

Before They Vote: Engaging Young Citizens in School and Beyond

Monday October 5th ~ Toronto City Hall Council Chambers

Workshops

Teaching the (Fun)damentals of Civics

Beyond Charity

People Power Participation

Panel

Dave Meslin

founder, Toronto Public Space Committee

Peter MacLeod

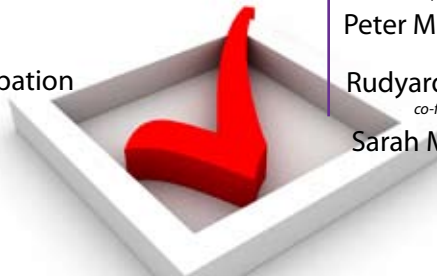
Principal, MASS LBP

Rudyard Griffiths

co-founder, The Dominion Institute

Sarah McCoubrey

Executive Director, OJEN



Civics
Education
Network

Second annual teacher symposium
hosted by the Civics Education Network.

A day of speakers, workshops and
resources for teachers of civics and politics

About the Symposium

Now in it's second year, the Civic Education Network's annual teacher symposium is an opportunity for teachers of civics and politics to learn from both experts in the field and each other. This year we return to the Toronto City Hall Council Chambers with a new collection of workshops and a number of improvements. Prominately, we are hosting a panel discussion on the symposium theme, and collecting 'best of' resources on USB Drives from every participant to share with the group. Furthermore, there will be some valuable goodies in the bags handed out on October 5th and a much improved lunch.

Our theme this year is Before They Vote: Engaging Young Citizens in School and Beyond. The workshops are designed to focus on the fact that despite not being of age to cast a ballot, the youth in our schools are full fledged citizens of their communities and should be treated as such. We, as educators, need to engage them as citizens and harness their energy and enthusiasm. In this way they will be empowered to make real change in our shared environments.

About The Civics Education Network

The Civics Education Network is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support teachers of civics and politics. This is done by providing access to professional development, resources and a variety of supports and programs. Our programming enriches the work of teachers and the experience of the students in our public schools.

Furthermore, CEN works hard to examine novel ways of reaching youth and teaching them the skills they need to become active citizens.

Symposium Schedule

Monday, October 5th
Toronto City Hall ~ Council Chambers
100 Queen Street West, at Bay St.

9:00 am	Arrival, Registration and Coffee
9:30 am	Teaching the (Fun)damentals of Civics
10:30 am	Beyond Charity
11:30 am	Lunch with NGOs
12:30 pm	People Power Participation
1:30 pm	Panel Discussion
2:30 pm	Closing Remarks

Workshops

Teaching the (Fun)damentals of Civics

Young people today are finding themselves largely unable or unwilling to learn about the inner workings of government structure, voting as well as other democratic initiatives. This is partly as a result of an often dry, uninteresting civics curriculum. This workshop looks at innovative ways of making 'classroom politics' fun and engaging for your students.

Beyond Charity

Effective community engagement is about much more than charity. It is about leadership, initiative and the budding of new ideas that help promote change. As teachers we must make students understand that the words citizenship and contribution extend far beyond soup kitchens, canned goods and fundraising; it is about action, choice and opportunity. This workshop offers you a unique chance to better understand the meaning of activism and to take it a step further; beyond charity.

People Power Participation

This workshop is a kind of testament that young men and women today can and do become leaders. In fact we will share with you stories of people who have managed to step up to the challenge and make a difference in their community. Through this workshop teachers will gain invaluable resources and tools to help link these individual experiences to the classroom.

'Best of' Resource Sharing

Shared resources are in many ways the lifeblood of any good professional development, and are vital to our success as teachers. The Civics Education Network understands this, therefore part of our program this year includes the sharing of resources among the participants.

To do this, we are asking that each participant submit ahead of time their 'best of' resource or lesson that they are willing to share. All of the collected resources will be put on USB Drives which will be distributed to all teachers attending the symposium. In this way, we can all share from our collective knowledge and experience.

Please send your resources no later than October 1st to symposium@civicsnetwork.ca to ensure their inclusion.

NGO Lunch

We will be joined at lunch by a number of guests from various NGO's around Toronto. This will be your chance to talk to them informally and learn about ways in which they can help you in your work in the classroom. Lunch is generously being provided by the City of Toronto.

Thanks

The Civics Education Network would like to thank all of the workshop coordinators and panelists for their time and effort.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the City of Toronto and Simon Wookey for their financial support of the symposium.

Civics Education Network Board of Directors

Patrick Baud
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Registration

To ensure an engaging and intimate experience, the number of participants in the symposium is very limited. To ensure your spot, please register as soon as possible.

\$40 for the day, including lunch and resources

\$20 for each faculty of education student coming with a full registrant

\$30 for each faculty of education student coming alone

To register, please provide the information below via phone or e-mail.
'Best of' resources should be sent via e-mail no later than Oct 1.

Full Name

School and School Board

Address

Phone #

Email

Registration Type

Payment may be made by cash or cheque, made out to Civics Education Network on the day of the symposium. Receipts will be provided then.

E-mail: symposium@civicsnetwork.ca

Phone: 416-995-0157

Other CEN Programs

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|---------------------|---|
| Integration Program | We bring local politicians and activists into schools to meet with classes and engage in dialogue and often local problem solving. |
| Student Conference | A yearly student organized and run conference examining civic issues which are important to youth. |
| IdeaLab | Our discussion series where we examine various issues and ways to improve the teaching of civics and politics in our schools. |
| CivicCamp | An unconference bringing together a variety of interested parties to explore the teaching of civics in an intense day of discussion and work. |