-building activities, such as cleaning up parks and assisting with school activities.
- Discuss citizenship with your child/teen and find examples of what good citizens have done for their communities.
- Write letters to the editor, politicians and others to voice viewpoints on issues.

"The first thing we need to do is learn as much as possible about the issues that concern us as youth. Young people are in a unique position to change the world. All we have to do is believe that we can make a difference, and we will "
(Craig Kielburger, *Take Action! A Guide to Active Citizenship, 2002)*

The Alberta Social Studies curriculum is built around core principles of citizenship and identity in the 21st Century. In classrooms throughout Alberta, students will critically examine and analyze important issues and concepts while they consider aboriginal, francophone and multiple perspectives from both the present and the past. This newsletter article is produced by the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium in cooperation with the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia as a result of a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation of Social Studies.