Lesson Activity 1: Discussion Questions Lesson: Bloody Sunday

Discussion Questions: The following questions can be used with students individually or in small groups to guide them through their understanding of the lesson materials including; the vignette, the backgrounder, the written and photographic primary sources.

1. What were the aims and goals of the Sit-Down Protesters?
2. How were these goals communicated?
3. What levels of support did they have, and by whom?
4. What resistance did they face by those opposed to their goals?
5. What responses did they receive for those in authority? To what degree and how were they positive or negative in the advancing of the goals of the protest?
6. What responses and reactions did they receive from the three levels of government – city, provincial, and federal?
7. What role did propaganda and the use of media play in the protest?
8. Examine the three differing outcomes of the protest at the three protest sites – the Georgia Hotel, the Art Gallery, and the Post Office. What factors influenced the three different outcomes and how?
9. In your informed opinion, to what degree did the protest actually serve the original aims and goals of the 1938 Sit-Down Protests?

**Investigate the Primary Sources – Part 1**

*If the students have not had a lesson on interpreting historical photographs, the exercise sheet included in this package “Photographic Analysis Sheet” may be useful before proceeding to this next section.*

Analyze the five primary source photographs contained in this package, and discuss them in groups of three.

Questions to consider:

1. Why did the photographer take a picture of this image?  What were the photographer’s point of view and what message was being conveyed?
2. Was it ‘staged’ for effect or was this a spontaneous (candid) shot?
3. What is missing, or was omitted? What lies outside the frame of the photograph?
4. Is there an event taking place? Describe, but do not interpret, what you see.
5. How does the visual make you feel? Describe your personal feelings and judgments about the image, based on what you have seen.

**Investigate the Primary Sources – Part 2**

Analyze the four written primary source contained in this package, and discuss them in groups of three.

Questions to consider:

1. What may be considered fact, opinion or inference in these written sources?
2. What are the sources, purposes, and point of views of the material?
3. What information is contained within these sources, and what is missing, or omitted?
4. What do the written accounts make you feel? Describe your personal feelings and judgments about the written, based on what you have learned about “Bloody Sunday”.
5. Research a more recent example of Sit-Down Strikes & Occupations and compare it to the events of Bloody Sunday 1938. To what degree are they similar and different? What role did the media play in these differences?