

Dear Pat,

### **Curriculum for Hope in a Peaceful World**

I would like you to look at our Canadian Project as an example of what we are doing to promote peace in Nepal. I will attach it. It has to deal with human trafficking of young girls.

Our schools in British Columbia are addressing this 'Curriculum of Hope' in various ways. Social Responsibility and Diversity has been an on-going directive from the Ministry of Education as well as Anti-Bullying.

In Vancouver we have a co-ordinator to address these topics for all our schools. A 'Code of Conduct' that all staff and students are expected to follow is drafted by each school. We address homophobic problems, racism, personal safety and sex discrimination. These come under the jurisdiction of the Abuse Prevention Co-ordinator.

Some schools have 'Literature Circles' where students read the same book on a topic dealing with global issues. These books, written by children's authors, are chosen by teachers. Examples of books would be Naomi's Road by Joy Kogawa, Freedom Writers Diary by The Freedom Writers and Erin Gruwell, The Bread Winner by Deborah Ellis, Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis, etc. The students read the book, discuss it in their circles and do written assignments. They witness social injustices and the likes as the stories resonate deeply with them. They become very interested and passionate about the humanitarian issues that arise. An interesting book on 'Literature Circles' entitled "Student Diversity – Addressing the needs of all learners in inclusive classroom communities" was written by Faye Brownlie and Catherine Feniak (1998), Pembroke Publishers. Catherine is one of our Vancouver principals. The book is very user friendly with many 'how to' suggestions for teachers.

Donna-Faye Madhosingh

Canadian Report –

### **Canadian Forum Project, ‘Mentoring Program in Nepal’, Approved in Indianapolis!**

Empowering girls and women in Nepal through a mentoring programme involves:

- a) Girls who have been rescued or saved from a life of bondage being united with families and financially supported while they receive an education. (Some are as young as seven.)
- b) Some older girls who have been with the school for some time, beginning to take leadership roles with the younger students.
- c) Mothers, seeing the benefit of education, asking for literacy training.

We are partnering with the Canadian non-profit, **Intercultural Women’s Education Network (IWEN)**. Young girls are being sold into bondage by their families because they can no longer support them. This organization, IWEN, was founded in 2006 by Michelle Bonneau from Kelowna, British Columbia who spends much of each year in Nepal overseeing the project and tutoring.

We will help support this group by assisting with:

- a) paying older students an honorarium to mentor younger girls with their literacy
- b) paying women a small wage to mentor the mothers of the sponsored girls in literacy
- c) providing funding for room, board and supplies for international teachers who volunteer to come to Nepal to train Nepalese women as teachers and
- d) supporting the education of young girls.

This project takes place in a remote farming village in the Dang region of Nepal near the Indian border. Further info can be found at <http://iwencanada.com>

Dr. Ellen Kennedy’s keynote speech in Indianapolis resonates with our Canadian Project by being one example of many on **human trafficking**.

Our provinces continue with their projects and scholarships at all levels of education. Saskatchewan looks forward to hosting the Northwest Conference in Regina July 29th to August 1st.