Resources for Antipoverty Month

Teachers are encouraged to use the following sources, which provide information on poverty levels, to raise awareness among colleagues and students.

1. **Poverty and Education Survey: A teacher’s perspective** contains information collected from BC teachers about levels of poverty within their classrooms and their implications for students’ learning and overall wellbeing. Teachers are encouraged to use the short vignettes to stimulate discussion and action planning among teachers. New chapters addressing topics such as adequacy of resources and teachers’ recommendations have recently been added to the site.

2. First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of over 95 provincial and regional organizations. They have united their voices to put children and youth first in BC through public education, community mobilization, and public policy advocacy. There are many interesting resources on their website, including those on their **Income Inequality page**. First Call’s annual **Child Poverty Report Card** provides useful information and recommendations on child poverty within British Columbia.

3. The **British Columbia Poverty Progress Profile** by Canada Without Poverty offers some useful and alarming information about the levels of poverty within our province, along with recommendations to address this issue.

4. Statistics Canada’s **Low-income web page** provides data from a variety of cities in Canada. For example, as of 2011, 24.4% of Vancouver residents have low-income status.

5. The **Federal Poverty Reduction Plan’s Standing Committee Report** provides some excellent data on poverty numbers in Canada.

6. The web page **Challenges Facing Canada** on Canadian Feed the Children’s website provides statistics on the disproportionately high levels of poverty among Canada’s Aboriginal children.

7. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (BCPRC) has produced a number of resources and lesson plans for teachers. Their **support package for End Poverty Day** includes a lesson teachers created for Antipoverty Day in October, but nothing is stopping teachers from planning an Antipoverty Day at any time! Teachers can try teaching math through real life experience by following the lesson on budgeting. There is also a global perspective lesson. If educators teach senior Humanities, especially Social Justice 12, this is the perfect unit to utilize!

8. Additional information about poverty in BC is available on the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition’s **Resources web page**. Their **At School** web page provides lists of actions as well as lesson plans addressing poverty. The **Justice Not Charity** lesson plan is highly recommended. If you teach in the lower mainland, the BCPRC’s community organizer, **Trish Garner**, and **Bill Hopwood** from Raise the Rates are excellent resource people to contact for classroom presentations.

9. The Canadian Center for Policy Alternative’s **Multimedia and Interactive web page** has interesting videos teachers can use to discuss tax fairness and a living wage for all Canadians.

10. The **Homeless Hub** website is an excellent resource for information concerning homelessness and poverty. Their **Education page** offers a variety of lesson plans addressing homelessness.
11. **Homeless: A teacher’s guide** has materials for Grade 6 and 7 students with information based in Greater Vancouver.

12. **Poverty Resolutions** website has an **Education page** with resources that teachers can use for a global perspective. This site includes a great deal of data from the United States, but teachers can use the data sources listed above.

13. **Room 167** is a lesson plan for a poverty simulation activity which could provide some interesting “food for thought” in discussions.

14. **The Cost of Poverty: How expensive is poverty in Canada**, posted on the Canada Without Poverty website, is a good resource to show the cost of poverty as opposed to an antipoverty reduction plan.

15. **Poverty, What is it?**, on the Canadian Teachers’ Federation’s Imagine Action website, is an excellent resource about poverty for middle and high school students.

16. Look at what Aldergrove classes are doing on the World Food Day website’s **Student Activity page**. Maybe other schools would like to get similarly involved!

17. Social Planning Activities of Winnipeg’s **Awareness-Raising Activities: Advocacy toolkit** provides strategies to promote dialogue in your classroom to raise awareness about poverty.

18. The **Socially-based Curriculum Unit: Poverty and social inequality** consists of a series of lessons from the Ontario Secondary Teachers’ Federation.

19. **There’s More to Poverty than Meets the Eye: Building engaged citizens for poverty reduction and community well-being** is a resource created by the Saskatoon Health Region. While the data is Saskatchewan-based, teachers can use the BC data sources listed above.

20. The Teaching for Tolerance website offers lesson plans for all ages on its **Poetry for Home: Homelessness web page**. This is an American site, but poetry is universal!

21. Take a look at the resources on the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice **Poverty Lesson Plans web page**. Some of them are also on the BC Poverty Reduction website. Browse the novels; maybe one or more of them could be part of a literary circle on aspects of poverty.

22. Download the **info-graphics** that the Antipoverty Action Group put together, and display them in your classrooms.

23. Use some of the data on poverty to create journal topics or math word problems. Food supply and its relationship to poverty could be a topic for a science project.