



Invitation to participate in the Education In Action project in Guatemala March 2-16, 2017 (tentative dates)

SJF Subsidy program: For Young Workers (18 – 35 years).

PSAC Social Justice Fund invites your members to participate in the next “Education In Action” project in Guatemala for 2 weeks in spring of 2017.

Education In Action is supported by the PSAC Social Justice Fund to engage members and other Canadians to deepen their understanding of Guatemala and to build solidarity with Mayan communities in Guatemala.

The PSAC Social Justice Fund is offering a subsidy to four (4) Young Workers for the 2017 delegation. If you know of a young member who would benefit from this opportunity, please forward the attached application to them. More information is provided about the project in the attached application.

Members who receive a subsidy from the PSAC Social Justice Fund, will be asked to submit a short report with pictures on a particular topic which will then be posted as an educational piece on the PSAC Social Justice Fund website.

SJF will subsidize up to \$2,500 for travel, food and accommodation. The subsidy does not cover loss of salary.

In addition to the subsidies provided to four young workers, the project is open to all PSAC members, who are able to cover their own expenses (see application for details).

Space is limited therefore applications must be received by November 4, 2016.

Education in Action inspires people in meaningful solidarity with Guatemala.

Since the program was founded by former PSAC member Roberto Miranda, 106 people have had the opportunity to learn from Mayan farmers, who are members of the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA), a grassroots cooperative working to improve their livelihoods.

Since 2006, 40 members of the PSAC have participated in the delegations to Guatemala: AGR local 30048, local 0014 - CEIU local 631 - CIU local 10008, local 019 - PSAC local 70181 - UCTE local 76 – UEW - NHU – UNDE/DCL 50705 - UNE local 80081, local 60400 - UNW local 10 local 9 - UPCE local 70180 - USGE local 80002, local 60074, local 50026 - UTE local 70030, local 7000 - YEU

The CCDA has been defending the economic, social and cultural rights of the Mayan people since 1982, struggling for equitable land distribution, carrying out sustainable agricultural development and encouraging the economic empowerment of women.

The CCDA also produces the naturally grown and fairly traded coffee, Café Justicia, sold by volunteers across Canada and sponsored by the PSAC Social Justice Fund. All proceeds are returned to the CCDA to help support their programs, the salary of a full-time school teacher, improving access to potable water and food security for the population.

http://psac-sjf.org/solidarity-its-true-form-education-action?_ga=1.170335072.1770050626.1457107982

<http://education-in-action.squarespace.com/>

The group will participate in workshops, activities and will help to build a school or community centre.

THE GROUPS AGENDA WILL VISIT:

1. The Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) to learn about their work and their campaigns, and the benefits of belonging to the cooperative,
2. Communities that are building a sustainable way of living based on equality, access to education, land and potable water.
3. The coffee plantation that produces Café Justicia,
4. The Centre for Environmental Law and Social Action (CALAS). A centre that carries out research, education, advocacy on the rights of indigenous peoples affected by mining and environmental destruction,
5. Mayan women who have developed fish farms to support their families,
6. Schools where indigenous youth are empowered through education.

IMPORTANT:

1. You will be notified once your application is reviewed.
2. You must be 18 years and older to be eligible.
3. Space is limited, so please return your applications as soon as possible.
4. Participation fee is equivalent to US\$ 625.00 that will cover your travel in the country, accommodations and meals.
5. Cost of airfare from Canada to Guatemala and return.
6. The working languages will be in English and Spanish.
7. You will be required to have a valid passport. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/passport/index.asp>

Education In Action reserves the right to cancel this tour for reasons such as: not reaching the required number of participants for the tour; if deemed unsafe for reasons beyond our control; etc. Should the tour be cancelled, the participation fee will be refunded to you.

You will be required to participate in two separate days of orientation prior to traveling. This will be done by webinar.

You will be required to attend a gathering upon return to reflect and share your experiences. This will be done by webinar.

Please return your completed application by **November 4, 2016 to:**

PSAC Social Justice Fund
233 Gilmour Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0P1
C/O Janet St. Jean at stjeanj@psac-afpc.com
613-560-2974

Delegation to Guatemala 2017 – Application Form

A. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Name:	Applying for subsidy: YES or NO
Street Address:	Postal Code:
City & Prov:	Email:
Phone: (home):	Phone (cell):
Employer:	Position Title:
Name of Union & Local:	PSAC Member ID:

1. Valid Passport (Passport must be valid until six months after your date of return)?
You are unable to purchase your airline ticket without a valid passport.

2. Languages: What is your first language? _____

3. Do you speak Spanish?
____ (none) ____ (a little) ____ (somewhat) ____ (fluently)

B) GETTING TO KNOW YOU: (if necessary please use additional sheet for answers)

- What is your involvement with your union and/or your experience with social justice initiatives in your workplace and in your community?

- List the personal skills that you can bring to the group which you believe are strengths. Please include practical skills and knowledge (e.g. activism, profession (nurse, carpenter etc.), blogging, writing a project report, translating, construction experience, First-Aid certification, etc.)

- Why do you want to be a part of this delegation?

- How will you ensure that others in your community, workplace etc. are able to share this experience?

- What is your understanding of the political and historic situation in Guatemala and do you have any related skills and experience?

C) COPING SKILLS:

- Delegations to Guatemala are physically and emotionally demanding. Participants in these intensive tours are likely to experience some physical discomforts (e.g. air and noise pollution, stomach ailments) and emotional stresses (exhaustion, heat, unfamiliar food, lack of privacy, disagreement within the group, etc). How would you propose to handle stress under any of these conditions?

- Responsible Practices: In respecting cultural sensitivities, we are requesting that participants refrain from smoking and consuming alcohol during their participation on this delegation.

I respect and accept this practice, (please initial) _____

- What experience have you had in the following situations:

1. Living and working with people of a culture other than your own?

2. Living and working closely as part of a group?

- Describe a stressful situation that you have experienced and how you dealt with it.

- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

D) HEALTH:

1. Do you have sensitivities to air pollution? If you have environmental sensitivities, we encourage you to disclose your situation.

2. Do you have any health problems, allergies or illnesses, physical limitations? Please explain. Are you currently under a doctor's care and taking prescribed medication? Explain.
