



Invitation to participate in the Education In Action project in Guatemala in 2016

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

PSAC Social Justice Fund invites your members to participate in the next Education In Action (EIA) project in Guatemala for 2 weeks, February 12 - 26, 2016.

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 sponsorship to four (4) Young Workers for the 2016 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 invitation.

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 Monday, November 23, 2015.

Education in Action Inspires People

EIA has inspired many people to get involved in meaningful solidarity with Guatemala. One hundred and three people have participated in the program to build homes for impoverished families in the rural areas of the Guatemalan highlands since 2007. Since the program was founded by former PSAC member Roberto Miranda, 86 homes, 3 community centres and 3 schools have been built. 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 in Canada through Education In Action 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, 32 members of the PSAC have participated in the delegations to Guatemala organized by the Social Justice Fund and Education In Action. Members from AGR, CEIU, CIU, NHU, UCTE, UEW, UNDE, UNE, UNW, UPCE, UTE and YEU.

Thank you,

Education In Action Application Form 2016

The application:

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

CRITERIA

- Space is limited, so please return your applications as soon as possible.
- 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 two 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 a report with pictures of your experience that we can post on the PSAC Social Justice Fund website.
- Please return completed application by November 23, 2015 to:

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

Delegation to Guatemala 2016 – Application Form

A. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Name:	
Street Address:	
City & Prov:	Postal Code:
Phone: (home):	Phone (cell):
Employer:	Position Title:
Name of Union & Local:	Email:

- 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.
