



Invitation to the Guatemala project 2015

PSAC Social Justice Fund invites you to participate in the next Education In Action project in Guatemala for 2 weeks in spring, March 6 - 20, 2015.

The Education In Action (EIA) organization is supported in part by the PSAC Social Justice Fund and engages Canadian volunteers to deepen their understanding of Guatemala and building solidarity by working closely with the Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) who are strengthening communities in Guatemala.

Education in Action Inspires Members

EIA has inspired many PSAC members to get involved in meaningful solidarity with Guatemala. Twenty-seven PSAC members have participated in the program to build homes for impoverished families in the rural areas of the Guatemalan highlands. So far, 82 homes, 3 community centres and 3 schools have been built since 2006, when the program was founded by former PSAC member Roberto Miranda. Through EIA, members have an opportunity to work side-by-side with Indigenous families who are members of a Guatemalan farmers' cooperative, the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA), a grassroots organization working with Mayan farmers to improve their livelihoods.

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 organic and fairly traded coffee, Café Justicia, sold by volunteers across Canada. Café Justicia is made available to members through the Social Justice Fund office in Ottawa. All proceeds are designated for the housing program, paying the salary of a full-time school teacher, improving access to potable water and food security for the population.
<http://education-in-action.squarespace.com/>

Over the last few years, many rural families in Guatemala have faced a food crisis due to a serious drought and an aggressive blight that has destroyed the coffee harvest throughout Central America. Small producers have recorded major losses and many jobs have been lost.

Since 2006, 27 members of the PSAC have participated in the delegations to Guatemala organized by the SJF and Education in Action. Members from AGR, CEIU, NHU, UCTE, UEW, UNDE, UNE, UNW, UPCE, UTE, and YEU.

Thank you,

Education In Action
Application Form 2015
March 6 – 20, 2015

The application:

- a) You will be notified once your application is reviewed.
- b) You must be 18 years and older to be eligible.

PSAC Social Justice Fund (SJF) Sponsorship program for youth members (18 – 30 years). SJF will subsidize up to \$2,500 for travel cost to Guatemala, the project participation fee, and the travel costs, food and accommodation while in Guatemala. This subsidy does not cover loss of salary.

In addition to the four (4) subsidies, **the project is open to all PSAC members** who are able cover their own expenses airfare plus \$600 US project participation fee (which covers travel, food and accommodation in Guatemala).

- Space is limited therefore send your application soon to be considered.
- The working languages will be in English and Spanish.
- You will be required to have a valid passport.
<http://www.ppt.gc.ca/planification/index.aspx?lang=eng>
- 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, you will be notified and you will be refunded for your payments.
- You will be required to participate in 2 separate days of orientation prior to traveling. This can also be done via teleconferencing for those not able to be present on-site.
- You will be required to attend a gathering upon return on a mutually-agreed date, to reflect and share experiences. This can also be done via teleconferencing for those not able to be present on-site.
- You will be required to submit to the PSAC Social Justice Fund, a report of your experience accompanied with photos which will be posted on the PSAC Social Justice Fund website.
- Completed application form must be received by **December 8, 2014**. Mail to:

PSAC Social Justice Fund
233 Gilmour, 5th Floor, Ottawa, ON, K2P 0P1
Or, stjeani@psac-apfc.com Or, Fax: 613-560-6582

Delegation to Guatemala 2015 – Application Form

A. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Phone: (home):

(cell):

Email:

Local:

Component (if relevant):

- 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.

- Languages: What is your first language? _____

- 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 etc.), photography, blogging, writing project report, translating, construction experience, First-Aid certification, etc.)

- Why is it important for you 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:

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

- 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?

- **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.
