

Youthlinks/InterJeunes:

Connecting Students Through Issues and the Internet



Heather Gilman

"We in Canada have a very high standard of living and freedom. If Canada were ever to be invaded it would disturb this standard of living and put our freedom in jeopardy. I personally believe that we have to make certain sacrifices in order to maintain our freedoms and rights that all human beings deserve as well as all other countries in the world. These sacrifices may well include risking our lives to fight for freedom and justice."

Chad, Grant Park High School.

"If we have to give up personal freedoms then what's the point of living here in the first place? We in Canada do enjoy a few freedoms many of which are not shared by those in the rest of the world. Fascist regimes can promise security but without freedom it has no value. Our government claims the attacks on September 11 were attacks on our freedoms, but if we have to give them up to be safe then we are letting the terrorists win."

Blair, Grant Park High School.

This exchange between two high school students in Winnipeg, Manitoba took place on the Youthlinks/InterJeunes (YL/IJ) web site (accessible through www.histori.ca). YL/IJ is one of the core activities of the Historica Foundation of Canada. Historica aims to increase the quantity of Canadian history taught across the country by providing teachers with innovative, quality curriculum resources.

YL/IJ, the Foundation's flagship program for high-school students, is a collaborative web-based learning project that forges links between Aboriginal, French and English high school students in Canada and with peers internationally, using the Internet as the vehicle for communication. It also provides a portal through which students from other countries can learn and interact with Canadian students. This program has been operating for two years at over 50 high schools across Canada and abroad.

There are currently two curriculum modules underpinning YL/IJ's lesson plans and activities; one on the general theme of human security prepared by Queen's University, the other on the history of immigration in Canada developed by York University. Participating students and teachers are guided through a series of web-based lesson plans and learning resources that are grounded not only in provincial curriculum but also in current events, with a Canadian historical context throughout.

The program and web site are built to accommodate all skill levels. Schools are not required to have the latest and most advanced computers or high-speed Internet access, and technical assistance is readily available. 



For the full text of this article, please visit the CEA website at www.acea.ca/english/publications.phtml. Scroll to the Education Canada section.

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La Fondation Historica du Canada s'efforce d'accroître l'enseignement de l'histoire canadienne à travers le pays en fournissant aux enseignants des ressources innovatrices et des programme d'études de qualité. Youthlink/Interjeunes est un projet Internet d'apprentissage qui mise sur la collaboration pour aider les élèves canadiens— autochtones, francophones et anglophones — de l'école secondaire à nouer des liens avec leurs pairs à travers le monde. Pour le texte intégral de cet article (en anglais), consultez le site Web de l'ACE (www.acea.ca).