

Outreach History Workbook Final Report

1. Project Description Describe/show to what degree the project was carried out as planned. Include what went well and what proved to be a challenge. Include a synthesis of your journal entries.

Our project was carried out as planned but through the process we discovered that it is challenging to find the time required to create a workbook for an entire course. Developing the notes and documents and then creating materials with them took more time than we had anticipated.

We were able to meet four times and to develop materials for each of the four units in the History of Quebec and Canada course. At each of our meetings, we spent time sharing our processes in the classroom and discussed what was working or not with our workbook materials.

We will spend time towards the end of the term, refining, editing and improving our text and document-based questions, so that the workbook will be complete and ready to use in September 2018. We see our project as a work in progress that will be added to, edited and refined in the coming year(s).

2. Project Goals Describe/show to what degree the goals of the approved project were met. If the goals were only partially met or not met at all, describe the reasons for this.

Over the time period available for the project, we were only able to meet 4 of the 6 times we had originally planned. Given constraints on teachers time, we were able to complete work on the content for the four units in the new History curriculum. The teachers involved in the project had many pressing responsibilities to prepare and adapt new resources for the Financial Education program as well as to re-work the Contemporary World program this year.

3. Project Outcomes Describe/show the gains that the participating teachers achieved through this project.

Working on our project brought a multitude of positive outcomes both in our work with our students and as a form of professional development for ourselves as history teachers. Although we have yet to see the results of the final evaluation in June, the results of summative and formative assessments throughout the year have shown us that students have been able to grasp the course content well using our materials.

As expected, the time we spent collaborating and developing our workbook materials helped us gain a deeper understanding of the new history program and helped us collaboratively enrich our teaching practice.

4. Reinvestment Clearly describe how the resources created and/or the learning achieved by the participants can be of benefit to the educational community at large. If applicable, comment on whether or not this project should be carried out by other teams and if so, how it could be improved.

Once completed at the end of June, we intend our workbook to be accessible to all teachers in the EMSB Outreach network as well as other teachers, if interested, through a shared, downloadable document.

This was a very valuable form of professional development which we would recommend to other teachers that are faced with a new curriculum. Ideally, it would have been preferable to have been able to make the workbook the year preceding the introduction of the new curriculum, but this was not possible due to the limited access to information about the course content.

It is a time-consuming project but worth doing as teachers gain expertise on the material they are teaching and are able to help one another in the task of preparing classroom materials. In creating notes and classroom materials, we were forced to reach beyond the textbook we would otherwise have been working from to contextualize and deepen our understanding of the precisions. This provided for a deeper and broader understanding of the new program and its affordances. Because there was so much new content to explore, the project timeline would probably have been more manageable with more participants.

5. Final Report Write a report in professional manner and suitable for posting on the LCEEQ website.

The Outreach History Workbook project involved the creation of a History workbook for Secondary Four students based on the content of the new History of Quebec and Canada program. The workbook addresses the needs of students who require support in accessing the content of the program by delivering the material in clear and accessible language and by introducing historical concepts using familiar and relevant examples and (his)stories. The workbook enables students who have lower levels of functional literacy and low levels of motivation to have accessible content in their own hands where they can easily track what they have learned and to practice the skills they will need to use on the provincial exam.

The teachers involved in the project collaborated to produce the materials that will be compiled into this workbook which will be ready to share with the community at the end of June 2018. This project will be improved upon and updated in coming years to reflect changes in the curriculum and edits based on feedback after classroom use.