

### ***Fredericton, 2017 - HKVCA Annual General Meeting - Education Report***

I'd like to begin by thanking our Atlantic Regional Director, Ruth Murgatroyd - for the outstanding work she has done in preparing for this year's national convention. With only a few months into her new position, Ruth bravely picked up the reigns to prepare for and host this year's national convention in Atlantic Canada. Bravo!

Thank you, to the HKVCA Board of Directors for your vote of confidence in appointing me as National Education Program Manager this past year. It was an honour to work with so many bright and talented individuals.

Update since our last Bi-Annual AGM in 2015:

#### ***Cross Canada Writing Competition***

To keep the database current, our Board of Directors provided contact information for Department of Education connections and Social Studies educators from each of their respective regions. In the autumn of 2016, many BOD members attended educational events across the country, promoting our National Writing Competition. In October, I traveled to Halifax to attend a Nova Scotia High Social Studies Senior High conference, where I met guest speaker Flora Fung, who highly promoted our Writing Competition.

Gayle Angel aided immensely in providing a detailed job description for the *Writing Competition Facilitator (WCF)*, identifying role & responsibilities. Adma Hashman was last years' WCF - however, due to personal reasons she had to leave in April, 2017. I continued with the process until completion in June.

Ellen O'Neill (our Atlantic Regional Secretary), has volunteered to take on the WCF position for this coming school year.

Gayle Angel also updated the "Teacher Zone" on our website, and was instrumental in having the text translated to French.

Thank you to WCF, Adma Hashman and Jim Trick, who helped set up our MailChimp program. This program allows for large mail outs, and offers more ease to access and sharing of information.

Thank you to IBM for continuously supporting our program through Community Grants.

A special thank you to Phil and Nancy Dodderidge for their frantic search at the 'Chaleur Military Museum', in helping us obtain the first 4 years of student entries. Pat Turcotte did an amazing job in keeping all entries so well organized.

### ***A Dog Named Gander – Feasibility Study***

A feasibility study for the book “A Dog Named Gander”, was conducted in northern NB to determine if it could be considered for inclusion in elementary curricula throughout Canada. Here are the current results:

7 of 16 educators have reviewed the book thus far (5 English, 2 French / 4 retired teachers, 3 currently teaching at the elementary level).

All enjoyed the story and strongly felt it should be taught in schools at the elementary level.

3 respondents felt it should be included in an eighth grade curriculum – 4 felt it was aimed more towards ninth graders.

Review of the English version suggested only a few minor changes.

Overwhelmingly the reviewers felt the French version needed better translation.

Some felt the large size of the book was “awkward”, and preferring a hard cover version.

Some feedback suggested the photos of Sgt Gander should be larger.

Most added that the book should also be available in digital formats (Kobo, Kindle).

Some suggested we consider making a series of ‘Ganders Adventures’ with illustrated books for the younger grades:

- ‘Pal (Gander), as a puppy
- Gander at the military base
- Gander goes to war

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The desire to promote more educational initiatives is strong, but help is needed. Keeping the memory of our Hong Kong Veterans alive through educating all Canadians will continue only with a great deal of volunteer effort. Please step forward to help in any way you can to ensure we *never forget*.

Although I am stepping away from the position, I would like to continue helping out with educational projects such as the writing competition and the story of Gander. Promoting Gander in the elementary curricula could become a spring board in promoting our veterans stories for future writing competitions.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmie Flanagan

