



Curriculum Services Canada

Achieve high quality education through standards-driven services

*Have you participated in an Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner web conference?
Did you know that it was hosted by Curriculum Services Canada?
Do you know that we offer many more professional services?*

Curriculum Services Canada (CSC) evaluates textbooks for the Ontario Ministry of Education; we mentor the development of learning resources and programs; and we offer professional learning online at www.curriculum.org. We have an affiliate and charitable arm, The Curriculum Foundation (TCF), which awards \$2,000 grants to teachers to develop new classroom resources.

CSC is founded on the principles of balance and quality. This is why at the heart of our services is the CSC Seal of Quality, a symbol that guarantees high quality in all learning products and programs. The CSC Seal lets teachers know, “When I see that CSC Seal, I know it is a quality product.”

EVALUATION SERVICES

This is a service for both developers and purchasers of learning resources. We deliver reliable and professional evaluations using curriculum leaders, mostly active teachers, trained in learning-resource evaluation. After our rigorous evaluation process, approved supplementary learning resources earn the CSC Seal of Quality. We evaluate learning resources for preschool, K-12, the workplace and adult learning, in print, multimedia and online formats. Our evaluation includes supplementary resources like books, videos, board games, multimedia packages and comprehensive textbooks for the Trillium List.

Evaluation Services does more than evaluate resources. Last year we developed a new website in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage. CultureSource.ca gives you access to a collection of approved arts, history and literature resources, ideal for including in lesson plans and in the classroom. Using the *CultureSpaces* and *SubjectSpaces* features, you can share and collect resources. Simply create a customized, personal *CultureSpace* of your favourite resources, and organize them using your *SubjectSpace*. You can create a *SubjectSpace* of resources for each lesson plan, or for specific units or subject areas. The choice is yours. All resources are approved by us, so you know they are safe to use in the classroom. A teacher says:

I feel safer bringing a CSC approved resource into my classroom. Knowing it has been reviewed against ministry standards brings me assurance and makes me feel better about what I am teaching my students.

At CultureSource.ca, there are more than 100 links to quality websites including sample lesson plans.

MENTORING SERVICES

We offer constructive, positive input to government departments, organizations and agencies that develop resources and programs from early childhood to adult education. All resources and programs that meet our high standards receive the CSC Seal of Quality. A teacher once told us, “I want to thank you for the excellent services that you offer to educators. Your support helped me to be very clear and concise with specific strategies for my students.” Did you know that CSC is responsible for the assessment of curriculum for massage therapy organizations? We help to guarantee that your massage therapist has the necessary expertise to perform the job.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERVICES (PLS)

We develop and host web conferences, webcasts and web meetings, just to name a few. Last year we hosted more than 20 web conferences, including the Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner (OCUP). According to one web conference participant, “I am not the most technically minded person and yet I found this form of conferencing rewarding and very stress-free. I would definitely participate in more of the same. The convenience is amazing.” Another participant said, “The comfort zone was huge. I was not intimidated to ask the presenter for clarification without 200 eyes staring at me as I interrupt the workshop. Great panel, super resource people, you are all awesome!” If you are interested in professional learning opportunities, visit our website at www.curriculum.org. Once there you will also find numerous webcasts available through our video-on-demand service, that you may click and view at no cost.

THE CURRICULUM FOUNDATION (TCF)

This is the learning resource charity of CSC. Through the generous donations of foundations, corporations and private individuals, \$2,000 grants and one-on-one mentoring are given to teachers as they develop new, vitally needed classroom resources. “This is a great service for teachers and in the end will bring new ideas into our profession,” a representative of a teacher’s subject association says. A teacher adds, “This will be my first year of teaching and I

find it very helpful to have such wonderful resources at my hands, ready to use." Last year, TCF honoured three teachers for their creative proposals.

Kathleen Mannion of École secondaire catholique de Plantagenet in Lefavre, Ontario received a grant for her resource proposal, *Literacy Through Graphic Novels*. It aims to use graphic novels to engage reluctant French-speaking students who are learning English as a second language. Kathleen says:

I was faced with a group of Grade 11 students who demonstrated apathy to learning English simply because they have struggled with the subject throughout their academic life...I had been researching the graphic novel genre and had decided to incorporate it into my teaching... Behavioural situations decreased, stress levels decreased, learning increased, and self-esteem increased. I realized the effectiveness of this type of learning through my students' evaluation scores and in the decrease in absenteeism.

John Patterson of Bawating Collegiate and Vocational School in Sault Ste. Marie is a recipient of a grant for his proposed resource, *Population Dynamics Watershed Field Study*. This resource reinforces senior-level Biology, Geography and environmental programs through hands-on activities within the students' local ecosystems. Patterson says:

Having students complete a locally based watershed study... is a worthy challenge for all...this unit will be [a] celebration of [Ontario watersheds] and can be applied to students working on many watershed areas.

Jennifer Gunion of White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville Ontario received a grant for her proposal, *Visual Media Resource for Exceptional Secondary Students*. This resource is designed to support teachers of students with intellectual disabilities. It aims to aid educators in teaching students the fundamentals of preparing for a co-op work placement as well as other life skills. Jennifer says this resource will "provide learning and educational opportunities for the school and community member(s) that do not normally interact with the special needs population." All teacher-developed resources are available for free download on our website at www.curriculum.org.

CSC exists to help teachers and other educators to facilitate their roles in shaping young learners. Through our standards-driven services, we hope that our continued focus on high quality will spread to all schools, and generate a life-long impact on the quality of education in Canada.

For more information on Curriculum Services Canada (CSC) and The Curriculum Foundation (TCF), visit us on the web at www.curriculum.org or contact CSC toll-free at 1-800-837-3048.

Curriculum Services Canada (CSC) is a not-for-profit standards agency for quality assurance in learning products and programs. CSC is the parent organization for a family of quality services, including the development, implementation, evaluation and accreditation of teaching and/or learning resources, and the delivery of web-based professional learning opportunities across Canada and internationally.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

"I'm responsible for managing seventeen schools with in excess of 10,000 students and staff. I find the ADR skills invaluable and applicable to the conflict resolution situations that arise."

Vincent Nichilo, Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board

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