

**Changing Communities:  
A Guide for Social and Community Activists  
Second Edition**

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**Test Bank**

Canadian Scholars

**Toronto | Vancouver**

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## Chapter 1: Why Be an Agent of Change?

### Multiple Choice and True or False Questions

1. What do Viola Thomas, Nellie McClung, and Tommy Douglas have in common? (1–2)
  - a) **They are all Canadians who created significant social change.**
  - b) They are all Canadians who were imprisoned for their beliefs.
  - c) They are all Canadians who pushed for women's rights.
  - d) They are all Canadians who died before they were able to see the results of their hard work.
2. Social change is hard work that requires commitment, intelligence, and courage. (3)
  - a) **True**
  - b) False
3. Which of the following represents issues of deep interest to a large proportion of youth in Canada today, according to Spindel? (4)
  - a) Government-funded health care
  - b) Widespread unionization of workers
  - c) Affordable tuition fees
  - d) **Climate change**
4. Which of the following does Spindel argue is necessary for creating effective social change? (4)
  - a) Knowledge, skills, strategies, and tools
  - b) A framework for activism
  - c) An understanding of basic power dynamics
  - d) **All of the above**
5. Which of the following people first said the line “If not me, who? If not now, when?” (5)
  - a) US band, *Rage Against the Machine*
  - b) **Former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev**
  - c) US civil rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - d) Former Canadian prime minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau
6. Billie is an activist who has been leading protests against a logging company working in the territory of her First Nation. She has been successful in getting widespread media attention and many of her community members are now expressing doubts about allowing logging to continue. The logging company reaches out and offers Billie a very lucrative position as the company's Indigenous Liaison, praising her concern for the

territory and the environment. What type of strategy would Spindel argue the logging company is using in this situation? (6–7)

- a) Equity hiring
  - b) Co-optation**
  - c) Organizational responsibility
  - d) Informal treaty building
7. According to Spindel, if means-and-ends moralists are successful in derailing support for social action, what is a likely outcome? (7–8)
- a) Activism against injustice gains popularity.
  - b) Activists are able to claim “the high road.”
  - c) Governments are able to get involved as activism is unlawful.
  - d) Greater injustices are allowed to prevail.**
8. Kiera and Harjit notice that a lot of their friends are becoming involved in anti-poverty marches and homelessness awareness campouts in order to increase awareness of these issues. They do not feel particularly motivated to join their friends on these campaigns, but they do send “likes” to their friend’s social media posts occasionally. When their friends ask them to attend a rally or even sign a petition however, they make excuses about why they are unable to. Spindel refers to these types of people as which of the following? (8)
- a) Free riders**
  - b) Troublemakers
  - c) The moral majority
  - d) Obstructers
9. When a change agent gets labelled as a troublemaker by people in power, who benefits? (9)
- a) Free riders
  - b) Troublemakers
  - c) Status quo defenders**
  - d) Lawmakers
10. Boyd is 100% committed to ending factory farming and leads a group of committed activists who stage sit-ins and protests of corporate offices. He thinks up most of the groups’ strategies and has been taking on most of the media and logistics for the group as well. While he is worried the others are not as committed to the cause as he is, he is starting to get resentful of the uneven workload he has been shouldering. Which of the following is the term Spindel uses to refer to this situation? (11)
- a) Status quo resistance
  - b) Political free riding
  - c) Obstructive group dynamics**
  - d) Divide and conquer co-optation

### **Short Answer Questions**

1. Brazilian activist Paulo Freire once said that “washing one’s hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not be neutral.” Explain what you think he meant by this statement. (7–8)

**Answers will vary but should include some or all of the following:**

- What about the place of relative privilege the person is speaking from if they are able to “wash their hands” of the conflict?
  - What are the means that are actually open to marginalized people? It could be considered wishful thinking to be able to only use perfectly “moral” means.
  - One should consider the ethics and morality of injustice; means-and-ends moralists are passive but real allies of the powerful.
  - Neutralizing dissent and encouraging support for that often allows greater injustices to prevail.
2. The Mexican leader Emiliano Zapata famously said, “It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees.” Describe some of the positive outcomes of the relationship between standing on your feet and organizing for social change. (12–15)

**Answers will vary but should include some or all of the following:**

- The antidote to societal numbness and depression is activism.
- Looking away from injustice is making a decision to live on one’s knees.
- Living on one’s knees often creates bad or worse situations for others around one.
- Standing on one’s feet may provide self-esteem, integrity, and respect.
- It may provide one’s life with meaning.
- One can take comfort in doing the right thing.
- It may reinforce one’s beliefs and values and influence others similarly.