

# VOICES INTO ACTION

SOCIAL MEDIA PHILOSOPHY CIVICS  
POLITICS BYSTANDERS GENOCIDE STEREOTYPES  
**CYBERBULLYING** ADVOCACY DISCRIMINATION  
ISLAMOPHOBIA **HUMAN RIGHTS** UNIVERSAL  
**PREJUDICE** MEDIA INFLUENCE **IMMIGRATION**  
PATHY POLITICAL ACTION SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
IMPACT ENGLISH **ANTISEMITISM** VISUAL ARTS  
SOCIOLOGY **HOLOCAUST** MORALITY EDUCATION

Winner of the *Canadian Race Relations Foundation Award of Excellence 2016*

**Voices into Action** is a **FREE ONLINE** educational program that brings key human rights issues into focus while meeting provincial requirements for secondary school curricula.

<http://voicesintoaction.ca>



# A Message From Our Founders

We welcome you to ***Voices into Action*** – an educational program that **helps students develop their social awareness**. The urgency for this kind of discussion continues to be a priority, as in recent years we have witnessed shocking incidents of bigotry in Canada. The interactive site connects students to the past and present, and encourages them to create a more harmonious future.

We believe classrooms are powerful environments where positive change is possible. Let yours be one where the discussions are impassioned and the activities relevant as they are fueled by a closer look at humanity's quest for inequitable power, as well as for justice and culture. The harsh facts about immigration, the Holocaust, genocide, homophobia, and the Aboriginal experience will open your students' eyes to the unspeakable atrocities of the past that continue to happen around the world.

New Canadian students enter our classrooms with fears and facing exclusion while yearning for opportunities to integrate. Cyberbullying is spreading hate at an astonishing rate. As educators we need to share this knowledge with students so that they can choose compassion over hate and positive action over indifference.

In 2005 after a resurgence of antisemitic incidents in Canada, we founded FAST Fighting Antisemitism Together. Our first program, *Choose Your Voice*, was designed for middle school students and won the Award of Excellence 2010 from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

*Voices into Action* is our second initiative, and is developed in accordance with provincial curriculum standards for secondary schools. This program further demonstrates our commitment to empowering students. We strongly believe in our responsibility to make a better, safer world for all.

As Elizabeth was a teacher, we have a first-hand appreciation of the challenging and vital role a teacher can play in helping young people learn and take the right actions against hatred. We hope these materials make your job a little easier and wish you every success!



**Elizabeth Comper**

(1945-2014)  
FAST founder  
Former teacher



**Tony Comper**

FAST founder  
Former CEO and Past President  
BMO Financial Group



"Two Sisters Being Sent on a Transport"  
by Helga Weissova.  
Credit: Ghetto Fighters' House Museum

# Introducing *Voices into Action*

*Voices into Action* is a free online anti-racism educational program that meets the requirements of secondary school curricula and brings key human rights issues into Canadian classrooms.



Highlights human rights issues



Digitally-delivered and mobile-ready



Created by curriculum experts



Customizable lesson plans



Fulfills curriculum requirements



Differentiated instruction



Inclusive and comprehensive



It's free — all of it

## **Information:**

*Voices into Action* enables students to think critically about justice and human rights and inspires them to influence positive societal change.

## **Challenges:**

Educators and students are challenged by bullying, intolerance, and hatred spreading within their schools and communities.

## **Opportunity:**

Educators have the opportunity to shed light on injustice and inequality in a way that makes a positive impact in their classrooms and eventually in society.

# The Educator Experience

## Curriculum Connections

*Voices into Action* is a comprehensive program, built to fulfill educational requirements of Canadian secondary school curricula.

The lessons contained within the program cover compelling and thought-provoking topics, that also pose unique challenges to students and encourage critical thinking and dialogue both inside and outside the classroom.

The program can be implemented across a spectrum of subjects:

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Arts</b>			✓	✓
Visual Arts			✓	✓
Drama			✓	✓
<b>English Language Arts</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Aboriginal / First Nations (Peoples) Languages</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>Aboriginal / First Nations Studies</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Social Sciences</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>Social Studies</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>Comparative Civilizations</b>				✓
<b>Contemporary World</b>			✓	✓
<b>World Issues</b>				✓
<b>History</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>Geography</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Economics</b>				✓
<b>Civics and Citizenship</b>		✓		
<b>Challenge and Change in Society</b>				✓
<b>Canadian Law</b>			✓	✓
<b>Politics (Political Science)</b>			✓	✓
<b>Psychology</b>				✓
<b>Equity</b>			✓	✓
<b>Social Justice</b>				✓
<b>World Religions</b>			✓	
<b>Philosophy</b>			✓	✓
<b>Media (Communication) Studies</b>			✓	✓

# Digitally Delivered

## Easily Accessible

As a free online program, *Voices into Action* is set up as a web portal for students and teachers. The website is accessible without login for students. To access teaching plans and tools, educators register at no charge on the site.

### Teachers can:

**Access** lesson plans online

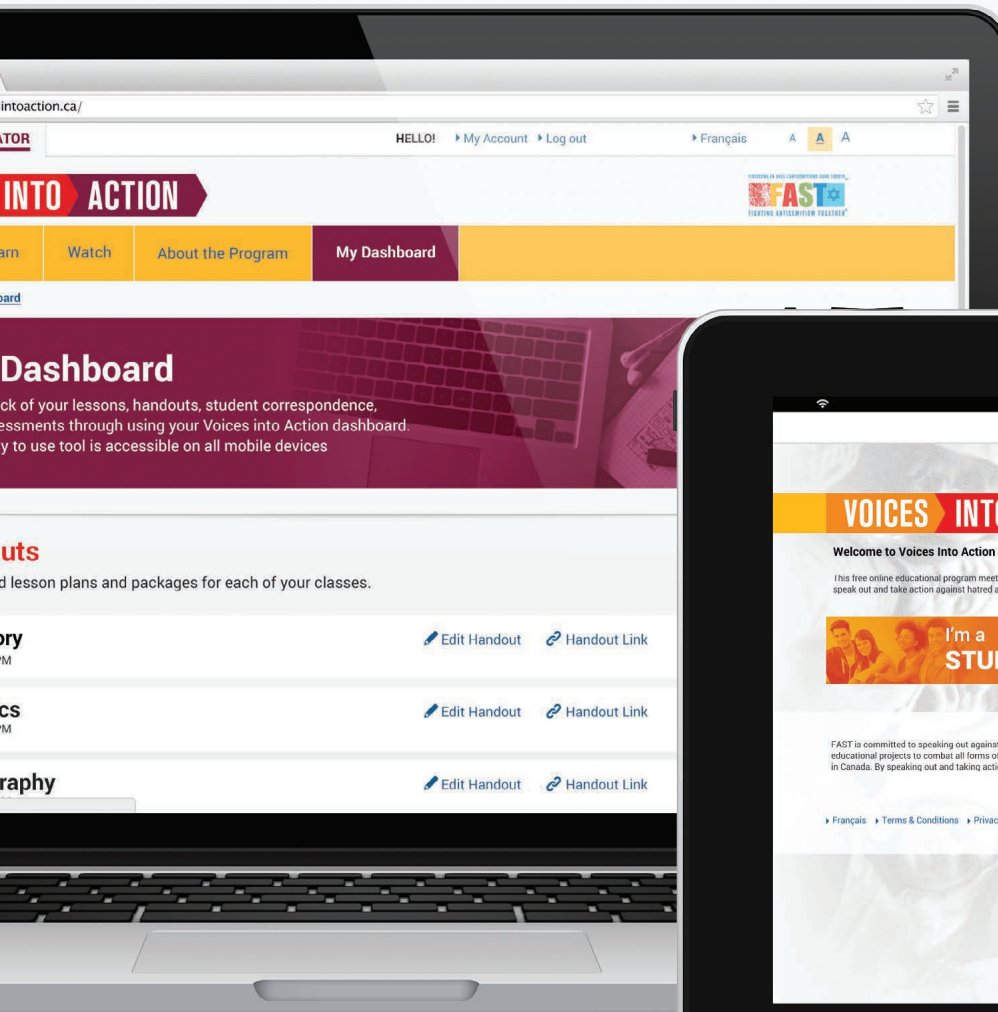
**Integrate** lesson plans within the scope of their teaching

**Print** Print and share handouts

**Select** from various assessment tools to encourage differentiated learning

Visit [www.parlezetagissez.ca](http://www.parlezetagissez.ca) for the equivalent French program

*Voices into Action* was built with the learning environments of today and tomorrow in mind.



# Program Map

## Complete Customization

*Voices into Action* is designed to be user-friendly so that educators can choose to navigate the complete program from start to finish, or customize their experience by selecting the units they wish to teach, in the order that suits them.

*Voices into Action* offers secondary schools a large selection of diversified lessons and activities to choose from.

	Unit 1 Human Rights	Unit 2 Genocide	Unit 3 Understanding Prejudice and Discrimination	Unit 4 Immigration	Unit 5 Personal Action	Unit 6 Living Together in Today's World
<b>Overview</b>	Why are Human Rights Important?	What is Genocide?	Judgements & Stereotypes	Who Gets In? Who Does Not?	Holocaust Art	Canadian Values and Identity*
<b>Chapter 1</b>	The Holocaust	Did the World Let the Holocaust Happen?	Rescuers and Heroes	The MS St. Louis	Creating a Holocaust Exhibit	Cyberbullying
<b>Chapter 2</b>	The Indigenous Experience	Media in the Bosnian War	The Komagata Maru Incident, 1914	Vietnamese Boat People	David Olère: Drawings and Paintings	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Gender	The Armenian Genocide	Islamophobia	Italian & Irish Immigration	Museums and Monuments	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	The Black Experience	Rwanda	Homophobia	Chinese Immigration	The Poetry of Terezin	
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Persons with Disabilities	The Holodomor	Antisemitism	Migration and Refugees	Literature and Film	
<b>Chapter 6</b>		Cambodia	WWII Japanese Internment Camps			*Provided by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation

**Educators and students have various tools and resources at their disposal:**

- › Quizzes
- › Role play scenarios
- › Discussions
- › Presentations
- › Written compositions
- › Assessments
- › Group work
- › Videos
- › News analysis
- › Artistic exercises
- › Policy review
- › Case studies
- › Simple rubrics
- › In-person interviews

# The Need for VIA

## Why Now?

As we know, history often repeats itself. Unfortunately, so do disgraceful acts of injustice that still plague humanity today. Equipping today's youth with knowledge about our past can effectively reduce indifference and abolish the cycle of hatred and intolerance still prevalent in our world today. The rise of bullying and cyberbullying reveals that we continue to hurt others in alarming ways. *Voices into Action* aims to positively influence the future by educating our students about human rights and human dignity.

## What is the Goal?

Through a variety of compelling activities, *Voices into Action* gives all Canadian educators the tools to improve society. The goal is to empower students to reflect on truth and justice. When students explore facts about the world, both past and present, their social consciousness expands. Developing their awareness and encouraging critical thinking about racist attitudes and behavior gives students the tools to combat hatred and apathy.

**Through *Voices into Action*, students will be:**

**Engaged** through education

**Investigating** current issues

**Moving** beyond information to reflection

**Motivated** to make a difference

**Challenged** to question the world around them

**Empowered** to speak up

**Expressing** themselves

**Inspired** to improve the world



Residential School Classroom.

Credit: General Synod Archives, Anglican Church of Canada

### Author Team

This project was developed by a team of educators (teachers, curriculum experts, graduate students in education, university lecturers and professors, and freelance consultants).

The writing team worked over a period of a year and a half, as a whole group, in small groups, and independently, to research and develop these units for classroom use in a variety of curriculum areas. The units can be explored sequentially or selected to complement a particular curriculum area being explored and investigated. Each unit begins with an overview, followed by chapters on that topic.

### Project Managers at OISE/University of Toronto

David Booth - Professor Emeritus

Larry Swartz - Instructor

John Myers - Instructor

Bernard Rubinstein - Instructor

Curriculum Connections: Bryan Wright

Join us as we inspire positive change  
from the classroom to society

<http://voicesintoaction.ca>  
<http://parlezetagissez.ca>



**CANADA'S**  
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM  
VOICES INTO ACTION/CHOOSE YOUR VOICE



**CISA**  
Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism

HISTORY CIVICS  
GENOCIDE STEREOTYPES  
ADVOCACY DISCRIMINATION  
HUMAN RIGHTS UNIVERSALITY  
CULTURAL INFLUENCE IMMIGRATION  
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