



## Project Report

### ***Connecting Northern British Columbia Youth to Canada's History Through the BC Heritage Fairs Program***

Having received acceptance from The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER) of the proposal submitted by Rosaleen Boardman in September of 2010 and receiving approval for a Small Projects Grants in the amount of \$2500, the following report is hereby submitted in accordance with the guidelines suggested. The initiative was to provide support to the British Columbia Heritage Fairs Society in offering a series of workshops for teachers and community-based educators in northern and eastern British Columbia to promote the activities of our society and increase participation in the provincial heritage fair program. Two such workshops were carried out by the Coordinator of BC Heritage Fairs, Mary Campone. The first workshop was in Fort St. John on January 31, 2011 and the second in Kimberly on April 15, 2011.

#### **Workshop Description**

**Title:** Making History Come Alive ... Concepts Old and New

#### **Content:**

- Benchmarks of Historical Thinking
  - Establishing *historical significance*
  - Using *primary source evidence*
  - Identifying *continuity and change*
  - Analyzing *cause and consequence*
  - Taking *historical perspectives*
  - Understanding the *moral dimension of historical interpretation*
- Project approach to learning
- Class/school Expositions
- Regional Fairs
- Provincial Fairs
- The British Columbia Heritage Fairs Society and You

## **Fort St. John**

Contacts: Michelle Weibe, District Pro-D Chair  
Jan Waldorf, Pro-D Contact Alwin Holland Elementary  
Location: Alwin Holland Elementary  
Date: Monday, January 31, 2011



Approximately 23 educators attended which included 4 primary teachers and 3 secondary teachers with the majority being intermediate teachers. Elinor Morrisey from Hudson's Hope Museum attended as did the district Librarian. Overall, the tone of the workshop was extremely positive with many questions asked and participants were enthusiastic to know more and to make connections with others. When asked if anyone would be interested in serving in the Regional Fair Committee already established in Hudson's Hope, four hands went up. A date was set for the next Northern Regional Heritage Fair Committee meeting to be held in Hudson's Hope. The group was very interested in sharing the location of the Regional Fair, alternating each year.

While in Fort St. John, attempts were made to connect with the Superintendent, Larry Espe. Although he was not available, Assistant Superintendent, Lesley Lahaye, was able to meet with me. She was familiar with the Heritage Fairs Program as she acted as a judge for Northern Regional Heritage Fair the previous year!

Attempts to connect with Superintendent Kathy Sawchuck of Peace River South in Dawson Creek were unsuccessful.

I visited the Fort St. John North Peace Museum and met with the Managing Director, Heather Longworth who had not been able to attend the workshop but was interested in working collaboratively with local teachers. She was very receptive to taking the idea of sharing venues with Hudson's Hope on alternate years and hosting the Regional Fair to her Board for discussion.

## **East Kootenays**

Contacts: Carol Johns – District Pro-D Chair  
Dan Clark – E.K. RSA Day  
Colette Grasdal – Kimberly Committee  
Location: McKim Middle School, Kimberly, BC  
Date: Friday, April 15, 2011  
Workshop Title: *Grandma and Grandpa Did What?* (same content, different title)



The day began with a keynote speaker, Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D. of the Neufeld Institute. The workshop presented in the afternoon session, “Grandma and Grandpa Did What?” had 16 teachers from Sparwood, Fernie, Golden, Creston, Cranbrook and Kimberly and consisted of a composite of Teachers on Call and secondary and intermediate teachers. As there is no official Regional Heritage Fair in that region, it was mentioned quite often that we would welcome any interest in establishing one in the area. And although many felt the concept was powerful and they might try it next year ... there was no confirmation of interested parties willing to take on the organization of a fair. A sign-up sheet was circulated whereby the attendees were invited to share their emails and all listed their contact information for further communication from me at a later date.

The handouts were very popular and we hope provide an incentive to participate.

### **Handouts Provided:**

- Heritage Fairs and the BC Curriculum for Intermediate
- Heritage Fairs and the BC Curriculum for Secondary
- Classroom Ideas
- Possible Topics of Research
- Project Development
- School Fairs
- Regional Fairs