

# Classroom Resources

## Focus on Immigration



*Strangers Becoming Us is a new secondary school resource package that was released to high schools in the spring of 2001. It provides the most recent immigration facts in a solid educational package.*



**T**here is a lot of expertise behind this resource. It was developed in partnership with CERIS, the Joint Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement. CERIS researchers work with other experts in the field to conduct research on immigration. Their research is used by policy makers, the press, and educators.

Strangers Becoming Us evolved from a popular radio series on immigration hosted by Dr. Morton Beiser, Director of CERIS and Professor of Cultural Pluralism and Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Beiser worked with Classroom Connections, a non-profit resource development company to produce a really innovative, classroom-ready resource package. The student activities were written by award-winning high school teacher Tom Morton, and were designed to increase understanding of the issues and questions surrounding immigration. The program provides an up-to-the-minute and well-balanced look at Canada's current and historical immigration picture. Thought-provoking activities encourage exploration of questions like: "Who won and who lost in the history of immigration in Canada?" "Who should get in?" and "How can immigrants strike a balance between their traditions and mainstream Canadian life?"

Reviewing teachers in History, Politics, Law and ESL have found the materials to be thorough, current, and easy-to-use in single lessons or as a unit. They reported the activities to be engaging and clear and also emphasized the value of the program in developing an inclusive environment for multi-cultural classrooms.

The resource was developed to meet the curriculum expectations of Secondary

School Social Science programs (Grades 10–12), specifically Canadian History. The package consists of an audio CD, a transcript of the CD, a 44-page teacher's resource guide and the book, *Strangers at the Gate*, by Dr. Beiser. All the resources are fully reproducible. There is an equally exciting elementary version that has also been distributed to schools across the country.

Copies of the Strangers Becoming Us Secondary or Elementary programs can be obtained through your school's history/social studies department or through your librarian. These resources are provided free to schools through Classroom Connections, a non-profit organization that supports publicly funded education by providing free curriculum-based resources to schools and community groups across Canada. These free educational programs and materials are made possible through the joint efforts of business, school, government, and community organizations. If you are unable to locate the resource in your school, contact Classroom Connections at: (888) 882-8865, or email: [classroomconnections@sympatico.ca](mailto:classroomconnections@sympatico.ca). To view or download the full selection of free resources produced by Classroom Connections, visit their Web site at [www.classroom-connections.com](http://www.classroom-connections.com). ☺

*The following page is an excerpt from one of the lessons in the resource package. Although this sheet is reproducible as is, the objectives, background information, and teacher instructions have not been included due to space restrictions. The full lesson can be found on pages 33 to 43 in the Strangers Becoming Us Student Activity Guide.*