Catch a commie

**Introduction:**

The year is 1932. Canada is in the middle of the Great Depression. People are out of work, hopeless, and looking for scapegoats. Groups seem to be popping up all over the country espousing radical new ideas.

One of these groups is the communists. Communists have recently taken over Russia and are dramatically reshaping that nation. Could that happen here? Is the government overdramatizing the power of these new ideas?

Each person will be given an identity. Your identity card will indicate if you are a citizen, a communist, or an undercover RCMP officer. The game will be played for 15 minutes. The RCMP and citizens will attempt to seek out all of the communists and put them in prison. The communists will attempt to form political groups and remain in the game for the entire 15 minutes.

**Instruction and Scoring:**

**Citizens and RCMP** – If you believe you’ve found a communist, go to the judge (teacher) and they will tell you if you’re correct. If you right, you collect 5 points and the communist is put in prison. If you’re wrong, the accused remains in the game and the citizen that implicated them will lose 2 points.

* The undercover RCMP officers will be told at the beginning of the game how many communists there are.

**Communists** – If you successfully discover an RCMP officer and then that officer attempts to capture you, the RCMP officer is out of the game. If you are able to discover at least 2 other communists and form a group, you will gain 10 points. You will earn 5 points for every 5 minutes you remain in the game.

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Complete the following and submit it to the instructor:

Do you believe that the fear of Communism was exaggerated in Canada in the 20s and 30s, and was the government justified in suspending the freedoms of some of these political groups? Explain.

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Under the current Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canadian’s freedom of expression is protected though it’s not absolute. The Charter says that our freedoms are subject to “such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.” Our courts have consistently limited “hate speech” though this has been difficult to define. Why is freedom of expression so important, and when should the government step in to limit this right?

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