



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, June 18, 2007**

### **\$2,000 GRANT AWARDED TO KATHLEEN MANNION OF ECOLE SECONDAIRE CATHOLIQUE DE PLANTAGENET**

**(Toronto)** - The Curriculum Foundation (TCF) is pleased to announce that Kathleen Mannion of Lefavre, Ontario is the 2007 recipient of the Janice Thomson Memorial Grant. Her innovative curriculum resource proposal, *Literacy Through Graphic Novels*, aims to use graphic novels to engage reluctant French-speaking students who are learning English as a second language.

*"...I was faced with a group of Grade 11 students who demonstrated apathy to learning English simply because they have struggled with the subject throughout their academic life...I had been researching the graphic novel genre and had decided to incorporate it into my teaching... Behavioural situations decreased, stress levels decreased, learning increased, and self-esteem increased. I realized the effectiveness of this type of learning through my students' evaluation scores and in the decrease in absenteeism..."*

-Kathleen Mannion, resource developer and educator.

*Literacy Through Graphic Novels* explores the genre of graphic novels as a teaching resource in classrooms. Students are able to express their creativity through artwork and drawing, while simultaneously improving both their written and oral skills. Using this youth-oriented material, the students stay engaged longer and ultimately have the desire to come to class and enjoy the lessons.

Teachers will be able to download *Literacy Through Graphic Novels* for free by March 2008, when it will have been developed through the aid of the Janice Thomson Memorial Grant. More than 25 free, high-quality resources are available on our Teacher-Developed Resources page on our website, [www.curriculum.org](http://www.curriculum.org). To date, more than 66,000 teachers have downloaded our high-quality resources.

Each year, TCF awards grants to Canadian educators for their unique and critically needed curriculum resource proposals.

TCF is the charitable arm of Curriculum Services Canada, the Pan-Canadian standards agency for the accreditation of educational products and programs. As a registered charity, TCF can accept donations which are used to provide teachers with the funding necessary to develop critically needed learning resources that enrich learning for students.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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