



Recent allegations of sexual assault have shone a spotlight on an issue that is not limited to celebrities and politicians south of the border. In Canada, sexual assault is the only violent crime whose rates have not decreased over the past decade. The recent report from Employment and Social Development Canada, ***Harassment and Sexual Violence in the Workplace Public Consultations: What we Heard*** identified that 30% of respondents experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, 21% were subject to violence and 3% were victims of sexual violence.

The incidence of violence against Aboriginal women is even more alarming. ***Our Women and Girls are Sacred***, the interim report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, concluded that “Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than Caucasian women.”

**#MeToo** Aboriginal women have shown tremendous courage in speaking publicly about their missing and murdered family members at the National Inquiry. Courage has also been shown by women who have shared their experience through the #MeToo campaign. Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna’s public shaming of a Rebel Media reporter for referring to her as “**Climate Barbie**” was also a tremendous act of strength. However, lasting change in attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls cannot be the work of victims alone.

The classroom is key place to nurture the development of positive attitudes and behaviours toward women and girls. This issue of *Seeds of Social Justice* contains resources to support teachers in this role and offers links to organizations that support people in becoming allies in the campaign to end violence against women and girls.

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## BC Social Justice Program Calendar of Events

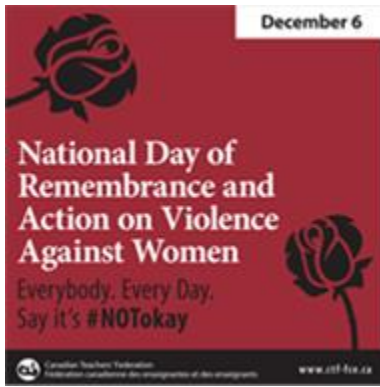


December	
1:	World AIDS Day
2:	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3:	International Day of Disabled Persons
5:	International Volunteer Day
6:	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
10:	Human Rights Day
18:	International Migrants Day



**World AIDS Day** is on **December 1**. Visit the **UNAIDS World AIDS Day website** for information on how to participate in the **#myrighttohealth** campaign. The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange, provides free **teaching resources** in English and French.

The **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** is on **December 2**. The **videos page** of the United Nations website features real life stories of slavery and introduces students to the **50 for Freedom Campaign** to end modern slavery.



**December 6** is the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women**, acknowledging the massacre of female students at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The Day of Remembrance **lesson plan** includes three activities that help students from Grade 7 to 12 learn about key issues and identify actions they can take to help eliminate violence against women. The resource **How I can Help my Friend** provides useful tips on how students can support a peer who is a victim of violence.

The last ten days of the **16 Days of Action for Ending Violence Against Women** run from **December 1–10**. Classroom activities for these dates can be found in the BCTF resource **What you can do**



The theme of this year's **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, on **December 3**, is *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*. UNICEF's downloadable resource, **It's About Ability**, provides a child-friendly description of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This resource is available in English and French.



**December 10** is **Human Rights Day**. **Imagineaction**, the Canadian Teachers' Federation's social justice website, features **Speak Truth to Power Canada**, a Canadian version of the **Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights-Global Defenders Lesson Plans**. These lessons are based on the stories of 12 global defenders of human rights and are available in English and French.



**International Migrants' Day** is on **December 18**. The **I am a Migrant website** features videos helping students to imagine and post their vision of a day without migrants.

Lack of official immigration status for migrants in BC is preventing many families from enrolling their children in school. Three school districts in the province have passed Sanctuary School policies, which allow parents to enroll their children in school free of fear of deportation due to a lack of formal immigration status. For information and tools to help advocate for a similar policy in your school district, see the Sanctuary School policy documents under, *Getting a local policy passed*, on the **BCTF member portal**



By naming the 14 victims of the December 6, 1989 massacre, the **National Day of Remembrance poster** provides a gripping reminder of why we need to continue talking about ending violence against women.



The new **Domestic Violence in the Workplace poster** provides alarming statistics on rates of domestic violence and its impacts at the workplace as well as links to support services available for people experiencing domestic violence.



Consider using the BCTF **Think a Feminist for...** stickers as conversation starters around the important contributions feminists have made to society, and what work still needs to be done to ensure equity and inclusion for all women.

**Dancing Backwards Society** offers a free, downloadable, school program for students in Grade 5 through 9. This program celebrates Canada's women in political leadership and Indigenous women in governance. The program provides teachers with multimedia lesson plans and activities that culminate in a final project in which students discover and document the story of one political woman in leadership or governance in Canada. Lessons focus on engaged citizenship, gender equality, and the need for gender parity in decision-making. Students can contribute their three-minute "story tellings" to the website's ever-expanding **Her Story Archive**, cementing women's political contributions into history.



Dancing Backwards satisfies various **curriculum criteria** in Social Studies, English, Art Education, and History. The program was translated into French last year using a grant from the BCTF Ed May Social Responsibility Fund. A one-hour orientation workshop is available to teachers.





### Sexual Health Education Part One: One Size Fits All?

This workshop introduces teachers to the curriculum and resources. It focuses on how and why to teach sexual health education. It builds confidence and competence.



### Sexual Health Education Part Two: Sex, Sex, Sex! **NEW**

This new workshop helps teachers to access resources and develop lesson plans that satisfy the curriculum, as well as navigate the social and cultural context. This session is sex positive and aims to empower educators to create an inclusive and comprehensive sexual health education program.



### Working towards Healthy Youth Relationships

**NEWLY REVISED**

This workshop helps develop an awareness of healthy and unhealthy youth relationships and gender-based violence, and increases our understanding of the impact of dating and sexualized violence on youth. Through the exploration of lessons and strategies to address these issues in the classroom, the workshop enhances the capacity of schools and educators to encourage healthy youth relationships.



### Women in Negotiations

A leadership priority of the Federation is to continue to build the capacity of the union, both provincially and locally to be prepared for bargaining in 2019 through the provision of training, particularly with a focus to increase the participation of female members. This SURT has been designed to engage more women in leadership roles in locals, but it is also intended to foster allies who will support women in taking those roles.

To request these or other Social justice workshops for a school based, local or regional professional development day, or for a School Union Representative Training (SURT) day, click on the "Book this Workshop" link below the workshop description on the BCTF **Social Justice and Global Education Workshops page**.



The **TeachBC website** contains free lesson plans for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Teacher developed lessons addressing all areas of the curriculum are available.



### Sexual Health Unit

This PowerPoint presentation for Grades 8 to 12 covers the topics of consent, values, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and how to prevent them, accessing health information, and staying safe.

We invite you to take a few minutes to explore this and other Status of Women lesson plans on the **TeachBC** site, and to post some of the social justice lessons you are using in your classroom.



**MOOSE HIDE  
CAMPAIGN**

The **Moose Hide Campaign** is a grassroots movement of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men taking a stand against violence against women and children. Participants wear a moose hide badge to signify their commitment to protect the women and children in their life and to work together to end violence. Visit the website for more information on how to support or join the campaign and participate in the Ten Men Challenge.

## Opportunities for Members

**We Can BC** is part of an international social movement focused on changing attitudes and behaviour to end all violence against women. We Can BC offers workshops, teaching resources, and Change Makers resources to support allyship.

Teachers who are interested in volunteering are invited to attend the We Can BC Annual General Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the BCTF building. Teachers living outside the Lower Mainland can participate via conference call. For more information, contact Barb Ryeburn at [bryeburn@bctf.ca](mailto:bryeburn@bctf.ca).

## Equity and Inclusion and the Status of Women



The BCTF **Equity and Inclusion webpages** have excellent resources to help learn more about gender based oppression. For links to videos, articles, books and podcasts, scroll down to the *Gender based* section under *Equity-groups* on the **Raising Awareness** and **Delving Deeper** webpages.

This podcast on **Sexual Consent**, from the CBC Radio program, Out in the Open, is one of the featured items.

Article E1 in teachers' collective agreement outlines the responsibilities of the employer to notify administration and staff each year of their commitment to providing a non-sexist work environment and to develop and implement non-sexist educational resources for staff and students. Many school districts have not yet taken steps to ensure full compliance with article E1. Teachers who have not received notification or training on non-sexist environments are encouraged to contact the local president about ways to ensure full provision of Article E1.

## Opportunities for Members



Do you know someone who has made an outstanding, sustained contribution toward social justice within the BCTF, local teachers' association, school and community? Consider nominating them for a **Bob Rosen Social Justice Award**. Award winners are selected by the BCTF Executive Committee and honoured at a BCTF AGM.

For an application form, visit the **Grants and Funds page** on the BCTF Social Justice web pages. The deadline to submit nominations is January 31.

Teachers who have been unable to find the time to apply for BCTF social justice grants will be pleased to learn that there is still time to do so. The deadline to apply for the **Ed May Social Responsibility Fund** and **Regional Social Justice Conference Grants** have been extended until January 3. These applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Applications that have already been submitted will be processed in the next few weeks. While the deadline for **Local Social Justice grants** is April 12, locals are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible as all but two of this year's grants have been awarded.

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