



Canadian  
Teachers'  
Federation

Fédération canadienne  
des enseignantes et  
des enseignants



April 24, 2017

Esther Enkin  
Ombudsman  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
P.O. Box 500 Station A  
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6

**Re: Deep concern about the educational value of the series *The Story of Us***

Dear Mrs. Enkin:

The Canadian Teachers' Federation joins the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones (National Federation of Francophone School Boards) in expressing deep concern about the educational value of the series *The Story of Us*.

We are concerned that the CBC wishes to give the series exposure in elementary and secondary schools across Canada via its Curio platform.

Our two organizations are unable to vouch for the educational value of the series in its existing form.

Because of its historical omissions, for example the deportation of the Acadians, its less than flattering depictions of emblematic Francophone figures from the history of Canada and the near-absence of comments by Francophones, this series offers an Anglo-centred version of the story that is far from being a shared or inclusive one.

We will therefore be recommending that our members refrain from using the series unless the CBC makes changes to avoid exposing students to an incomplete and distorted history of our country.

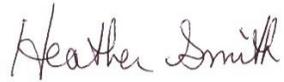
For example, as the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada) recently suggested, interviews with Acadian and Francophone leaders and historians could be incorporated into the material for distribution to schools.

If the series' primary target audience is the English-speaking public, as the CBC has indicated, it is essential that English-speaking Canadian elementary and secondary school students have access to an account that gives appropriate prominence to Francophones and Acadians without taking liberties with history.

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For any questions, comments or follow-up, please contact Sara Lafrance at [slafrance@ctf-fce.ca](mailto:slafrance@ctf-fce.ca).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Heather Smith in black ink.

CTF President  
Canadian Teachers' Federation

Handwritten signature of Melinda Chartrand in blue ink.

Melinda Chartrand  
President  
Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones

Founded in 1920, the Canadian Teachers' Federation is a national alliance of provincial and territorial Member organizations that represent nearly 232,000 teachers across Canada. CTF is also a member of the 32-million member Education International.

The Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones represents the 28 Francophone and Acadian school boards across Canada in minority situations. These entities provide educational services in French to 160,000 students attending nearly 650 educational institutions.

