



Students learn about the history of British Columbia from a vantage point on the HBC fur brigade trail in the Fraser Canyon. Credit Roz Yamashita

## What Is THEN|HiER?

The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER) is the first pan-Canadian organization devoted to promoting—and improving—history teaching and learning by bringing together the multiple and varied constituencies involved in history education: academic historians; public historians in museums, archives and historic sites; practicing teachers; researchers based in faculties of education; and curriculum policy makers. Our goal is to create more research-informed practice (from kindergarten to graduate school) and more practice-informed research through dialogue among these various communities. THEN/HiER was conceived in 2005, but became firmly established in April 2008, when it received funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Strategic Knowledge Clusters grant.

### Director

Penney Clark, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

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Peter Seixas, Professor and CRC, University of British Columbia

Amy von Heyking, Associate Professor, University of Lethbridge

*Welcome to the first issue of The History Education Network / Histoire et Éducation en Réseau's (THEN/HiER) bi-annual newsletter. We are very excited about the year ahead, and the possibilities it brings for collaboration among the diverse constituencies involved in history education in Canada.*

Inuit string game  
Richard Harrington  
National Archives of Canada / PA-114713

## What Has THEN/HiER Been Doing Lately?



## Website Development

We are very excited about our new, interactive website which is being designed by Idécléc, a company located in Gatineau, Québec. It will become operational in June 2009. Just a few of the things visitors to the site will be able to do include:

- Get up-to-date news on history education.
- Access contact information for university departments involved in history education.
- Get information about funding programs and agencies.
- Read past issues of THEN/HiER's bi-annual newsletter.
- Access information related to research, including a list of relevant journals and abstracts of articles related to history education.
- Get models of innovative approaches to conducting history education research projects, and get advice on projects.

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- View best practices in history education and assessment.
- Access primary source databases.
- Review current and draft curriculum documents from all provinces and territories of Canada.
- Access links to the latest news on advocacy issues.
- Participate in forums on research, practice and assessment, and policy and advocacy.
- Upload your own video clips and podcasts.
- Read about and participate in collaborative projects.

This website will be interactive, and those who sign up as members will be able to submit material to THEN/HiER for posting on the site. Members can also participate in forums, and upload their videos and podcasts of samples of events in history education. In the meantime, please visit our current site at [www.historyeducation.ca](http://www.historyeducation.ca) for updates on news and events related to history education in Canada and beyond.

## *THEN/HiER Publication Series with UBC Press*

The first in a series of three books to be edited by THEN/HiER and published by the University of British Columbia Press, ***History Teaching and Learning in Canada: A State of the Art Look***, will include contributions from eighteen scholars and practitioners involved in history education, citizenship education, history research, and museum research.

### ***History Teaching and Learning in Canada: A State of the Art Look***

**Editor: Penney Clark**

#### ***History and History Education: Contested Terrains***

Ken Osborne, Margaret Conrad, and Jocelyn Létourneau

#### ***Orientations Towards Historical Thinking***

Stéphane Lévesque, Peter Seixas, and Kent den Heyer

#### ***Classroom Contexts of History Teaching***

Amy von Heyking, Tom Morton, Gerald Friesen, and Ruth Sandwell

#### ***Other Sites of History Teaching***

Viviane Gosselin, Kevin Kee and Nicki Darbyson, and Peter Seixas and Penney Clark

#### ***Perspectives on Historical Thinking***

Carla Peck, Marc-André Ethier and David Lefrançois, and Alan Sears

An initial symposium was held in February 2009 to discuss the first drafts of the chapters. We anticipate that this first volume will be published in 2010, so stay tuned! Subsequent volumes will be published over the next six years.

## *Visiting Doctoral Student Program*

In an effort to promote collaboration between doctoral students in diverse disciplines related to history and history education, and faculty in other Canadian universities, THEN/HiER is providing funding for a limited number of doctoral students to interact with faculty with similar research interests for up to one month each year. This year the program is funding the following visits:

***Catherine Duquette, Université Laval***, who is researching the advantages of teaching controversial issues in social sciences to students, will be working with Dr. Peter Seixas at the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness at the University of British Columbia. A secondary purpose of her visit is to foster greater collaboration between francophone and anglophone researchers in Canada, which is an express goal of THEN/HiER.

***Meagan Gough, University of Saskatchewan***, is conducting research on perspectives based on First Nations oral history accounts and how history has been told. She will be visiting Fraser Valley University and working with Dr. Robin Anderson, as well as Stó:lô Elders Grand Chief Archie Charles and Tina Jack. This research, largely carried out in a First Nations community setting, will have important implications for history education as it is disseminated within institutions.

***Ana Laura Pauchulo, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto***, is researching attempts by Argentinean human rights groups to establish a democratic society through different perspectives of the Argentina 1976-1983 dictatorship. She would like to integrate this study into Alberta's new social studies program's objective of establishing Aboriginal perspectives in classrooms. She will work with Dr. Kent den Heyer at the University of Alberta, as well as Dr. Claudia Eppert, Dwayne Donald, and Dr. Diane Conrad. This research also has the potential to lead to increased collaboration between Canadian and Argentinean human rights groups and Aboriginal peoples, which contributes to THEN/HiER's goal of establishing collaborative relationships.

## *Small Projects Program*

Each year, THEN/HiER will fund ten small projects related to history teaching and learning in Canada for up to \$2,500 each, for a total of \$25,000. We welcome proposals from THEN/HiER partner organizations and individuals, including graduate students, as well as others engaged in history education research and practice in Canada. We especially wish to fund projects that involve partnerships across different THEN/HiER constituencies (for example, between teachers and academic historians, or between teacher educators and a public history organization such as a museum). Eligible projects include, for example, curriculum materials development, a workshop or seminar, or the development of a collaborative research proposal. Project reports will be posted on our new website once they are completed. To date, we have funded the following projects:

***Alberta Social Studies Teacher Education Resource Online (ASTERO) led by Kent den Heyer, University of Alberta*** Dr. den Heyer will be developing and maintaining an interactive, collaborative online social studies and history education resource. This website will support social studies teacher education students at the University of Alberta, and, concurrently, encourage deeper partnership and dialogue among practicing teachers, teacher educators and academics working in the field of social studies and history education. THEN/HiER funding will go towards hiring two graduate student assistants to develop, update, and revise the website.

***Alberta-based Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Working Group led by Carla Peck, University of Alberta*** The purpose of this project is to assist with the dissemination of curriculum materials developed by teachers working on a Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Project in Alberta. THEN/HiER funds will be used to pay for a graduate student assistant or teacher to edit teacher-generated tasks and lesson plans to ensure that they are consistent with the principles and goals of the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Project.

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**MedSTEP (Medieval Students' Teaching Experience Program) led by Chris L. Nighman, Wilfrid Laurier University** In this project, third- and fourth-year Medieval Studies students at Wilfred Laurier University, most of whom are intending to go on to teachers' college, will develop learning modules to deliver to grade 11 students in a one-day program at the Laurier campus. THEN/HiER funds will cover the costs of substitute teachers for those participating in the program, and transportation and food for grade 11 students and teachers who attend.

**Virtual National Council of History Teachers led by Michael Clare, History Education Consultant, Ontario** This project will draw together the presidents of each provincial social studies teachers' organization around a skill(s)-based common agenda. Physically bringing the provincial presidents together, although desirable, is fiscally prohibitive, so the meetings will be conducted through a videoconference series, enabling the presidents to meet each other and the members of THEN/HiER to discuss their common goals. THEN/HiER will cover the costs of webcam and microphone units and some administrative time devoted to coordinating the meetings.

**Horses, Horsepower, and Horsing Around led by Rosaleen Ward, Museum Manager, Hudson's Hope Historical Society Museum, BC** The project team aims to develop history education and research resource components to expand the scope of the museum's exhibit "Our Hudson's Hope Cowboys: Packers on the Trail" based on the 1934 Charles Bedaux Expedition. Wealthy Frenchman Charles Bedaux was captivated with the country surrounding Hudson's Hope after embarking on a hunting trip in 1932. His attempt, two years later, to take five motorized vehicles across the northern wilderness of British Columbia, known as the "Champagne Safari," ended in failure but left a lasting impression on the lives of many people in the Peace River area. The materials will be geared towards students, historians and genealogists. THEN/HiER funds will partially cover the education program development, including interpretive panels and technical design. May 24 to September 30, 2009.

**Aboriginal History Curriculum Development led by Stella Weinert, Aboriginal Education Coordinator, Gulf Islands School District, BC**

The goal of this project is to develop and produce curriculum materials for the Gulf Islands School District (SD #64) focused on developing children's historical understanding while engaged in a study of local aboriginal history. The project will be a collaboration involving the Aboriginal Education Coordinator for the District who is also a practicing teacher; a local historian specializing in Aboriginal history; and Living Islands – a Salt Spring Island-based cultural heritage group. Local Aboriginal elders will be engaged in the development of the materials, and additional community partners will participate in the use and dissemination of the curriculum materials produced. THEN/HiER funds will go towards honoraria for First Nations elders, travel, and materials development and production.

**Journeys Outreach Kits led by Dana Bjarnason, Learning Centre Coordinator, National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre, BC**

In this project, 10 Journeys Outreach kits will be developed for long distance travel to support teachers and their students in their projects about Japanese Canadian history through access to information, archives, resources, and research. THEN/HiER funds will be used towards the development of the kits as well as promotion and staff time.



Bedaux expedition members  
 LAC-CEB fonds E008300559

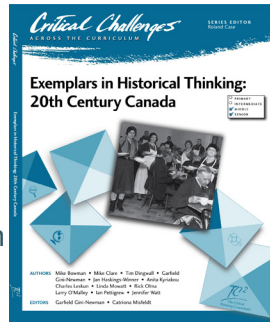


Panel from *Horses, Horsepower, and Horsing Around*

## Featured Collaborative Project

### *Exemplars in Historical Thinking: 20th Century Canada*

which contains nine critical challenges for students to engage in thinking historically about various people and events in twentieth-century Canada, was developed in collaboration between the Ontario History, Humanities and Social Science Consultants' Association (OHHSSCA); the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association (OHASSTA); The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC<sup>2</sup>); and THEN/HIER. This curriculum resource provides models for teachers to frame critical questions that engage students in thinking deeply about twentieth-century Canadian history. Published as part of The Critical Thinking Consortium's **Critical Challenges across the Curriculum** series, the resources in this collection build on six concepts of historical thinking articulated by Peter Seixas of the University of British Columbia.



For more information and to order a copy of this resource, go to [www.tc2.ca/wp](http://www.tc2.ca/wp)

## Watch for These Events

- **Website launch, September 2009.**
- THEN/HIER's new interactive website, described above, will be fully operational this fall. [www.thenhier.ca](http://www.thenhier.ca)
- **Conference on History and New Media in St. Catharines, Ontario, April 2010.** Sessions will be available as podcasts on our new website.
- **Summer Institute on Historical Thinking at UBC, Summer 2010.** Participants can choose to take it for graduate credit toward a Master's degree or for professional development purposes. Co-sponsored with the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, UBC.

## THEN/HiER Presentation

### *National History Forum Explores Accuracy and Relevance of History Curriculum in Canada*

Ottawa, Ontario February 13, 2009

**Co-presented by Canada's National History Society and the Library of Parliament's Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy**

### Can You Trust Your History Teacher?

A best-seller on history textbooks is entitled *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James W. Loewen. With press like this, do Canadians trust their history teachers or their school textbooks? Should they? In his talk, Peter Seixas, a Professor at the University of British Columbia, Director of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, and THEN/HIER Executive Board member, explored Canadians' trust of the histories they hear, see, and read, in schools, at museums, on the Internet and at the family dinner table, using data from a recent survey of over 3,000 Canadians (*Canadians and Their Pasts*). What is at stake here? No less, according to Seixas, than Canadians' ability to participate meaningfully as citizens in a forward-looking democracy.

**Dr. Peter Seixas** speaks at the National History Forum. He is studying what Canadians know about their history and how they use that knowledge.



## *News from Our Partners*

### ***UBC Museum of Anthropology***

MOA partially re-opened to the public on Sunday, March 8 after six months of renovations, including upgrades to the building envelope and environmental systems. The museum's Multiversity Galleries (formerly Visible Storage) and major temporary exhibition gallery are still closed for renovations until the January 23, 2010 full re-opening, which will coincide with the opening of Vancouver's Cultural Olympiad from January 22 to March 21, 2010. [www.moa.ubc.ca](http://www.moa.ubc.ca)



Raven and First Humans, MOA

### ***BC Social Studies Teachers' Association***

The theme for this year's BCSSTA Fall Conference is ***Media, Mass Culture and Historical Thinking***. The conference will take place on October 23, 2009 at Riverside Secondary School, Port Coquitlam. The keynote speaker is THEN/HiER member, Dr. Stuart Poyntz, Assistant Professor of Media, Technology, and Production in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. [psas.bctf.ca/BCSSTA](http://psas.bctf.ca/BCSSTA)

### ***Glenbow Museum***

British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871 after Prime Minister John A. Macdonald promised to build a railroad to the Pacific. ***Vistas: Artists on the Canadian Pacific Railway*** displays works by 20 artists who travelled west on the railroad through Canada, capturing images of the diverse landscape of lakes, prairies and mountains, helping to shape Canada's national identity. June 20 to September 20, 2009. [www.glenbow.org](http://www.glenbow.org)

### ***Historica***

This summer grade 9 to 12 teachers can experience the ***Canadian Battlefields Study Tour*** and visit historical sites in northern France and Belgium that were important in World Wars I and II. Teachers will engage in activities such as decision-making strategies and discussion periods, and use primary documents to write a biography of a Canadian who is either buried or commemorated in France or Belgium. The English tour runs from July 8 to 17, 2009, and the French tour from July 28 to August 8. [www.historica.ca](http://www.historica.ca)

### ***Canadian Historical Association***

The 2009 Canadian Historical Association's Annual Meeting will take place from May 25 to 27 at Carleton University in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Being the one time each year when all historians in Canada meet, the conference addresses a wide range of professional issues from the diverse research interests represented. The program showcases research and teaching, providing an opportunity to discuss the contemporary challenges facing historians in their professional lives. The CHA also awards annual prizes, and presents a range of social events to encourage discussion and community-making among members. [www.cha-shc.ca](http://www.cha-shc.ca)

### ***Is there something you'd like to share about history education?***

THEN/HiER's newsletter will come out bi-annually, in April and October. We will also have a monthly e-bulletin to keep you up-to-date on the latest news in history education. If you have something you would like to share with others involved in history education, please contact the Network Manager, Anne Marie Goodfellow, at [annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca](mailto:annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca).

***For more information about THEN/HiER, including profiles of our 28 partner organizations and funding possibilities, please visit our website at [www.historyeducation.ca](http://www.historyeducation.ca), or contact the Network Manager.***