



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | New Teacher's Guide!

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

"I am greatly concerned that there is so little public knowledge of the constitutional rules that govern our parliamentary system of government. These rules are not formally written down in a legal text or taught in our schools." — Peter Russell, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Toronto, [Toronto Star](#), Dec. 3, 2008

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The recent constitutional crisis spawned a heated national debate about exactly how parliamentary democracy works. I have to admit that it was a treat to see an old political science professor of mine emerge as the leading authority on the subject

and to be called upon to advise both the Prime Minister and the Governor General.

Pierre Trudeau was so right when he remarked that living next to the United States was like sleeping with an elephant — "No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, ...one is affected by every twitch and grunt". As much of our population resides along a narrow strip close to the American border, it is not unusual that we are not only interested in their political happenings, we sometimes forget just how different our systems are. In comparison to the 18 month election campaigns now common in the States, our scant 5 to 8 week campaigns and understated transfer of power can, at times, go unnoticed by the rest of the world. That is, until last December, when our 'crisis' came to the attention of CNN, FOX News and achieved lead story status on [The Daily Show with Jon Stewart](#), who commented with interest on the fact that elections in Canada can be sparked by "non-confidence" in the governing party.

Much of the debate centred on whether in the midst of a global economic downturn, all this talk of historical precedent, constitutional interpretation, and democracy was necessary. Misinformation abounded while Canadians became impatient with the process. What transpired was fascinating, dramatic, edifying and important. It was history in the making. Our history.

This week's issue of **Chalk Talk** features the introduction of a new teacher's guide that deals with Canada's early history of trading and settlement.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view

Hbc — 'Our History is Canada's History'



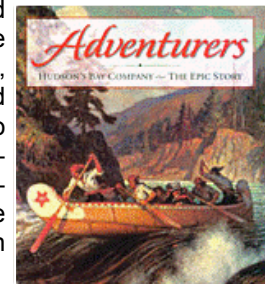
Founded in 1670, **The Hudson's Bay Company (Hbc)** is Canada's oldest company. The fur trade initially provided quality furs to make felt for the [hat industry](#). The company's commercial activities played a central role in the [exploration and subsequent settlement](#) of the west and north of Canada.

The history of **Hbc** is a part of school curriculum across Canada. The company takes pride in telling the story of their unique position in Canadian history by offering a variety of quality educational resources, free of charge, in print and online, to Canadian classrooms, for students of all ages and grade levels.

Adventurers — NEW Teacher's Guide!!

Adventurers — Hudson's Bay Company — The Epic Story, 2000 [revised 2008]

Hbc's cornerstone publication, introduced in 2000, is a lavishly illustrated book, by noted Canadian historian Christopher Moore which provides an overview of the company's history from the first voyage of the **Nonsuch** in 1668 to modern day. Students can experience the lives of the hardy trappers and traders, the bitter rivalries of the Baymen and the Nor'Westers, the settlement of the West and the Company's expansion into the far North. The cast of real-life characters includes Radisson, des Groseilliers, Prince Rupert, Samuel Hearne, John Rae and Lord Strathcona. Also available in French.



New! **Adventurers** now offers a 24-page **Teacher's Guide** available in both English and French, in hard copy or downloadable from Hbc's heritage website, to make it easier to get the most out of the content in this wonderful publication. **Educators can order a free copy of the new**

Adventurers Teacher's Guide and a class set (30) at www.4edu.ca/tors/hbctales/hbcAdventurers. (Please note that print quantities are limited.)

[Adventurers](#) is just one of a number of free educational resources offered by Hbc. Please see this

the many free teachers' resources on offer.
[As always, your feedback is important to us.](#)

Mary Kovack

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week's **Website of the Week** feature, below, for more Hbc 'Exploring Our History' program, print and online heritage resources, including the very popular, **Tales from the Bay** historical comic book which has seen more than 72,000 copies distributed to classrooms since its re-introduction in January 2008.

[\[Source: Hbcheritage.ca\]](http://Source:Hbcheritage.ca)

Website of the week

Hudson's Bay Company's
"Exploring Our History"
PROGRAM

Our History is Canada's History... and it's FREE for the asking!



Ressources bilingues accessibles en ligne
Bilingual Resources Available Online

In 1780, when Hudson's Bay Company first introduced its emblematic, multi-striped "point" blanket, Hbc had already been in business for almost 130 years, its story woven into the fabric of Canada's earliest history. From York Factory to James Bay, Fort Garry to Vancouver Island, Hbc traders were busy exploring the country that was to become the Canada we know today and building outposts that developed into settlements. If you've ever wondered about the origins of many of the towns, cities, public spaces and historical properties that Canadians live in and enjoy today, check out [Hbc's Heritage website](#) to view their free educational publications.

Tales from the Bay, 2008

Last year's re-launch of Hudson's Bay Company's cherished educational resource for Canadian students, has been a resounding success! Long out of print, **Tales from the Bay** was originally published in 1995 to help celebrate Hbc's 325th anniversary. This historical comic book featuring three stories drawn from the Company's rich history has remained a favourite of teachers and of students.

Tales from the Bay uses the universally appealing comic-book style to make history accessible to students. A detailed Teacher's Guide, created by teachers for teachers, helps integrate the content into lesson plans. And best of all – it's free!



Educators can order the teacher's guide and class set of comic books at www.4edu.ca/tors/hbctales.

To learn more about Hbc Heritage resources, [click here](#).



Activities for Canada's Future Historians!!

In addition to its wonderful array of educational publications, Hbc offers many fun, interactive online activities that will help junior students to learn about the history of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Complete with maps, timelines and historical images, students can discover the role that Canada's oldest company played in the settlement of the central, western and northern stretches of modern day Canada.

Learning Centre: Young Explorers

Colouring Pages

Add some colour to our past! Download an Hbc colouring book.

Hbc Timeline

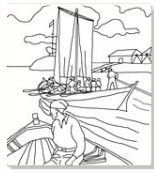
Travel through time with the Hbc interactive timeline!

Maps

See Rupert's Land, voyageur routes, fur trade forts and retail establishments - and get a feel for how Hbc came to span a nation.

Tales from the Bay E-Books

Dramal Adventure! Tragedy! Discover amazing tales in this comic book that you'll want to read over again!



Students will also enjoy Hbc's colouring pages featuring drawings adapted from paintings in Hbc's historical collection. [Click here](#) to view.



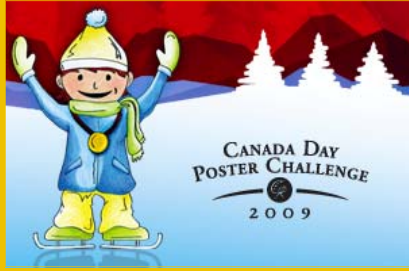
Adventurers
E-Books
Curl up with a good book. Learn about Hbc from this history written especially for younger readers.

Image Gallery

See the faces and places that make up our colourful past!



Canada Day Poster Challenge 2009
Deadline is February 28!!!



Each year, students ages 5 to 18 are invited to take part in the **Canada Day Poster Challenge** by designing a theme-based poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian.

This year's theme, **With Glowing Hearts**, looks ahead to the 2010 Olympic Games inviting students to include winter sports and culture into their drawings. For more details on the **Celebrate Canada!** Poster Challenge and related events, [click here](#). Deadline is February 28, 2009!

[\[Source: Canadian Heritage Canada\]](#)

February is Black History Month — Learn and Celebrate!



Historica invites educators to explore its comprehensive website dedicated to the history of Canada's Black Community. Written by Rosemary Sadlier, President of the Ontario Black History Society since 1993, who was instrumental in making the celebration of Black History Month a national event in Canada, this wonderful resource includes stories and timelines chronicling enslavement, immigration, settlement and contributions to Canadian society. Be sure to check out the special section [For Teachers](#) which features dozens of lesson plans, links and information on how the resources correlate to provincial curricula. To view this website, [click here](#).

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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