

## October 2020

The pandemic has raised awareness of societal inequities in our province and country as well as around the globe. From asylum seekers in overcrowded refugee camps to temporary foreign workers employed as farm labourers here in Canada, populations from countries experiencing poverty are at extreme risk of infection. While safe working and learning conditions for teachers and students continue to be a concern in British Columbia, schools in many countries remain closed or struggle to provide equitable supports to students who do not have access to technology. For more information, read Education International’s article, [GEM Report: “Lost generation” risk without post-pandemic rapid action on SDG 4.](#)

Societal inequities highlighted by the pandemic have provoked people around the globe to examine our current systems and advocate for policies that will ensure the basic rights and needs of all members of society are met. At their June 19–20 meeting, the BCTF Executive Committee carried a motion that the BCTF endorse the Principles for a Just Recovery. For more information, visit [350.Org Canada Just Recovery.](#)

More than ever, it is important to bring Peace and Global Education into our classrooms. Explore this edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* as well as the [Peace and Global Education web pages](#) for lesson plans, resources, and workshops to support teachers in this important work.



### OCTOBER



The [Celebrating 100 years](#) poster is a useful resource for **Women’s History Month**.

Find lesson plans and resources for **Learning Disability Awareness Month** on the [LD2School website](#) and the [disability justice webpages](#).

On **October 1**, the [International Day for Older Persons](#), consider this year’s theme, “Pandemics: Do they change how we address age and ageing?”

On **Gandhi’s Birthday, October 2**, explore the quotes on [What Would Gandhi Do?](#)

The UN has [resources available](#) for **World Habitat Day, October 5.**

On **October 16**, visit the [World Food Day](#) webpage and explore the elementary lesson plans on the [BCTF World Food Day Poster](#).

This year's theme for the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) on **October 17** is "acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all."

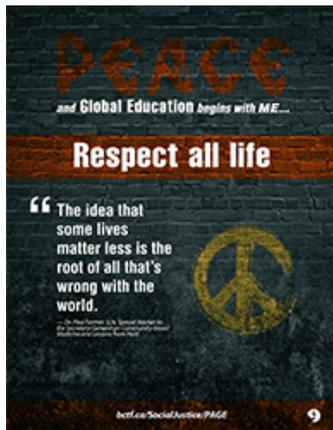
On **October 18**, [Persons Day](#), learn about the 1929 Canada Court of Appeal decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons."

Celebrate [World Development Information Day](#) on **October 24**, by exploring the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

## Resources



## Peace & Global Ed



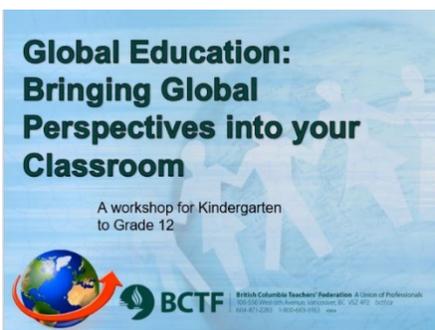
The [Peace and Global Education Begins With Me](#) poster set was recently updated with new images and revised lesson plans. The themes of these posters are particularly relevant in a pandemic. They include Respect all Life, Share with Others, Listen to Understand, Preserve the Planet, and Rediscover Solidarity.

Find these and other Peace and Global Education resources, including the [Media Military Complex Lesson plan](#) and [Instead of Soldiering On: Supporting Critical Thinking about the Social Studies Curriculum](#) on the BCTF [Peace and Global Education Action Group](#) webpages.

## Workshops



## Peace & Global Ed



Are you looking for new ways to energize how you teach existing units? Bring your existing ideas or a current unit or theme to this workshop and let us show you how to integrate, infuse, and deliver it from a global perspective at any grade level. A global education approach activates student interest as it increases personal engagement and involvement in the classroom, the surrounding community, and our world.

To request [Global Education](#), [Creating Cultures of Peace](#), or another Social Justice workshop for a school based, local or regional professional development day or for School Union Representative Training (SURT), click “Book this Workshop” below the workshop description on the BCTF [Social Justice Workshops](#) page.



At the BCTF Spring Representative Assembly, BCTF members demonstrated their commitment to making spaces more welcoming and inclusive for members from equity seeking groups by approving funding for several new initiatives at the provincial and local level.

Funding has been allocated for a new equity and inclusion grant; a Teacher Inquiry Project dedicated the study of racism in schools, worksites, and communities; and support for member engagement and capacity building for teachers who identify as Aboriginal, Black, and People of Colour.

More information is available in the document [BCTF funding for equity and inclusion initiatives](#) on the [Equity and Inclusion webpage](#) of the BCTF website.

## Opportunities for Members



**[Representative Assembly Task Force](#):** The BCTF is seeking members to serve on a task force on creating a more equitable and inclusive Representative Assembly. The task force will meet up to six (6) times. **The application deadline is October 2, at 4:30 p.m.**

**[UNESCO Schools Network](#):** As part of a network of over 11,500 schools in 182 countries, member schools work toward the common goal of building the defences of peace in the minds of children by working in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, and quality education in practice. Member school benefits include participation in national and international projects, access to resources and professional development, networking with member schools, and participation in national conferences. To apply to become a member school, visit the [UNESCO Schools Network page](#) on the Peace and Global Education webpages.



**Equity and Inclusion Grants:** As one of the BCTF’s Equity and Inclusion initiatives established at the Spring 2020 Representative Assembly, the Federation will provide up to 10 grants of \$6,000 to support locals in conducting an audit of local processes and practices, and developing plans for greater equity and inclusion in the engagement, leadership, and work of the local. Priority will be given to locals that did not receive funding in the previous year.

Applications received after November 1 will be considered subject to available funds. You may [access the application here](#).

For more information on these and other BCTF social justice grants, including [Local Social Justice Grants](#), the [Ed May Social Responsibility Fund](#), [Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grant](#), and [Regional Social Justice Conference Fund](#), visit the [Social Justice Grants and Funds page](#) on the BCTF website.



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