

History and Citizenship 4: Sexual Diversity in Canadian History (Part 2)

Course

History and Citizenship Cycle 1

Unit/Social Phenomenon/Theme

A Social Phenomenon of the Present

Lesson and Focus

Sexual Diversity in Canadian History

Trigger Warning

Research and discussion containing violence or discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity. Students might encounter derogatory terms in research due to historical context. Outside of this, derogatory terms used in discussion or assignments must be addressed immediately.

Aim/Rationale

The purpose of this lesson is that students will learn about sexual orientation and identity, and the adoption of respectful attitudes towards various sexual orientations. Students will explore the history of how different sexual orientations and sexual minorities have been treated.

Competencies

1. Examines social phenomena from a historical perspective.
2. Interprets social phenomena using the historical method.
3. Constructs their consciousness of citizenship through the study of history.

Materials

- Computers
- Internet access
- Whiteboard and markers

Central Concepts

Society, Change, Continuity, Democracy, Diversity, Stakes, Territory

Hook

Quickly recap terms from the last class (orientation, behaviour, identity) and their differences.

Development/Teaching Methods

1. Prepare a presentation (30+ min):

- Students will pair up with the same partner/group and choose an event from a list (see Appendix) of historical events that have impacted our current Canadian society (1960's-present).
- Students will create a 2-5 minute presentation about the event/law changed and include the identity words that are used historically to describe it.

Appendix: Historical Events in Canadian Law

http://www.cbc.ca/news2/background/samesexrights/timeline_canada.html

1855 - Capital offence in Upper and Lower Canada

1955 - Serious offence in Canada

1967 - England decriminalises homosexuality

1969 - Canada decriminalises homosexuality. Pierre Trudeau's Omnibus Law

1970 - The first lesbian and gay pride march in the U.S. occurs in New York City

1973 - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from the DSM.

1977 - Quebec prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

1978 - Homosexuals are eligible to immigrate in Canada and will not be judged by their sexual orientation

1982 - Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1995 - The Supreme Court of Canada rules that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination.

1996 - Bill 33 adds sexual orientation to the Canadian Human Rights Act. 1999 - Bill 5 rights and responsibilities of same sex partners reciprocal to those of common law spouse

2002 - Halpern v. Canada decision mandates some form of legal accommodation for same-sex couples

2003 - U.S. Supreme Court strikes down remaining state sodomy laws.

▫ Ontario Court of Appeal decides in favour of same-sex marriage

▫ Federal Government of Canada commits itself to changing the definition of marriage

2005 - Canada legalizes same-sex marriage

Culmination

1. Presentations (30+ min):

- Students will present in historical order, so the class will see an overview of the recent changes in Canadian law.

Performance Objectives

By the end of this lesson:

- Students will be able to define sexual behaviour, sexual orientation, and sexual identity.
- Students will have a greater understanding of historically accepted and rejected sexual orientations around the world.
- Students will have exercised oral and presentation skills.
- Students will have exercised group work and discussion skills.
- Students will have exercised critical thinking skills.
- Students will have exercised researching skills.

Assessment Ideas

- 1) The teacher will informally assess student participation in classroom activities. Students can be asked to mark each other on their participation in their group.
 - 2) Teacher will assess presentations.
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