

Scientology suckers BC Ministry of Education with YHRI scam

I'm sure B.C. kids need Scientology's help

Victoria directs teachers to religious group's human-rights websiteBy Ethan Baron, The Province

January 29, 2009

[Image caption: Scientologist and couch jumper Tom Cruise waves to fans Monday at the Russia premiere of his latest film, Valkyrie.

Photograph by: Igor Rodin, AFP/Getty Images]

Attention students: it's now OK to jump up and down on your desks and rave about your latest crush.

The Ministry of Education is referring teachers to an organization set up by the Church of Scientology, the group made infamous by Tom Cruise, the raving couch-bounder and Scientology adherent. Two ministry teacher-support documents direct teachers to the website of Los Angeles-based Youth for Human Rights International (YHRI). [...]

The Church of Scientology, founded by sci-fi writer L. Ron Hubbard, set up YHRI in 2001. This group holds events and produces materials to advance the teaching of human rights to children and adults around the world.

And get this: the mayor of an Argentina city was so impressed with YHRI that he put its materials into 90 schools. The name of the mayor's city? Moron. To be fair, Argentinians put an accent over the second 'o.'

And since I'm being fair, while I'm noting that Statistics Canada lists Scientology on its "classification for religious denomination" directly below Satanism, I'll point out that StatsCan's list is alphabetical.

The Education Ministry was not exactly jumping up and down to answer questions about the inclusion of this Scientology group in its teaching-aid materials. A spokesman who didn't want to be identified said the ministry doesn't endorse the websites, and that if teachers want to use them in class, they need approval from their school board, or from an "authority" that the spokesman wasn't able to define.

I went down to the B.C. Church of Scientology, a storefront on Hastings Street just west of the Downtown Eastside, to see what they were all about. They offered to give me a free 200-question personality test.

Amazingly, I had the results back in about 10 minutes. Goodness, I had no idea I was so screwed up.

For starters, I am severely depressed. On a scale of minus-100 to plus-100, I was 10 points up from rock bottom. My mind is unstable, and "dispersed." The nice young man named Curtis who interpreted my line-graph score explained that I have a hard time focusing on tasks. As if! Now what was I, uh, oh right, a column.

Curtis said I scored far from the "inactive" level, but that's not so good, because I am, in fact, "manic."
Surebuddyanythingyou say.

Also, I lack empathy, and people may consider me "cold."

"Am I cold, Cheryl?" I asked a colleague when I got back to the office.

She hesitated. Then she hedged.

"I wouldn't say 'cold,'" Cheryl told me.

Oh God, it's all true.

But at least I have options.

While Curtis was scoring my test, I watched a short video on Dianetics, the "science" behind Scientology. Apparently, Dianeticists, or whatever the brains behind the operation call themselves, have discovered that all the bad stuff that happens to us is stored in a part of our brains called the "reactive mind," and we need to get rid of it and become "clear" so it stops making us unhappy.

Hmmmm. Dead parents. Dead friends. Divorce. Crime scenes. War zones.

It's no wonder I'm so messed up.

To help clear my admittedly overflowing reactive mind, I can buy the 460-page Dianetics book for \$25. Or, I can get a shorter version of 150 pages for \$18. Then, for \$40.95, I can take a course of one to three weeks. Golly, I told Curtis, that's not so expensive. I looked around their space on Hastings, which is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"How do you operate?" I asked.

"Well, if you want to be professionally trained, it's more expensive," Curtis told me, "roughly equivalent to a college education."

But what the heck, here in B.C., the ministry has put Scientology resources right in teachers' hands. We can get the students professionally trained even before they get to college. And I'm sure those kids are already way more troubled than me.

Excerpted from Ministry of Education online resources for BC teachers:

Social Justice 12: Teacher Guide

Selected web sites

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/sj12_teacherguide/sj12_websites.pdf

Although the following web sites do not have Recommended status, they are provided as support for teachers in the instruction and assessment of the Social Justice 12 curriculum.

The selected web sites are not intended to represent an exhaustive list; rather, these sites, current as of June 2008, represent a "starter set" of potentially useful sites relevant for the Social Justice 12 curriculum. Many of the sites include sections related to resources or education materials that may complement many of the topics in social justice.

[...]

Social Justice 12: Teacher Guide

Selected web sites

War Child Canada

www.warchild.ca/

Women's League Education and Action Fund

www.leaf.ca/

Western Canada Wilderness Committee

www.wildernesscommittee.org/

Why Democracy?

www.whydemocracy.net/

Without Prejudice: Resources for Change

www.accesstomedia.org/rfc/

WomenWatch

www.un.org/womenwatch

Women's Human Rights Net

www.whrnet.org/

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

www.wilpf.org/

The World Bank

www.worldbank.org/

World Health Organization (WHO)

www.who.int

World Trade Organization (WTO)

www.wto.org/

World Views Collaborative

www.worldviewscollaborative.org/index.html

Young People Connecting with the Commonwealth (Royal Commonwealth Society)

www.rcsint.org/youthchogm/

Youth for Human Rights International

www.youthforhumanrights.org

YOU CAN

www.youcan.ca

Youth Challenge International

www.yci.org

MAKING SPACE, GIVING VOICE
Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice Throughout the K-12 Curriculum
A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/making_space_response_draft.pdf

Developmental & Response Draft

The Ministry of Education is seeking feedback on this preview Draft. Teachers and interested members of the public are invited to use the Response Form available online to submit comments and ideas for further activities that can be included in the final version of the guide. The final format and design will enhance ease of access to information contained in the guide.

[...]

Selected Web Sites

Although the following web sites do not have Recommended status, they have been provided as support for the teachers in planning instruction and assessment related to diversity and social justice. Some sites are appropriate for student use, while others are more appropriate for teacher use. As with all supplementary resources, local approval is required before use with students. Teachers should preview the sites in order to select those that are appropriate for use by their students, and must also ensure that students are aware of school district policies on Internet and computer use.

The selected web sites listed here are not intended to represent an exhaustive list; rather, these sites, current as of April 2007, represent a "starter set" of potentially useful sites relevant for teaching social justice across a range of curricula. Many of the sites include sections related to resources or education materials that may complement many diversity and social justice topics.

[...]

Youth for Human Rights International

www.youthforhumanrights.org

Making Space, Appendices http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/making_space/mkg_spc_appd.pdf

Appendix B: Selected Web Sites

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As with all supplementary resources, local approval is required before use with students. Teachers should preview the sites in order to select those that are appropriate for use by their students, and must also ensure that students are aware of school district policies on Internet and computer use.

The selected web sites listed here are not intended to represent an exhaustive list; rather, these sites, current as of March 2008, represent a “starter set” of potentially useful sites relevant for teaching about diversity and social justice across a range of curricula. Many of the sites include sections related to resources or education materials that may complement many diversity and social justice topics.

[...]

Youth for Human Rights International www.youthforhumanrights.org

See also:

A BC High School student blogs about YHRI at his school (12 May 2008)

WWP Discussion