**A Canadian in the Depression**

**Your task is to take on the role of a Canadian in the Depression, 1930-1938.**

**Your goal is to describe how the Depression has altered your life and how things changed from the high times of the 1920’s. You select the role of one of the following characters:**

-a young drifter riding the rails in search of work

-a Relief Camp worker, angry with the government

-a prairie farmer, unable to make a living with your crops

-a prairie wife, left to manage the farm while your husband looks for work

-a politician, searching for ways to help people in the Depression

-a young female worker, trying to help support her family but barely earning enough to pay for food and rent

-a store owner, struggling to stay open in the Depression

-any other character you’d like to portray, provided it is a Canadian who was impacted by the Depression.

**Format:**

There are many options for your role-play. Consider your strengths and choose the best fit for you. Here are your options for the character you chose from above:

1. 4 diary entries, from different years during the 30’s, describing the hardships and struggles of daily life. Provide actual historical details. Entries should total 300-750 words combined.
2. A letter to the prime minister, either R. B. Bennett or Mackenzie King, explaining how you, a regular Canadian are suffering and what you’d like the government to do. Remember, Bennett was PM from 1930-1935, and King was PM from 1935 onward. Letter should total 300-750 words.
3. A Video Report: you play the character and speak to the camera (in costume even!) about your successes in the 20’s but then your struggles in the 30’s. How did you manage? What did you do? What was your greatest pain but also your greatest joy? Who helped you? 3-5 minutes in length.
4. A photo album of your existence in the Depression. Find photos online of people who represent your character. Use those photos to tell your story. Provide captions that explain your struggles and triumphs, what you did, how you managed. Use Powerpoint. It is available to you in the D2L tools. 7-10 photos with full descriptions appropriate for your character, describing the circumstances.

In order to show that you understand the political and social circumstances of the Great Depression, use actual historical events in your assignment. **For instance**:

-if you take the role of a relief camp worker, where was your camp? Research the actual locations of relief camps to demonstrate their isolation

-if you choose to be a prairie wife, how are you feeding your kids? Who is helping you? Find out how prairie women fed their families

-if you choose to depict a young female worker, what were the working conditions like for women? What pressures did you face?

-if you are a politician, what actual actions did you take to assist those in need? What real moves did politicians make in the 30’s?

Wherever possible, include actual historical events to show your knowledge of the Depression. Be creative but be historically accurate as well!

**Use the library databases to do research. They are in the Toolkit on our class D2L page, located on the left hand side.**

**Here are the passwords to the database for home use:** [**Database Logins and Passwords**](file:///C:\content\enforced\19604914-BL_CWS_CHC2D-02_810916_2122Sem1\Access%20&%20Password%20Helpsheet%20Digital%20Online%20Resources.pdf)