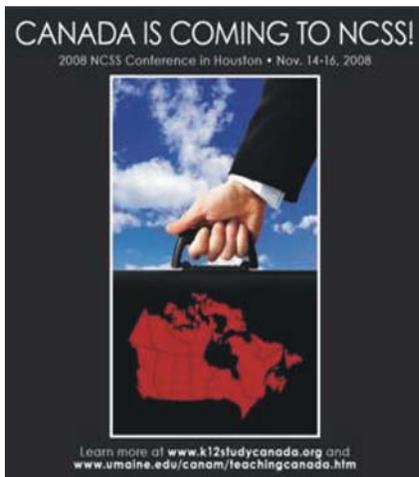


Canada is Coming to NCSS!



Canada is Coming to NCSS! is an expansive and innovative outreach effort led by **Tina Storer** (Center for Canadian-American Studies, WWU) and **Betsy Arntzen** (Canadian-American Center, U Maine), on behalf of their two US Department of Education-funded National Resources Centers for Canada, to promote Canadian Studies to the largest organization of social studies educators in the US—the National Council for the Social Studies.

The Education Division of the Department of International Affairs and Foreign Trade, Canada, is providing integral grant support for the collaborative NRC initiative. The NRCs—formed by consortia at Western Washington University and the University of Washington as well as the University of Maine and the State University of New York, Plattsburgh—will use grant funds to involve sixteen leaders in

Canadian education at the 2008 Annual NCSS Conference in Houston, TX (November 14-16, 2008) to broaden international perspectives and build international education networks between American and Canadian teachers.

A strand of almost twenty sessions in the conference program will focus on Canada or feature Canadian presenters who will also interact with NCSS leadership through the NCSS' International Visitors Program. This is a *tenfold* increase over sessions on Canada in years past and marks the greatest focus offered by NCSS for any world region ... ever. NCSS members attending the conference will be able to select from a variety of topics and learning formats, including a pre-conference clinic, a 2-hour workshop, and multiple classroom and poster sessions.

Canada is Coming to NCSS! is already being promoted in *The Social Studies Professional* and in *Social Education*, publications that reach the more than 25,000 NCSS members. Further, with coordination help from Nadine Fabbi, University of Washington, the fall issue of their flagship publication, *Social Education*, will feature three articles on teaching about Canada's aboriginal peoples as part of the *Canada is Coming to NCSS!* effort.

Another innovative aspect of the outreach is to increase awareness and availability of resources for teaching about Canada. Although the NRCs for Canada host a joint exhibit table annually at the conference, new *Canadian* publishers and distributors are being invited to display and sell materials in the exhibit halls and hundreds of regular exhibitors are being notified to expect increased in Canadian-content materials. Thus, as part of *Canada is Coming to NCSS!* outreach, a spotlight on Canadian studies resources will be possible and exhibitors who do not already have classroom materials that connect social studies topics and issues to Canada will recognize the need and marketability for such resources.

Other unique aspects of the joint NRC outreach initiative include offering a pre-conference series of workshops to Houston-area K-12 teachers and a cultural performance component to conference events. The Consulate of Canada, Houston, is generously offering hospitality support to a K-12 workshop series called "Teaching Canadian Geography: Professional Development and Teaching Materials for Texas Grad 9 World Geography Teachers" led by Betsy Arntzen and organized in partnership with the Region 4 Education Service Center, Texas Council for the Social Studies and "Friends of Geography", the Houston chapter of the Texas Geographic Alliance. The pre-conference workshops align content to Texas state standards and serve to instill interest in attending other sessions on Canada at the conference. Similar interest from all NCSS members

who attend the President's Breakfast will be piqued on the first day of the conference, through cultural entertainment being sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Atlanta. A performance by strolling cirque-tradition artists from a Québec-based troupe will not only add French-Canadian flair to the event but also mark the 400th anniversary of settlement in *la belle province* and complement introductions of the Canadian contingent by NCSS President Michael Yell.

If interested in learning more about NCSS and the annual conference, visit www.ncss.org. For more information about *Canada is Coming to NCSS!* or want to become part of this unique opportunity to learn from and network with Canadian teachers, contact tina.storer@wwu.edu or barntzen@umit.maine.edu.

Tina Storer - Education & Curriculum Specialist
Center for Canadian-American Studies
Western Washington University
WWU-UW Consortium (PNW NRC for Canada)
Phone: 360-650-7370 Email: tina.storer@wwu.edu
Website: www.k12studycanada.org

Betsy Arntzen - Outreach Coordinator
Canadian-American Center
University of Maine
UMaine-SUNYP Consortium (Eastern NRC for Canada)
Phone: 207-581-4225 Email: barntzen@umit.maine.edu
Website: www.umaine.edu/canam/teachingcanada.htm