

CONNECTION

Information *for* Teachers

June 2001

Note: All links in the articles of this edition of *Connection: Information for Teachers* were active and accurate at the time of publication. This may no longer be the case.

June 2001

Aboriginal Studies

Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30

Alberta Learning is developing an Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 program of studies. The draft program includes optional courses suitable for all students in Alberta schools. The program is a first for Alberta, as it is based on the perspectives and worldviews of Aboriginal peoples. It includes the study of the traditions and history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and in particular of Aboriginal peoples in Alberta. A report on the pilot and field test of the draft program of studies will be available on the Alberta Learning Web site in the near future.

For more information regarding the Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 program of studies, contact [Debbie Mineault](#) at 780-427-0156.

Other Aboriginal Publications

- [The Common Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs: Kindergarten to Grade 12](#), Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, June 2000.
- [Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs](#), 2000.
- *ÎETHKABI, A Study of a First Nation: A Program of Studies, ECS to Grade 12*, April 2000. For more information on this program of studies, contact Îyârhe Nakoda Curriculum Committee, Morley Community School, Box 238, Morley, Alberta, Canada, T0L 1N0.
- [Strengthening Relationships—The Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework](#), September 2000. View more information on the [Government of Alberta's](#) relations with Aboriginal peoples.

Review of Social Studies Consultation Draft

Alberta Learning wishes to thank Alberta's Aboriginal communities for their participation in consultation sessions and their input regarding the February 2001 Consultation Draft of *The Western Canadian Protocol Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, Kindergarten to Grade 9*. View [Alberta's response](#) to the Consultation Draft.

Career and Technology Studies (CTS)

Maintaining CTS Curriculum and Resources

Information on CTS course changes effective September 2001 and on priorities for evergreening CTS in 2001-2002 is available through the [CTS Program Update](#) section of the Alberta Learning Web site.

Development and Validation of New CTS Courses

Information regarding the development and validation of new CTS courses in Communication Technology, Fabrication Studies and Information Processing is available through the April 2001 edition of [Connection](#).

New Online Survey and Response Form, 2001-2002

The CTS unit will continue to gather information and ideas over the coming year in order to maintain a relevant and credible curriculum and resource base and to enhance access to a range of CTS strands and courses.

Teachers and other education partners are encouraged to use the new online [Evergreening CTS: Survey and Response Form](#) to provide strand-specific feedback regarding curriculum needs and general feedback regarding the implementation of CTS programs; e.g., program strengths, challenges.

The CTS unit welcomes your comments regarding the effectiveness of the online survey as a means of sharing ideas.

Authorized Resources

Review new resources authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

[Communication Technology](#)

[Information Processing](#)

[Construction Technologies](#)

[Mechanics](#)

[Fabrication Studies](#)

Inservice and Professional Development

Information on CTS inservice and professional development opportunities scheduled for the coming months is available through the April 2001 edition of [Connection](#).

Scholarships, Awards and Competitions

Information regarding scholarships, awards and competitions relevant to CTS students is available through the April 2001 edition of [Connection](#).

CTS Contacts

For more information about CTS in the English language, contact [Jan Mills](#) in Edmonton at 780-422-3275, fax 780-422-3745; or [Gary Bertrand](#) in Calgary at 403-297-5022, fax 403-297-3842.

For more information about CTS in the French language, contact [Paul Pelchat](#) at 780-422-1987, fax 780-422-1947.

English as a Second Language

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

English Language Arts

Authorized English Language Arts Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

Kindergarten to Grade 12 English Language Arts

Symposium for Leaders in English Language Arts Education

The symposium for leaders in Kindergarten to Grade 12 English language arts, attended by over 160 participants, was held at Barnett House on May 14, 2001. The theme for the day was Engaging the Learner. The day opened and closed with a panel discussion about how representatives from jurisdictions can support the

work of teachers with professional development and implementation of programs of study. Participants were asked to consider the following, given their understanding of the programs of study for Kindergarten to Grade 12: What are the implications for tomorrow? Next year? What are the challenges that you may face in your situation?

Other sessions included an Alberta Learning Resources Showcase, including information on the video series *Room for Five* and on the CD-ROM *Researching and Making Presentations Grades 5-12*. There were also presentations on Engaging Students through Technology; Comprehending and Responding to Texts (K-9); Engaging the Language Learner in the Primary Grades; Engaging Students in Assessment (Grades 3, 6, 9); Major Emphasis: Context and Communication; Organizing the Grade 10 Classroom for Instruction (Regular and Blended); and Senior High School English Language Arts. Gina Vivone-Vernon and Raja Panwar, Directors of the Learning and Teaching Resources Branch and Curriculum Branch respectively, brought closing remarks from Alberta Learning.

Thanks to everyone who participated. A special thanks to the Edmonton Regional Consortium and to Barnett House for their help in making everything so successful!

Kindergarten to Grade 10 Authorized Alberta Resources List

The June 2000 listing of the learning and teaching resources authorized to support the new program has been updated this spring. View the complete [English Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 10 Authorized Alberta Resources List](#), May 2001 (Draft). This May 2001 resource listing highlights new resources authorized during the 2000-2001 school year.

For more information regarding English language arts, contact [Janet Hancock](#) at 780-427-2984.

Senior High School English Language Arts

Program of Studies and Guide to Implementation

The English Language Arts Program of Studies, Senior High School is scheduled for implementation at the Grade 10 level in September 2001. The two courses ELA 10-1 and ELA 10-2 replace the existing courses English Language Arts 10 and English Language Arts 13. The new course code for ELA 10-1 is ELA1105 and for ELA 10-2 is ELA1104. A copy of the Interim English Language Arts Program of Studies, Senior High School is scheduled to be mailed at the end of June 2001 to every school offering senior high school English language arts. The first draft of a guide to implementation to support the new Grade 10 program is scheduled to be mailed at the end of August 2001 to every school offering senior high school English language arts.

Program Validation and Review of Resources

Twenty-five teachers have been selected to pilot the new program in their Grade 11 classes in the 2001-2002 school year. Twenty teachers will be part of a review team to authorize learning and teaching resources for Alberta.

Orientation Sessions for Teachers

One-day orientation sessions were held in each zone in Alberta for teachers interested in receiving assistance with the new program that is being implemented in September 2001. A feature of each orientation session was the presentation made by a teacher from the zone who piloted the program at the Grade 10 level this year. Teachers who attended the sessions were asked to share favourite units; this was used as the basis for discussion about what was the same as the current program and what was different. Participants were given copies of units, teaching materials, the authorized resources list, the draft guide to implementation, the new program of studies and other material to assist with implementation. An important part of each orientation session was the opportunity to exchange e-mail addresses and teaching ideas.

Workshop Series

Teachers interested in taking a comprehensive course on the new program or who are providing school or jurisdiction leadership in senior high school English language arts may wish to book a [workshop series](#).

For more information regarding English language arts, contact [Janet Hancock](#) at 780-427-2984.

Enhancing Second Language Learning Project

The Enhancing Second Language Learning Project is designed to:

- develop strategies for raising awareness of the benefits and opportunities of second language learning
- review the capacity of the provincial learning systems to provide enhanced second language programming
- develop partnerships to enhance second language learning.

The capacity of the provincial learning systems is currently being reviewed. Working groups have been focusing on specific second language programming challenges and have developed recommendations to enhance second language programming in Alberta. Topics discussed include delivery challenges; alternative program delivery opportunities; language learner proficiency; second language teacher development, including availability of qualified teaching staff; funding; and second language learner initiatives. The recommendations and strategies, developed by the working groups, have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee to Enhance Second Language Learning.

The draft document, *Enhancing Second Language Programming in Alberta*, outlines these recommendations and provides some background context. Advisory Committee representatives will review the document with their respective organizations from June to September 2001. Feedback will be requested before October 1, 2001. The Advisory Committee will review the feedback in October 2001 and suggest any further revisions, prior to the recommendations being forwarded to the Minister of Learning.

Fine Arts

Drama

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

French as a Second Language

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

Health and Life Skills

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

Learning Resources Centre (LRC)

2001-2002 *Buyers Guide* and Supplement

The May supplement to the LRC 2001-2002 *Buyers Guide* was mailed to schools during the week of May 28. The new resources listed in the May supplement are included in the LRC 2001-2002 Interactive [Buyers Guide](#).

LRC Internet Services

The LRC Web site provides customers with 24-hour access to LRC products and services. It is the easiest and fastest way [to order learning resources](#), as well as to obtain product information for your curriculum planning.

Save Money On Your New Junior High Science Learning Resources

There is a [5% LRC discount](#) for the new Grades 7-8 Science resources. These special prices are effective until June 30, 2001 for English language editions and until January 31, 2002 for French language editions.

September School Year Start-up

Schools are encouraged to place their new school year learning resource requests early. Delivery is guaranteed before the summer closure for orders received prior to June 8, 2001. For orders received after June 8, please provide delivery request dates or summer delivery schedule, as the LRC does deliver throughout the summer months.

Learning Resources Credit Allocation (LRCA)

The [Learning Resources Credit Allocation \(LRCA\)](#) is applicable to all purchases from the LRC. The credit allocation is available, up to a specified dollar limit, to eligible or approved Alberta school authorities.

For more information, contact the LRC at 780-427-2767, e-mail lrccustserv@gov.ab.ca, or visit the [LRC Web site](#).

Mathematics

Applied Mathematics

The Assessment Standards and Algebra in Applied Mathematics Committees for Applied Mathematics 10-20-30, composed of teacher representatives from 21 school jurisdictions, have completed a series of reviews of the program of studies.

The purpose of these reviews was to make algebra more visible and to ensure that the amount of content and level of difficulty is appropriate for each grade level. The proposed changes have been submitted for approval and will be ready for implementation in September 2001.

For more information regarding the mathematics program, contact [Katie Pallos-Haden](#) at 780-422-3220.

Transitional Mathematics

Transitional Mathematics is a course designed for those students who graduate with Applied Mathematics 30 and discover they need Pure Mathematics 30 to enter the post-secondary institution of their choice. Students will gain the necessary knowledge and skills required in lieu of Pure Mathematics 30. Students interested in registering for this course online can contact Angela Heydemann, Learning Services Coordinator, Athabasca University, at 780-497-3401 or Katie Pallos-Haden at 780-422-3220.

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

Other News

2001 Program of Studies Amendments

One complimentary copy of the 2001 Program of Studies Amendments for elementary, junior high and senior high schools will be distributed to all superintendents and principals before the end of June 2001. Additional copies will be available for purchase from the [Learning Resources Centre](#) or for downloading from the [Alberta Learning](#) Web site.

For more information, contact [Joan Engel](#) at 780-427-2984.

Physical Education

Kindergarten to Grade 12

Alberta Assessment Consortium and Alberta Learning Assessment Workshop

One hundred and ten educators met at Barnett House on May 3, 2001, the day prior to the beginning of the annual Health and Physical Education Council (HPEC) provincial conference, to focus on assessment and evaluation strategies. Based on teacher requests, a one-day workshop focusing on assessment has been held for two successive years, and based on feedback such a workshop will be held again next year.

As always, a highlight was the sharing that occurred among teachers regarding strategies that support implementation of the new physical education program. It was confirmed that the way teachers assess, evaluate and communicate student learning determines the degree to which teachers are implementing the new program. Sessions in the morning included assessment literacy, rubric development and an overview of the assessment resources in the [Physical Education Guide to Implementation, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2000](#).

In the afternoon, teachers from throughout the province shared strategies that work in their classroom, support implementation of the new program, are aligned with program outcomes, and are seen as relevant and meaningful for students. The request was that more sharing, by more teachers, occur at next year's conference. The 2002 assessment workshop will be held on May 9 in Banff as part of the HPEC and CAHPERD national conference. This conference will also be international in scope, with a focus on health-promoting schools and programs like Ever Active. View more information about the [HPEC/CAHPERD 2002 Conference](#).

Ever Active Schools Program

The Ever Active Schools Program is a school-based program designed to assist schools in promoting the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle. This initiative affects the entire school population by using four program areas: Education, Everywhere, Everyone and Environment.

Four Alberta government ministries—Children's Services, Community Development, Health and Wellness, and Learning—are working together to bring the Ever Active project to Alberta students and school communities. This project is a result of a recommendation from the province's Active Living Task Force strategy and was piloted in over 40 schools this year.

The goals of the Ever Active project are to:

- ensure that a quality health and physical education program is provided to all students
- encourage and support active living initiatives **everywhere** in the school community
- provide opportunities for **everyone** to take part in a variety of health-promoting and physical activity experiences
- create a school **environment** that supports and encourages health promotion and active living initiatives.

The Ever Active Schools Program is a membership-based program. Schools begin to become ever active by completing a reflective tool that will assist in determining future actions in relation to the goals of the program. Member schools will receive support resources from the Ever Active coordinator and program and will be part of a sharing of promising practices among member schools.

For more information on the [Ever Active Schools Program](#), call Marg Schwartz at 780-454-4745.

Physical Education Online

This summer, an updated [Physical Education Online](#) Web site will be available. Updates include teacher resources to support General Outcomes A, C and D.

2001 World Championships in Athletics—Education Initiatives

Visit the 2001 Web site to check out the new [Active Living Log](#) for students. This component of the 2001 championship learning site provides a tracking tool for students to record how active they have been—specifically in running, jumping and throwing. You can preview the site by entering the word teacher as the username and password. Once the championships are over, this site will be accessible via the Physical Education Online Web site.

For more information regarding Kindergarten to Grade 12 physical education, contact [Val Olekshy](#) at 780-415-8191.

Note: Links are provided to other sites as a service only to identify potentially useful ideas for teaching and learning. The responsibility to evaluate these sites rests with the user.

Professional Development and Certification

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards were well-received by all who attended the gala ceremony in Calgary in May. Read more about the [award recipients](#).

Professional Development

The [regional consortia](#) are preparing their professional development plans for the fall of 2001. For more information, contact your regional consortium.

Note: Links are provided to other sites as a service only to identify potentially useful ideas for teaching and learning. The responsibility to evaluate these sites rests with the user.

Science

Authorized Resources

Review [new resources](#) authorized between April 16, 2001 and May 31, 2001.

Social Studies

Summary of the Consultations on the Draft *Western Canadian Protocol Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, Kindergarten to Grade 9*

In February 2001, the Consultation Draft of *The Western Canadian Protocol Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, Kindergarten to Grade 9* was approved. Alberta Learning undertook extensive consultation throughout the province from March 14 to May 4, 2001. The consultation process gathered both quantitative and qualitative data. The consultation draft and response form, which were placed on the Alberta Learning Web site in both English and French, generated over 560 responses, representing over 800 individuals. Individuals and groups were also invited to e-mail, fax or mail responses and recommendations; over 35 written submissions were received.

Qualitative data was collected during a series of consultation forums, sessions and community consultations held throughout the province and attended by over 600 individuals. Forums, sessions and community consultations were held in both English and French and in Aboriginal communities throughout the province.

Strong support was expressed for the direction, philosophy, vision and definition of social studies that guided the development of *The Western Canadian Protocol Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, Kindergarten to Grade 9*. The General Learning Outcomes received general support, with some recommendations for changes.

Summary

The following is a summary of major areas of concern identified by respondents:

- The Consultation Draft is too detailed and appears to be a program of studies as opposed to a common curriculum framework. Numerous Specific Learning Outcomes are too prescriptive and detailed.
- There is too much focus on Canada and not enough on global dimensions. There appears to be a focus on Western and Northern Canada at the expense of Eastern Canada, Europe and global dimensions.
- Many of the Specific Learning Outcomes are incongruent with the cognitive and developmental abilities of the learners.
- The Framework does not closely reflect the intents of the *Foundation Document for the Development of the Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 12*.
- Diverse cultural perspectives and voices, including Aboriginal and Francophone, should be embedded throughout the Framework, in order to prepare all learners to meet the challenges of a changing society.
- The Consultation Draft is wordy, ambiguous and difficult to understand. French-speaking respondents indicated that there should be better congruence between the English and French versions of the document.

Recommendations

Overall, recommendations express the need to:

- reduce the number of Specific Learning Outcomes, by focusing on essential outcomes for social studies
- expand the current content themes to include Eastern Canadian, European and global dimensions
- limit the Framework to content themes, leaving the identification of sub-themes to the jurisdictions
- edit the Specific Learning Outcomes to ensure alignment with the cognitive and developmental needs of the learners for whom they are intended
- ensure that diverse cultural voices, including Aboriginal and Francophone, are embedded throughout the Framework
- ensure that the Framework undergoes a process of objective and substantive editing, in both English and French, before its final version is approved by all jurisdictions.

View the full report outlining [Alberta's response to the February 2001 Consultation Draft of The Western Canadian Protocol Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies, Kindergarten to Grade 9](#).

For more information regarding the social studies program, contact [Joan Engel](#) at 780-427-2984.

Testing

Achievement Testing Program

Item Writing Committees, 2001-2002 School Year

Alberta Learning has requested from superintendents of schools nominations of teachers to participate in item writing for provincial achievement tests. Teachers who are interested in item writing for achievement tests should inform their principals.

For more information, contact [Doug Burns](#) at 780-427-0010.

Return of 2001 Achievement Tests and Retaining Secured Copies

Although school principals are asked to return unused test booklets and answer sheets to the Learning Resources Centre following the June administration of the 2001 achievement tests, principals are encouraged to retain one or two copies of the tests and answer keys for use in the future to interpret results or to review results and tests with parents. Principals must ensure that the achievement tests from 2001 are **not** used with students for test preparation.

For more information, contact [Doug Burns](#) at 780-427-0010.

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)

Third SAIP Mathematics Assessment

The third mathematics assessment of the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) was administered across the provinces and territories in April and May 2001. Samples of students aged 13 and 16 participated. The participation and cooperation of school personnel and their students is greatly appreciated by Alberta Learning. The release of results is expected by December 2001.

For more information, contact [Ron Cammaert](#) at 780-427-0010.

Diploma Examinations Program

Item Writing Committees, 2001-2002 School Year

Alberta Learning has requested from superintendents of schools nominations of teachers to participate in item writing for the Grade 12 diploma examinations. Teachers who are interested in item writing for diploma examinations should inform their principals.

For more information, contact [Phill Campbell](#), Mathematics and Sciences Diploma Examinations, or [Jo-Anne Hug](#), Humanities Diploma Examinations, at 780-427-0010.