

**Ontario History & Social Science Teachers' Association (OHASSTA)
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Voices into Action by FAST

*"The only thing necessary
for the triumph of evil
is for good men to do nothing."*

Edmund Burke, Irish Statesman, 1729-1797

In our local, national, and global news, we are reminded of Burke's words that may be as true now as they were in the 1700s. Educators are at the forefront of developing the knowledge and attitudes that result in social justice. Equipping today's youth with knowledge about our past can effectively combat indifference and abolish the cycle of hate and intolerance still prevalent in our world. As we know, history repeats itself. The rise of bullying and cyber bullying reveals that we continue to hurt others in alarming ways. Learning about events, like the Holocaust, Japanese Internment camps and the Aboriginal residential schools teaches us that bystander apathy can lead to unspeakable atrocities. *Voices into Action* and *Choose Your Voice* are FREE curriculum-based programs that educate our students about horrific moments in history, the evolution of Canada's human rights laws, immigration policies and redresses to past wrongs, as well as the tools to take positive action.

Voices into Action (www.voicesintoaction.ca) provides a wealth of information for secondary students, 25 videos and numerous activities to be assigned. The resources are entirely online FREE OF CHARGE, mobile-ready and extremely teacher-friendly. Actions for students include group discussion, thesis papers, role-play, exhibit design, research and many more opportunities for critical learning. Developed by a team of 20 curriculum experts at OISE-UT, the program maximizes digital technology to provide a comprehensive resource for students. The portal for educators (My Dashboard) gives teachers access to valuable teaching tools: lesson plans, customizable handouts that can be sent to students, curriculum connections, learning strategies, rubrics and assessments.

The six units are designed to meet curriculum requirements for many courses in the new Ontario social studies curriculum: Canadian and World Studies History (9, 10); World Issues (12); Canadian Law, (11, 12); History (11, 12); Civics and Citizenship (10); Civics and Civilizations (12); Psychology (12); Philosophy (11, 12); Geography (9,10, 11, 12); Contemporary World History, (11, 12); Aboriginal / First Nations (Peoples) Languages, (10, 11, 12).

Sample chapters include: The Aboriginal Experience, Islamophobia, The Holocaust, Gender Issues, Rights of the Disabled, Cyber bullying and Rwanda.

Take advantage of these outstanding resources and, at no charge ever, register to access them at: www.voicesintoaction.ca

The first program by FAST, *Choose Your Voice*, links to curriculum for grades 6, 7 and 8 and won the Award of Excellence 2010 from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Since it was first launched in Ontario in 2005, it has been delivered to over **two million** Canadian students in every province and territory. The Teachers Guide with four lesson plans and video are also available free online at:

www.chooseyourvoice.ca

Along with a coalition of non-Jewish business leaders, FAST is dedicated to speaking out against racism, antisemitism and all intolerance. There is no place for hatred in Canada and it is our shared responsibility to make a better, safer world for everyone.