

Penney Clark VPRI Knowledge Mobilization Grant

Project Title: "Finding Franklin: New Approaches to Teaching Canadian History Symposium"

Proposed Knowledge Mobilization Project

Provide a brief description (no longer than two pages in 10 point font) of the knowledge mobilization initiative, which may include workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes or other events or outreach activities. The project must involve researchers in the humanities and social sciences, and may involve other disciplines, public, private or not-for-profit sectors, and/or international exchanges between students and partners from other countries.

The SSHRC-funded History Education Network/Histoire et éducation en réseau (THEN/HiER), located at UBC, proposes to host a symposium in Ottawa, June 4-5, 2015 with 24 participants from across Canada. With a focus on recent developments in telling the history of Sir John Franklin's last expedition, the symposium will bring Canada's leading experts in history education together with historians, Inuit cultural advisors, underwater archaeologists, curriculum specialists from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT), and teachers from northern and southern Canada. With expertise offered by symposium participants, the purpose of the symposium is to inform the creation of free, digitally-supported, and research-informed history curriculum for Canadian schools.

The proposed symposium will take advantage of a series of five interconnected opportunities and partnerships:

- 1) The Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History (GUMICH) project, with the support of a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, is developing an online gallery and archives on the meeting of John Franklin and his expedition with the Inuit of the central Arctic. It will be ready to launch, in French, English, and partly in Inuktitut, on June 4, 2015 in Ottawa. GUMICH representatives presenting at the symposium include: John Lutz, Co-Director of GUMICH, University of Victoria; Ruth Sandwell, Co-Director of GUMICH, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education; and, Lyle Dick, Independent Scholar (formerly of Parks Canada).
- 2) The Historical Thinking Project and The Critical Thinking Consortium have developed new curriculum frameworks based on a decade of research into children's capacities for historical thinking. The Historical Thinking Project will be represented by Peter Seixas, Director/Professor/Canada Research Chair, University of British Columbia. The Critical Thinking Consortium will be represented by several of their curriculum writers, who include two graduate students and one practicing teacher: Heather McGregor, PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia; David Bussell, PhD Student, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education; and James Miles, West Vancouver School District.
- 3) THEN/HiER has built a web of interconnections among historians, scholars in faculties of education, curriculum developers, and teachers that is able to mobilize new teaching materials in ways that were not previously possible. In advancing this network, the symposium aims to engage classroom teachers through the participation of two local teachers in Ottawa, as well as several symposium participants/presenters from BC, NWT and Nunavut who are classroom teachers. As THEN/HiER Director, I will represent the organization.
- 4) The astonishing discovery, this past summer, of the intact remains of one of Franklin's two ships is possibly the major archaeological discovery of our time and has electrified interest in the Franklin mystery. A presentation by Marc-Andre Bernier, Underwater Archeological Services, Parks Canada will be featured in the symposium. Louie Kamookak, Inuit Knowledge Holder from Gjoa Haven, Nunavut will also be presenting on the role of Inuit knowledge and oral history in locating the HMS Erebus. Discussion of the use of oral history in the classroom will be supported through a symposium presentation by Julie Perrone, former Postdoctoral Fellow with the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Concordia University.
- 5) There is a strong relationship between Parks Canada, Library and Archives Canada, the Nunavut Department of Education, and universities engaged in Franklin research, and historical education across Canada. Symposium presenters from the Nunavut Department of Education will include Ken Beardsall, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator; Liz Fowler, Bilingual Curriculum Consultant; and, Alex Makin, classroom teacher in Whale Cove, NU/Masters Student, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Symposium presentations will include five topics: 1) The discovery of the HMS Erebus by the Parks Canada Underwater Archeology team and implications for history education utilizing the associated artifacts, data and survey technology. 2) New teaching and learning resources developed by the Nunavut Department of Education on Inuit ways of understanding the past, and how traditional knowledge was

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leveraged in wayfinding/place names to search for Franklin. 3) The new GUMICH website based on the Franklin expedition, with teaching support materials and curricular connections that demonstrate its relevance for history classrooms across Canada. 4) New curricular approaches promoted by education and history experts from the Historical Thinking Project and the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University. 5) Supporting dialogue with postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, curriculum specialists and teachers on the application and use of research-based educational materials in history classrooms across Canada.

The five key outcomes of the symposium will be: 1) The launch of refined curriculum materials which are inclusive of the Canadian North and Inuit perspectives. 2) Knowledge mobilization of history education research in ways that will influence classroom practices. 3) Increased utilization of digitized historical sources. 4) Awareness of the possibilities of oral history sources. 5) Online and print publications and a downloadable video of key symposium presentations.

The symposium will follow a robust Knowledge Mobilization plan. The key artifacts emerging from the symposium noted above will be produced and posted on the award-winning THEN/HiER website (www.thenher.ca) which currently has close to 900 members. Information about the symposium will also be disseminated through the GUMICH Franklin Mystery website, the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, The Critical Thinking Consortium, the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, and the Departments of Education in Nunavut and the NWT. We will also explore the possibility of publishing in relevant scholarly publications.

Training and mentoring opportunities for graduate students, classroom teachers, curriculum developers, early career scholars, and senior scholars (in history and education) have been built into the symposium with an emphasis on: digital knowledge mobilization, professional development, professional networking, and workshop development and presentations.