

Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | Forces of Nature

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,



From time to time, I find myself day-dreaming about a vacation on some beautiful beach, my toes in the sand, cooled by a gentle breeze, with the sound of the waves lulling me into a calm repose.

An idyllic image but, in real life, we know that water and wind can be unpredictable and destructive. Can any of us erase from our minds the devastating and heart-breaking images of the recent severe earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit Japan? Further complicated by the damage done to one of its nuclear plants, these events do not only have an immediate impact but will take many years of recovery in order to rebuild homes, institutions and infrastructure. But rebuild they must, and rebuild they will. The people of Japan have shown an admirable strength and dignity in the face of disaster that is truly inspirational.

Closer to home, Canadians in the prairie provinces are preparing to deal with massive Spring flooding currently in its initial stages. How should we react? Is there anything we can do? How can we make young people understand the complex scientific, geographical and environmental influences that are at play? Learning about the underlying factors, the potential risks, and methods used to prevent and deal with natural disasters may help to instill empathy in our children for the people who must face these very human challenges. It may, also, encourage them to want to pursue careers where they can help to find better ways to predict these events in order to protect people, homes, public and private institutions, and to minimize the tragic human toll.

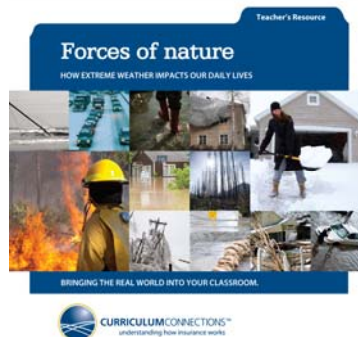
This week's issue features a new resource that will spark discussion in the classroom about the risk and impact of extreme weather and natural disasters. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. Please visit www.4edu.ca to view the many free resources available.

[Your feedback is welcome!](#)

Mary Kovack

New Curriculum Connections teaching resource!

"Forces of Nature: how extreme weather impacts our daily lives" is the Insurance Institute of Canada's newest Curriculum Connections' classroom resource, designed to bring the real world of extreme weather and catastrophes into environmental science and geography classrooms. The resource (*shown, below*) explores the important role of the insurance industry in helping victims and communities to recover from natural disasters. Insurance is all about assessing the risks, determining the probabilities of severe weather occurring, and playing a proactive part in researching and promoting prevention strategies and ways to lessen the impact.



Real news coverage of severe weather and natural disasters from CTV provides the backdrop for the 'Forces of Nature' 14-minute DVD, which focuses on four of the most devastating natural disasters in Canadian history: the Quebec ice storm (1998), Hurricane Juan that hit Halifax (2003), the Peterborough Flood (2004), and the Kelowna Fires (2005). The stories are told by industry professionals – Donna Robinson (Ottawa), Grant King (Halifax), Stephen Scullion (Kitchener), Greg Thierman (Kelowna) and Paul Kovacs of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR).

The DVD is accompanied by a 13-lesson resource for teachers to use in the classroom. 'Forces of Nature' expands the discussion about risk management and insurance into environmental sciences and geography classes. As part of the discussion about hurricane force winds, one of the 13 lessons includes an experiment where the students create houses to scale using paper, cardboard, popsicle sticks, glue, etc. and then try and blow them down using a hair dryer, fan, leaf blower or other wind source. This experiment re-enacts one that was conducted by ICLR [in partnership with the insurance industry] that has been done in a test wind tunnel at the University of Western Ontario which attempts to blow the roof off of full-scale houses.



Insurance Institute

Feedback from teachers who attended science and geography teacher conferences last Fall has been positive and enthusiastic. Students are sure to find the lessons interesting and topical. [Order yours today!](#)

If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.
-- Abigail Van Buren



CAREERCONNECTIONS™
find your place in insurance



Educators are invited to visit the **Career Connections Web site** at www.career-connections.info to review a variety of career development tools available on-line. Simply go to the 'Teachers' section to view an 8-minute career video, read on-line career profiles and watch the short video clips for the 9 roles in insurance that are identified. You can **order a FREE 'Careers in Insurance' teachers' kit (shown, right)** to lead the lesson, show the career video and handout career information to your students.

The Insurance Institute's revised **Career Connections** program makes it as easy as possible for teachers to bring the real world into the classroom and to help students find their place in the insurance sector. The Insurance Institute works on behalf of the entire insurance industry representing those who help manage home, auto and business risks. As one educator to another, its aim is to build a better understanding of insurance among tomorrow's consumers and to promote career opportunities in this little-known industry – as there are many opportunities currently and forecasted, given the changing demographics of those employed in the industry. It's relevant and timely to introduce insurance concepts and careers to high school students just as they are about to earn their driver's license, or leave home, or start a business or do some career exploration.

Your gateway to the
property and casualty
insurance industry



Visit www.career-connections.info



Insurance is already part
of everything you do.™

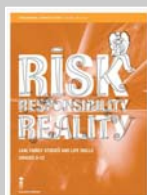
FIND YOUR CAREER IN IT.

Curriculum Connections

The Insurance Institute's website provides a gateway to many other classroom-ready resources that comprise the Curriculum Connections Program aimed at helping teachers and students build a better understanding of general insurance. Depending on your provincial curriculum, you may also have responsibilities for teaching about character development; making better decisions; personal, social and corporate responsibility; as well as personal and professional ethics. The Curriculum Connections program offers a number of teachers' resources, for order or download, to help you bring real world examples into the classroom and fulfill your curriculum objectives:



Know Your Risk



Risk Responsibility Reality



You're IN Business

Please visit the 'Teachers' section at www.career-connections.info for rubrics by subject and province that will demonstrate how these resources can fit with your curriculum.

To order any of these free resources, visit www.career-connections.info.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Conferences & Workshops

'Career Connections' conducts workshops at teacher conferences throughout the year.

To help teachers gain a better understanding of the insurance industry and how Career Connections connects insurance to students in a real way, the Insurance Institute (IIC) representatives will be attending a number of teacher conferences across Canada this spring. Educators are invited to stop by the IIC booth display to pick up free teacher resources and find out how the lessons fit into the provincial curricula. At some conferences, IIC will also be presenting workshops to demonstrate how these resources help explain the important role insurance plays in our everyday lives and the relevance of how learning about insurance can inform students' future career and life decisions. Below is a list of the conferences where representatives of Career Connections will be in attendance.

April 28-30, 2011

May 1-3, 2011

May 5-6, 2011

OSEE, Toronto, ON

OCEA, Toronto, ON

OBEA, Toronto, ON



Sign up today! Visit the Career Connections Booth!

If you miss any of these Spring teacher conferences,
check out future opportunities, [on-line](#).

Education News and Related Articles

[Earthquake - Japan one month after – by numbers -- The Associated Press, Globe & Mail, April 11, 2011](#)

"A month after a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit northern Japan on March 11, the challenges seem as daunting as ever:

Two: The number of aftershocks on Monday. In Iwaki, a city close to the epicentre of Monday's tremor, a landslide brought down three houses, trapping up to seven people. Four were rescued alive, but one of those – a 16-year-old girl – died at hospital.

Five: The number of communities added Monday to a list of places people should leave to avoid long-term radiation exposure. The evacuation radius around the Fukushima Daiichi plant has been extended to 20 kilometres. Progress in stabilizing the complex comes slowly most days, or not at all, as the new tremors and radiation repeatedly halt work.

70,000: The number of people already evacuated from near the nuclear plant. Another 130,000 living further away have been told to leave voluntarily or remain indoors due to disruption to supply lines and services.

25,000: The number of people believed to have been killed in the dual disaster, but many of those bodies were swept out to sea and may never be found. So far, more than 13,000 deaths have been confirmed, while 13,700 names are still on the missing list.

190,000: The number of people who are living in shelters, according to the national disaster agency. Homes near the nuclear plant may be intact, but it's not known when owners will be able to return to them.

240,000: The number of people without electricity. Facing the prospect of massive shortfalls in the hot summer months, the government is asking companies to cut their consumption drastically or face mandatory energy caps.

210,000: The number of people without running water. Continuing aftershocks are delaying progress on restoring services.

\$310-billion: The damage estimated in areas crushed by the wave. The bustle of the cleanup still hasn't reached many places. Several kilometres north of the industrial city of Kamaishi, crumpled cars still sit in living rooms and atop buildings."

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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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