

Interest Group Activity:

How can we have an impact?

I would like you to research an interest group, one that influences Canada or the world.

Governments pay attention to large groups of people...any guesses as to why?

Realizing the power of democracy, for the people and by the people; some choose to organize and bring their perspective to the forefront. Welcome to the world of interest groups. They can secretly influence government or loudly protest its actions.

They often try to influence government policy by political means, including lobbying, and may have great power in “calling the shots” at one or more levels of government. This can either help or hinder the public good depending on what the interest group stands for. Governments pay attention to interest groups, so we can benefit by learning more about them. We are defining interest groups fairly broadly. An interest group may be a charitable organization, a lobby group for businesses, an advocacy group for a particular group of people, or a non-governmental organization (NGO). All of them work or advocate for a particular cause.

I would like you to:

1. Select a group (make sure they have adequate information)
2. Uncover/Discover/Disclose their most important facts, when, why, where, who...all the vital interesting information that people would care about.
3. How can one join, and why bother becoming a member?
4. The group's opinion of government/the world/ and what needs changing. And whether or not you agree!
5. In your group of 2 or on your own, create an interesting, creative, and informative flyer (8.5 x 11). On the front, have a catchy picture, phrase, statistics, etc. On the back side, include specific information about the group. The flyer must include the following information:
 - a) Name of the interest group
 - b) **Concise** large sub-headings and summary information gathered about the group
 - c) Interest group's logo and/or motto
6. You will present your research to the class in an interesting and creative manner.
 - a) You must have cue cards with your presentation to **HAND IN!**
 - b) Your reaction to the interest group. This may include: most interesting facts, pro's and con's of this group. Be informative and to the point: 3-4 minute presentation.

Grading:

Poster:

/10 - the information you glean

/10 - the way you word your info for maximum comprehension

Presentation:

/2 - Cue cards

/3 - Clear communication to the class

Possible Groups: (you may choose another with the teacher's permission)

1. Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada
2. Amnesty International www.io.org/amnesty
3. Assembly of First Nations
4. Association for the Preservation of English
5. Canadian Association of Retired Persons
6. Canadian Blood Services
7. Canadian Council on Smoking and Health
8. Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses
9. Canadian Federation of Students
10. Canadian Labour Congress
11. Canadian Red Cross www.redcross.ca
12. Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights
<http://www.front.web.net/canadem>
13. CAVEAT - Canadians Against Violence <http://www.caveat.org/>
14. Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
15. Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario †
16. Christian Labour Association of Canada †
17. Citizens for Public Justice †
18. Committee for Fair Taxation
19. Conference Board of Canada
20. Consumers Association of Canada
21. Convention on the Rights of the Child
22. Doctors Without Borders www.dwb.org
23. Empire Club
24. Foster Parents
25. Fraser Institute
26. Greenpeace www.greenpeacecanada.org
27. Human Rights in Action <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyerSchoolBus/humanrights/index/html>
28. International Committee of the Red Cross www.icrc.org
29. Kids Help Phone
30. Kiwanis Club
31. Knights of Columbus †
32. Mothers Against Drunk Driving
33. National Action Council (Committee?) on the Status of Women
34. National Anti-Poverty Organization
35. National Rifle Association
36. Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools www.oacs.org
37. Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops † www.OCCB.on.ca
38. Oxfam Canada www.oxfam.ca
39. Parents for Educational Choice
40. Right to Life Canada †
41. Rotary Club
42. Save the Children Canada www.savethechildren.ca
43. Students Against Drunk Driving
44. UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org>
45. YMCA www.ymca.ca
46. YWCA www.ywca.org
47. WarChild www.warchild.ca
48. Women's Environment and Development Organization <http://www.wedo.org>
49. World Alliance for Citizen Participation <http://www.civicus.org>
50. World Vision † www.worldvision.ca