

Imagine-Action

A social justice program of the Canadian Teachers' Federation

Imagine-Action is a program designed to facilitate teacher-student-community interaction in social action focusing on 6 themes:

- Connect (relationships)
- Engage (participatory citizenship)
- Thrive (health and wellness),
- Lead (leadership)
- Live (environmental sustainability)
- Care (poverty)

Imagine-Action: Facilitating classroom discussion on poverty

Poverty What is it? A discussion booklet for students in grades 5 to 8

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Canada-Campaign-2000-Poverty-What-is-it-A-discussion-booklet-for-grades-5-8.pdf>

Developed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights, the *Poverty, what is it?* booklet presents some of the responses received from over 200 Grade 5 to 8 students who took part in the discussion of poverty in the spring of 2014. This booklet will be a valuable resource for teachers in their work.

Imagine-Action Social Action Projects <https://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/>

Each of the 6 above themes is intertwined in a program geared to foster action once teachers and students engage in a critical thinking exercise about the issue that they want to take on.

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/students/K-4.aspx>

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/students/5-8.aspx>

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/students/9-12.aspx>

Each Imagine-Action school project researched the issue of poverty in their community by attempting to find answers to 6 relevant questions regarding their community:

- Total population?
- Number of children living in poverty?
- Number of food banks?
- Unemployment rate?
- Number of shelters providing temporary housing?

Examples of school action projects

Project Title: Greenfield Keep the Promise Group

<http://greenfieldkeptthep.wix.com/gf-keep-the-promise>

School: Greenfield Elementary *City:* New Waterford, Nova Scotia *Grade:* Elementary
Greenfield KTP-Nova Scotia created a website with all of their projects.

<http://greenfieldkeptthep.wix.com/gf-keep-the-promise#!blog/c230p>

Students created an e-book *Poverty Hurts*

http://media.wix.com/ugd/dd91da_4ae06060c6664525970403e00c180.pdf

Project title: "Give Back"

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/View.aspx?id=15785>

School: Forestview *City:* Niagara Falls, Ontario *Grade:* 6, 7

A "Me to We Club" focuses on giving back to the community. While the students collect food for the local food bank (WE SCARE Hunger Campaign), they also help those affected by Poverty and share what we have learned with our whole community.

Project title: The Poverty Project

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/View.aspx?id=15814>

School: Jack Hulland Elementary *City:* Whitehorse, Yukon *Grade:* 6, 7

Students study issues that surround poverty and to learn how to act for social change. Students speak with elders about their stories and thoughts on poverty issues. Students also research people's thoughts on poverty by checking out stories from a variety of cultures. Students weaved stories together to better understand the complex landscape of poverty.

Project title: Keep the Promise

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/View.aspx?id=14786>

School: St. Leonard Catholic *City:* Manotick, Ontario *Grade:* 6

Students held a community event to raise awareness of child poverty in Manotick and Canada. Funds were raised to purchase items for "shoe boxes" that are filled with items low-income children need. The "shoe boxes" are made 3/year: Christmas, March Break and summer break. Students also created a video, *End child poverty in Canada--We Keep The Promise*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXWbzhh-dgI>

Project title: PSA for Poverty

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/View.aspx?id=15801>

School: Geary Elementary *City:* Geary, New Brunswick *Grade:* 5

GECS Grade 5 students made their very own PSA. Students toured Oromocto & Area Clothing & Food Bank where they help unload groceries and packed food boxes. They discussed why these banks are needed how they can build their own Geary Changes Food Bank.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f3SweZCbe8>

Project title: Poverty Awareness and Education

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/showcase/View.aspx?id=18871>

School: Mary Queen of Peace *City:* St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador *Grade:* 6

Students learn about poverty and how it impacts St. John's. Students worked with Citizen's Voice, a solution-based discussion forum for poor people. They visited the Gathering Place, a center building community and providing nourishment. Students worked with groups bringing together government, community, private sectors and the poor to develop solutions together.

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