Lesson Activity 2: Teaching Suggestions Lesson: Connie Jervis

**Teacher Resource: Question Bank**

These questions are designed for use in whatever way works best for the class. Use as many or as few as needed and deal with individually, in small groups or with the whole class.

1. Define Arbitration as it relates to labour disputes. This might require a Web search. In either small groups or with the whole class, Brainstorm everyday situations that might benefit from this mechanism, whether or not they are relevant to labour issues. Display the definition and some scenarios on small posters.

2. Explain how the arbitration method is different from the model previously used in Langley.

3. Why did women teachers earn less than men for doing the same work? (Inference)

4. What social norms and expectations for women did Jervis and her colleagues come into conflict with as they fought for a salary increase?

5. The teachers were called “unpatriotic.” A. What had they done? B. Why might the board have chosen to use this particular slur?

6. The Langley School Board engaged in what might be called a ‘media war’ to attack the teachers. A. Provide two specific examples of the tactics the board used, noting particular word choices. B. Determine whether the board’s tactics were fair and justified by the situation.

7. Describe specific ways the LSB found itself on the wrong side of the law and explain why you think the LSB was willing to go that far to deny the arbitration award.

8. Connie Jervis and her colleagues engaged in what Vancouver newspapers called a “sit down strike.” For the profession, the era and the gender of most of the activists, this could be considered a very radical action. Do you agree? Define “radical action” and justify your answer with sound reasoning, referring specifically to the social expectations of teachers, of women and the political spirit of the era.

9. In what ways did Connie Jervis play against the traditional stereotype of a union leader?

10. Was it just or unjust for the Council of Public Instruction to fire the Langley School Board? Support your answer with direct reference to the reading.

11. Beginning with a definition of solidarity, explain how solidarity worked for the Langley teachers.