



From left, Tansy Summers-Lubar, Alexandra Arruda and Kyle Kenny look over a news clipping related to the Holocaust. The Level 3 students are among 24 Corner Brook High School students who will visit the Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C. next week.

## **History lesson; Students to get glimpse of Holocaust during Washington museum visit**

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**CORNER BROOK** — A group of 24 Corner Brook High School students are hoping to create change through philanthropy.

The students have been participating in the human rights and Holocaust studies program offered through the Asper Foundation, and are leaving this Sunday for Washington, D.C. to take part in a four-day Holocaust awareness tour. The foundation was created in 1983 by the late Izzy Asper, who believed philanthropy is a driving force behind positive change in people's quality of life throughout the world.

The mission of the human rights and Holocaust program is to promote the education of Canada's youth in the history of human rights and the Holocaust in order to disseminate knowledge, raise the moral and spiritual questions of these events in human history, and generate change for the benefit of society.

Students involved in the program have already spent 18 hours on tutorials dealing with the

Holocaust, when six million Jews were murdered under the Nazi regime in the 1930s and 1940s. The training sessions cover a variety of topics, from the history of the Holocaust to an examination of current human rights issues in the world.

The students also contributed, as the program expected them to do, 14 hours of volunteer time to humanitarian causes and community service projects.

The next step in the program is the trip to Washington, for which the foundation is paying half the associated costs. The students have undertaken a variety of projects to raise their portion of the costs.

“The Asper (Foundation) is trying to round out our community involvement and to raise awareness of human rights and the atrocities that have gone on,” said Kyle Kenny, a Level 3 student in the program. “We have done a lot about the Holocaust in school through different courses, but this is the most in-depth and personal we’ve ever gone.”

More than regular school

Alexandra Arruda, also in Level 3, agreed the program has taught participants more than a regular school course ever could.

“When you do history courses, it doesn’t get into it as much and now we’re learning more,” she said. “When we get to Washington, it will be a lot more emotional because we’ll be at the museum where there are actual things from the Holocaust and a lot more information.”

Tansy Summers-Lubar, another Level 3 program participant, took part in a letter-writing campaign to draw attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan in Africa as part of her volunteer component of the program. She is now keen on absorbing all the sights and sounds of the tour scheduled for Washington.

“I am definitely looking forward to seeing all the monuments in Washington, like the Vietnam war monument and the Holocaust museum,” said Summers-Lubar. “I have a cousin who lives in Ohio who told me the (Holocaust) museum is really graphic, but it is something you have to see.”

The group of students, accompanied by four chaperones, consists mostly of Level 3 students but also includes one Level 1 student and about a half dozen Level 2 students.

Only two schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, the other being Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John’s, are participating in the program.

Teacher Charles Pender said the Holocaust may have happened more than six decades ago, but there are still lessons today’s world can learn from that dark moment in human history.

“This program lets people know these kinds of things can and still go on — maybe in lesser numbers, but we have seen things such as the genocides in places like Darfur and Rwanda,” he pointed out. “This makes these students more aware and makes them ambassadors for

human rights and justice throughout the world.”

The students won't be finished with the program when they return next week. They will later have a special graduation ceremony during which each student will be presented with a Memorandum for Personal Responsibility, which aims to provide each with a sense of the importance that they participated in the program and to remind them that they have a personal responsibility for the world community.