

# *Fêtes* **HISTOR!CA** *Fairs*

*The Fairs are a grand celebration of Canada's heritage,  
in the form of student history projects!*

## *Program Overview*

The Historica Fairs Program is a bilingual educational initiative that encourages students to explore an aspect of Canadian heritage in a dynamic and captivating learning environment.

Students use the media of their choice to share their learning about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements - and then proudly present the results of their research at a public exhibition. Volunteer committees involving educators, heritage groups, and community associations work together to organize these enriching events.

You have the chance to include your entire school community in this exciting program. The Fairs give your students a voice to tell their own stories in their own ways. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and passion make the Fairs a highlight of the school year!

## *Why Participate?*

- The Fairs Program helps teachers meet their teaching goals, provides recognition for student achievement, and satisfies curriculum requirements.
- The creation of a Fairs project requires hands-on learning, which develops research and communication skills.
- Learning becomes more meaningful when students explore topics that are personally relevant to them. They'll create connections within their families and cultures.
- Fairs give students the chance to share their own ideas and voices, thereby building student creativity and initiative.
- Creating a Fair project will enhance literacy skills. The emphasis on communication skills such as researching, interviewing, writing, editing, and speaking will benefit all students.
- Participation in a Fair engages citizenship skills. As young people develop stronger roots in their communities, they will have the confidence to become active citizens who shape the future of our country.
- Correlation studies have been conducted to determine that the Fairs Program fits Canadian social studies, geography, and history curricula for grades 4 to 9.
- This program connects the classroom with the community – to valuable organizations such as historical societies, museums, archives, libraries, and multicultural groups.

## *Program Highlights 2005*

Across Canada in the last school year:

- more than 228,000 students worked on projects or participated in a Fair
- communities representing all provinces and territories were involved
- 1,090 schools hosted Fairs or participated in a Community or Regional Fair
- 11,942 volunteers were involved in helping to deliver the program

## *Program Goals*

The goals of the Fairs Program are especially fitting as Canada moves well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This program creates an engaging learning environment for students, thereby strengthening their appreciation of Canadian heritage. Students develop strong roots in their communities and cultures, which inspire them to participate in the shaping of Canada's future.

The Fairs Program has grown remarkably in the past ten years. It is intended that every eligible student in Canada will be provided with the opportunity to participate in a Fair or in the on-line Historica Fair Showcase during his or her years at school.

Historica invites community-based organizations and businesses to work with teachers and educators and actively participate in the delivery of the event by joining the organizing committee, assisting students with their research, providing materials and in-kind resources, and hosting workshops or placing displays at the Fairs.

## *Program Structure*

The Fairs Program is divided into three components. There are the School or Community Fairs that usually take place between February and April; the Regional, Provincial, and Territorial Fairs in May; and the National Fair, hosted each July by a different community in Canada.

The Historica Foundation engages Canadians in the stories that define our identity and the events that shape our country's future. Through our programs and resources Historica connects Canadians to the many histories of our nation. We invite you to discover *your* place in history at [www.histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca).

*For more information about the Historica Fairs Program,  
visit our website at [www.histori.ca/fairs](http://www.histori.ca/fairs) or call 1-877-739-4056*