**ED 5626 Inquiry Centre – Kristin Estabrooks**

**Grade Level:** This inquiry centre is for a grade 9 social studies class.

**Topic and Theme:** The theme of this inquiry centre is women’s rights and the second-wave of feminism in Canada. Specifically, we will be looking at the topic of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada.

**Learning Centre Objectives:** This centre connects to the unit of Citizenship in the grade 9 social studies curriculum, specifically GCO 9.4.2: Demonstrate an understanding of how citizenship has evolved over time. It is my hope that this centre will inform students of some of the injustices that women face in our country, and how the rules and benefits of citizenship do not extend to every person in Canada.

**Materials Required:** For this activity, you will need:

-Photos of current women’s rights advocates and movements (I used photos of the Women’s March, the Take Back the Night march, the #MeToo movement, the #SaveClinic554 movement, and examples of pay equity in sports) and of Florence Bird

-Sticky notes and pencils

-A timer

(For this activity I am using a PowerPoint presentation to display the images, but in the classroom you can print images to display around the classroom and get students to have small group discussions based on the photos).

**Procedure:**

-Begin by showing the different photos and asking the class if they recognize who or what is pictured and if they know the significance behind the photo/what cause or issue the photo is addressing.

-Introduce the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada to the students. Ask if anyone had heard of it before. Briefly explain what the Royal Commission did, when it was founded, and go over some of the demands for equality it made (such as pay equity and workplace equality, abortion rights and birth control, maternity leave, and discrimination based on gender).

-Give students a chance to discuss the issues that the Royal Commission hoped to address and fix in Canada. Ask students if they still see these issues today.

-Briefly discuss the fall of the Royal Commission and closure of various Councils on the Status of Women around the 90s.

-End Inquiry activity by asking students to come up with one issue that a modern day Royal Commission would want to address in Canada. Get students to write idea on a sticky note.

**Suggestions for Extension Activities:** Students can do research/a project to inquire into why provincial Councils on the Status of Women (such as the one in New Brunswick) are no longer in operation, can look at people/groups who were excluded from the Commission (such as women of color, immigrant women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, etc.) and why they were excluded, the impact the École Polytechnique massacre had on the Commission, look at the difference between first and second wave feminism in Canada, or pick one issue covered in the Royal Commission that is still an issue today and do a project based around it.

**Appendix:**

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