

EDPB 508

Resource Evaluation Assignment – Summary

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The resource that I have chosen for this assignment is the *First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)*. This committee was founded in 1992, and focuses on bettering the quality of learning for all First Nations learners.

FNESC offers plenty of lesson plans, suggested texts, assessment resources, and curriculum connections. These different resources are geared towards all ages ranging from grades K-12. The subjects that they primarily focus on include math, sciences, and languages. There are plenty of texts included which assist educators in utilizing resources that reflect First People's Knowledge. Our cohort has had many conversations on how to bring First People's content into our classrooms in a respectful way, and FNESC provides plenty of resources which allow one to do so.

There are full unit plans within the resource guides that FNESC offers. One that I found to be very helpful is titled, *In Our Own Words, K-Gr. 3 Authentic Resources* (2012), which provides detailed lesson plans that include the curriculum connections, the procedure to run the lesson, materials needed, and how to assess the students' work. In one of the kindergarten units (*All About Me*) provided in this same resource guide, it includes the curricular connections in several subject areas. The downside is that these connections are a bit dated considering that they are derived through a resource from 2012; however, they can still be connected to the new curriculum. One specific curricular competency from the Kindergarten, Social Studies section within the webpage fits perfectly with the *All About Me* unit: "Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask

questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions” (BC’s New Curriculum, 2016). This unit also fits with the new curricular content as well: “Ways in which individuals and families differ and are the same” (BC’s New Curriculum, 2016). In addition, the unit plans include the required time length in which how long the unit or lessons will take. These time lengths range greatly depending on the age group of the class but are all appropriate in length for the grade(s) that the units or lesson are designed for. This is merely just one example of a unit from FNEESC, there are many more lessons, resources, and units which fit with BC’S new competencies and content.

FNEESC provides resources that are up to date as well. Each resource that I have come across is from within the past six years. The oldest being the previous resource that I mentioned - *In Our Own Words, K-Gr. 3 Authentic Resources* (2012). I have also noticed that several of the resources are from the year 2016, which fits accordingly considering the new curriculum was introduced in the same year. The cost of the FNEESC resources are free. There are offers to buy hard copies of some of the texts and other resources that FNEESC offers; however, these are completely optional as one is easily able to download the resources free of charge with their device.

I do find that the FNEESC website is geared more toward primarily teacher use; making it more difficult for students of all ages to use. On the other side of that, I think this can also be considered a benefit for educators as this is a great resource to help one introduce First People’s knowledge into their classroom. Simply by going through the FNEESC website and browsing it’s resources, I also found that it isn’t overly engaging at times – due there being so much information being offered. If you’re using the FNEESC website but are unsure about what you are exactly looking for, it could be slightly overwhelming for the user. Although, I do believe that it is a tremendous resource if you have a good understanding of the content that you are searching for.

This resource is extremely beneficial as it offers more than just lessons and unit plans – including events that educators can attend, programs to get involved in, information on residential schools, and post-secondary options. FNEESC is a very valuable resource which I look forward to using as a teacher.

References

BC's New Curriculum. (2016). Social Studies K | Building Student Success. Retrieved from

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