



LET'S ACT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION / International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Level: Secondary 1

Pedagogical Intent: The activity is aimed at providing students with information on the Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through the example of Val-d'Or who has been marking the event since 2001 with an awareness week on discrimination and the Gabriel-Commanda Walk. To conclude, students will participate in an awareness activity on racial discrimination.

Task Description:

Students will read a definition of discrimination and will be asked questions on this topic as well as on what they know regarding public actions or demonstrations, and more particularly those surrounding the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

They will watch a video and read texts on anti-discrimination actions in the world and in Val-d'Or, which they will then discuss as a group. Finally, in the form of a contest, they will be asked to design a poster with a slogan, aimed at raising public awareness on the elimination of racial discrimination.

Cultural References: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Teaching Strategies:
Collaborative learning

Activity Evaluation sheet

School : _____

Title of activity : _____

Number of students: _____

Please give your appreciation using the following scale:

| | Very interesting | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Very unsatisfactory |
|---|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Activity appropriate to the age group | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Clarity of explanations | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Activity content | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Prescribed time vs. actual time | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Ease of use | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| General appreciation (teacher) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Students' appreciation (in your opinion) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Level of interest to redo this activity in the future | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Relevancy of activity in relation to the pedagogical intent | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

What went well:

Problem(s) met, if any:

Suggestions or recommendations to improve the activity:

Suggestions or recommendations to improve the Gabriel-Commanda Educational Kit: _____

Thank you for your participation in this project!

To print: USB key / Evaluation sheet

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY PLANNING

Level: Secondary 1

Lesson planning

LET'S ACT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Time: 15 minutes

Material:

- Interactive board
- Definition of discrimination
- Text: Actions against racial discrimination and the example of Val-d'Or
- Video of the 10th edition of the Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

Conduct

Present the definition of discrimination as defined by the Charter of Human Rights and Freedom. Ask questions on this topic as well as on what they know about public actions or demonstrations, and more particularly those surrounding the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Suggested questions

Discrimination

Which discrimination ground have you heard the most so far (race or colour, ethnic origin, age, civil status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender, political convictions and handicap)? Can you give an example of discrimination? If need be, provide this gender-related discrimination: refusing to let a girl play ball because she is a girl.

Is discrimination prohibited in Quebec?

Public actions or demonstrations

Have you ever heard about a social movement, an event or a walk that brings together people and raise their awareness of a cause or issue to instil behavioural changes?

Have you ever attended such an event? If yes, how was your experience?

Examples

- The Quebec student strike of 2012 (maple spring, red squares) to protest an increase in university tuition fees.
- Relay for Life in support of people with cancer, etc.
- Gay Pride parade: "A must-see gathering of sexual diversity in Montreal, the Gay Pride parade has more than ever turned into a political high mass last Sunday. The first attendance of a Premier in office topped a long list of public personalities. The organisers don't fear political exploitation, on

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the contrary: “It means that we are considered, that our message went through”, Jasmin Roy, Montreal Gay Pride spokesperson, told the Le Devoir. [Translation] ¹

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Have you ever heard about the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination? Have you ever heard about the Gabriel-Commanda Walk (or name a known local event against racial discrimination in your community)?

¹ Sarah R. Champagne, « Défilé de la fierté gaie de Montréal : s'affirmer pour tous ceux qui se taisent », Le Devoir, August 15, 2016.

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Achievement of learning outcomes

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Time: 45 minutes

Material:

- White cardboard (22X28 in.)
- Colour pencils
- Markers

Conduct

1. Present the text “Actions against racial discrimination and the example of Val-d’Or” and the Video of the 10th edition of the Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre (see PowerPoint).
2. With the group, hold a discussion using the following **questions** and **answers**.

In the video, a radio host says that when he moved to Val-d’Or, he was often told “It’s full of Indians here”.

- In your opinion, what did that mean?
- Is this a positive statement on Aboriginal people?
- Can it be considered as demeaning for Aboriginal people?
- Can it lead us to believe that certain persons see themselves as superior to Aboriginal people?
- Could the statement “It’s full of Indians here” be a phrase with a racist connotation?

Suggested answers:

The phrase “It’s full of Indians here” has a racist connotation because it implies:

- That there are too many Aboriginal people in Val-d’Or or that their presence is upsetting.
- That it may be less interesting to live in a town with a high presence of Aboriginal people.

Unfortunately, there exist past and current actions that are discriminatory to Aboriginal people. It is important to be aware of the injustices, to learn about Aboriginal history and culture to be able to live together on the basis of equality and respect.

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Is Biz open to friendship with Aboriginal people? Why?

Suggested answers:

- Yes because he is the spokesperson of the 10th Awareness Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- Yes because he signed the Declaration of Friendship between Peoples. He thereby commits to taking concrete action to promote openness, tolerance and solidarity.
- Yes because he says all the better if people notice the Aboriginal presence in Val-d'Or.
- Yes because he would like Aboriginal people to be more visible in Quebec.

Biz says: “[...] at least we can't tell Amerindians to go back to where they came from!” Why can't we tell this to Aboriginal people?

Suggested answers:

- Because they were the first people to occupy America; they were there before all the others.
- Have you ever heard someone telling groups of people to go back to where they came from?
- Do these types of comments promote bridge-building between peoples?

The number of participants in the Gabriel-Commanda Walk has increased throughout the years from 50 people in 2001 to 1300 in 2010. What does that mean according to the Director General of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre?

Suggested answers:

- Talking about racism and discrimination brings about small changes, small steps. More people are walking and taking a stand for solidarity between peoples. The walk evolves over time and increasingly becomes a celebration of diversity.

“We should not fear difference, what we should fear the most is indifference...”

- Christophe Tavernier

According to Biz, a member of Loco Locass, 1000 people walking in Val-d'Or is the equivalent of how many people walking in Montreal?

Answer:

- 50,00 people

² Le Figaro, online <http://evene.lefigaro.fr/citation/devrions-craindre-difference-craindre-indifference-40577.php> [visited 10/02/2017]

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What are the two main contributions of Gabriel Commanda, Val-d'Or's first inhabitant?

Answers:

- He was instrumental in the discovery of rich gold veins, notably that of Lamaque Mine in 1923.
- He built the trail connecting Lamaque Mine to the Gabriel Spring where he had his camp. This trail was used to plan the construction of 3rd Avenue, which is still the town's main artery.

Is it a good idea to make Gabriel Commanda's history known to the public? Why?

Suggested answers:

- Yes because Gabriel Commanda is a positive Aboriginal role model and he is part of the common history of the Val-d'Or and Aboriginal people.
 - As the Director General of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre says, knowing each other better promotes better relations.
 - What do you think?
3. Ask the students to draw a poster to raise public awareness on the elimination of racial discrimination. Take the time to look at the criteria for making a quality poster and to look at the posters on the United Nations website with the slogan "Let's Fight Racism!" (see PowerPoint). Tell students that this poster project takes the form of a contest and that each student will have to vote for the poster that best meets the criteria and that best conveys the message against racial discrimination. Invite them to demonstrate creativeness and use, as an inspiration, the slogans "Show your Colours" or "Let's Fight Racism!" to find their own slogan and draw their poster.

