



## 2017 HOLOCAUST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENT BRIAN PENDLEBURY

Brian Pendlebury teaches social studies at Strathcona High School in Edmonton, Alberta. His courses focus on European history, genocide and the Holocaust. While teaching about the Holocaust, Brian tries to engage the students' capacity for critical thinking, aiming to increase their understanding of the nature of prejudice that set the stage for a genocide.

### YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION IN REVIEW

Participation in the CSYV Holocaust Scholarship program allowed Brian to develop his teaching approach, equipping him with the tools to effectively address and share with his students some of the lessons of the Holocaust. Following the completion of the in-class seminar at Yad Vashem, Israel, Brian started to apply what he learned to his teaching curriculum. He organized a guest lecture, inviting Holocaust survivors to speak on their experiences, to allow his students the opportunity to learn from first-hand accounts of the Shoah. His participation in the program also informed his design for a new course dedicated to the Shoah.

Understanding the importance of survivors' testimonies within Holocaust education, Brian organized a lecture by two Holocaust survivors, Eva Olsson and George Goldsand, on February 28, 2018. The structure of the lecture was twofold. During the first presentation, Eva Olsson spoke in front of the entire student body consisting of over 1500 pupils. Following the talk, she received a standing ovation. For the second component, survivors participated in discussion sessions with a smaller number of interested students. Students were moved by survivors' testimonies and appreciated the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust directly from Shoah survivors.



#### ILLUSTRATIONS THAT BRIAN USED IN HIS CLASS: CHANNELLING POPULAR DISCONTENT - THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST.

In order to develop Holocaust education at Strathcona High School, Brian developed a new lesson: *Channelling Popular Discontent - The Rise of Anti-semitism and the Holocaust*. The goal of the lesson is to show students how long standing prejudices, combined with a rejection of liberal ideas, resulted in the largest mass genocide in human history. Lesson include survivor testimonies and a video about Nicholas Winton, who was recognized as Righteous among the Nations\* for rescuing over 600 Jewish children during the Holocaust. Concluding the lesson with a story about the Righteous among the Nation shows students the triumph of good over evil. Specifically, it demonstrates that some ordinary individuals were capable of extraordinary courage during the Shoah. To prepare students and to deepen their engagement with the material, they are required to read the biography of Nicholas Winton before viewing the video.

To further advance Holocaust education, Brian is planning to continue the Holocaust survivor speaker series at his school. Additionally, he is submitting an application for the 2019 Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention. His presentation will address how educators can implement Holocaust education within the broader curriculum, demonstrating the value of devoting extended class time to the Shoah. During the presentation, Brian will also introduce teachers with available resources in Holocaust education. Finally, he will share his experience with the CSYV Holocaust Scholarship Program, encouraging educators from across the country to submit their applications.

\*The title *Righteous Among the Nations* is awarded to non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives and the lives of their families to rescue Jews during the Holocaust.