

# Developing Canadian Citizens

Becoming Intentional about  
Connecting the Pieces



CASHRA  
June 23, 2015

## What is Citizenship Education?

Citizenship Education empowers individuals to understand their rights and to be responsible, respectful, and participatory citizens committed to justice in a pluralistic Canadian democracy.



Why do this?  
What was the need?



- **The price of democracy is eternal vigilance**
- **Education is an SHRC mandate**
- **Enlightened, empathetic citizens appreciate and seek to understand other points of view and perspectives**

# Design Process

## Teacher Development Group

K – 12 perspectives  
Provincial perspective  
Developed by teachers for teachers

## Advisory Committee

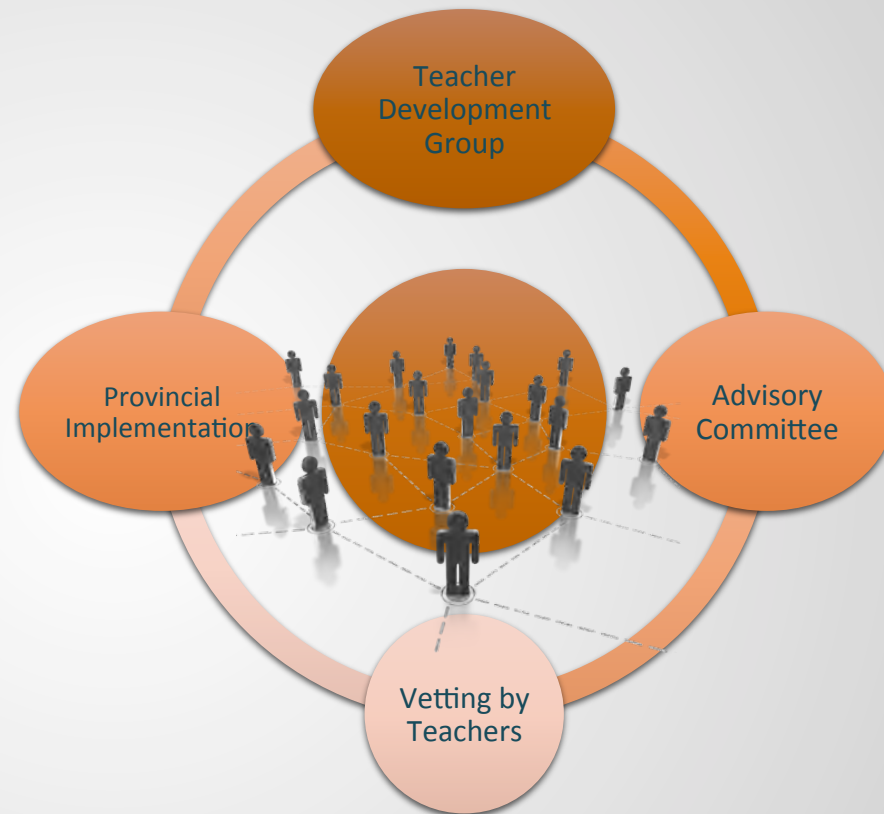
Ministry of Education  
Universities  
FSIN, SELU, SHRC  
LEADS, STF, SSBA

## Vetting Teachers

K- 6 vetting- 2013 -2014  
7 - 12 vetting – 2014 – 2015

## Provincial Implementation

Teachers  
Interested School Divisions



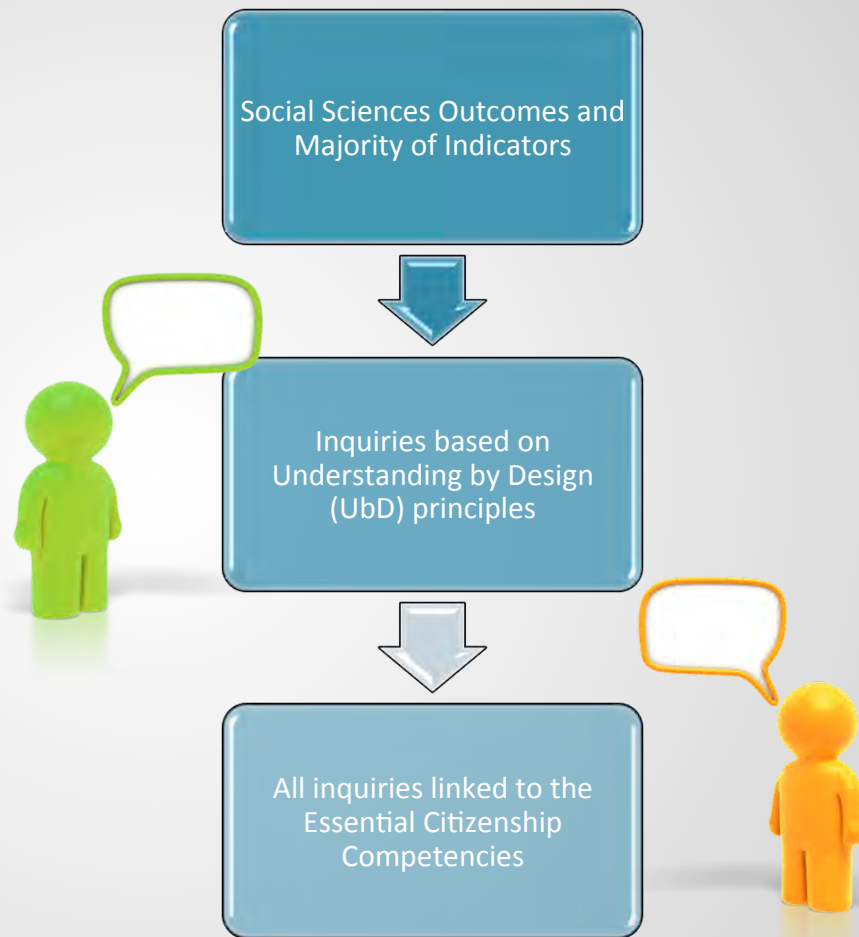
## What was developed?

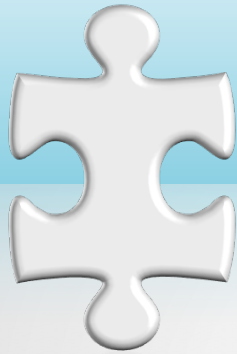
- Kindergarten to grade 12 teacher resources
- Resources support the intentional and explicit teaching of citizenship
- Resources focus on developing understanding of
  - Rights of citizens
  - Responsibilities of citizens to maintain rights
  - Respect needed for Canada's multi-cultural society



## Aligned with Sask Curriculum

- Provides a framework for incorporating Social Science teachings through a Citizenship lens that incorporates all Broad Goals of Learning
- Strong First Nations and Métis perspectives
- Supports critical and reflective thinking
- Supports constructivist learning
- Identifies cross-curricular connections to other subject areas with specific links to Treaty Essential Learnings





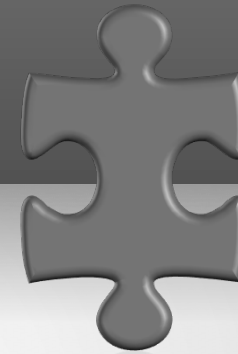
## Engaged Citizens

... respect the *responsibilities* of living in a democracy. They continue to question, critically examine, advocate, and defend the rights and responsibilities of a democracy on multiple levels.



## Life Long Learning Citizens

... *continue to learn* about and reflect upon the dynamics of on-going change. They understand they have a responsibility to become appraised of current information to make reasoned and unbiased decisions.



## Citizens connected to Self, Community, and Place

... *value and demonstrate a positive connection* to self and others, are conscious of the impact of their actions and choices on self, community, and place. They aim to act responsibly and act to redress injustice.

Broad Areas of Citizenship

# Continuum of Citizenship Engagement

Personally Responsible	Participatory	Justice-oriented
Social actors or active citizens	Take active part in the civic and social life of their communities.	Critically analyze structure of inequality
Involved in autonomous social action	Assume roles in neighborhoods, schools, political parties, organizations, etc.	Consider strategies to challenge injustice and address root causes of social issues.

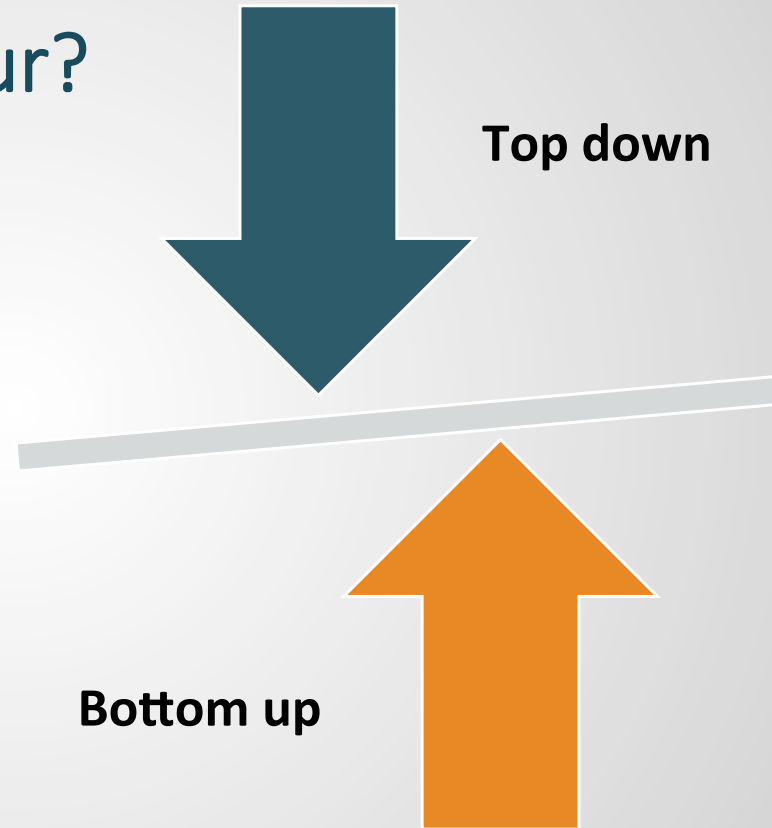
## What does this look like?

Sample Action		
Contributes food to food drive	Organizes the food drive.	Examines issues of hunger and acts to address these issues.



# How will implementation occur?

- Expand Positive Contagion
- Address Readiness and Need
- Increase Awareness
- Build high-quality professional development matched to school division needs
- Accessible to all schools by 2016



Teaching and learning in  
democratic societies has special  
requirements.

- Joel Westheimer

# Thank you

**Terry Myers**

Citizenship Education

Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission

**Phone:** (306) 933-5952

**Toll free:** 1-800-667-9249

Email: [terryamyers@hotmail.com](mailto:terryamyers@hotmail.com)

