



Aspen Foundation Annual Appeal

2015.16

Dear Friends:

As Albertans and Canadians we have developed a society that has deeply held beliefs in the importance of caring for others and cooperating to improve our lives. One way we express these values is by building institutions that can help us achieve these goals. Institutions such as Medicare, the CBC, unions and our system of public education, to name just a few, are a part of our history and culture. How then do we ensure young people today and tomorrow learn about OUR history, culture and values?

Talking to many young people today, one will find that learning about social justice issues and participating in activities to make a better world are/were highlights of their schooling. They believe that this kind of learning is engaging and relevant. It ensures they are better prepared to take their place in a society that needs skills of cooperation and engagement, knowledge of the world around us, and an attitude that it is possible to create a better society and world.

Knowing how interested students are in learning and acting upon social injustices, the Aspen Foundation is continuing to find ways to make education more relevant for students. We are developing curriculum materials, providing professional development opportunities for teachers, supporting relevant student learning opportunities and engaging teachers in discussions of what a social justice education looks like. Many of our projects and programs can be found on our web site at: www.afle.ca.

One of the Aspen Foundation's on-going programs is our *Grants in Support of Social Justice Learning*. We have provided one-time, annual grants for students to do school projects on issues such as homelessness, recycling, working with seniors, First Nations culture and issues, and immigrants. Students have also done projects such as participating in a Social Justice Fair, developing a school social justice club and volunteering in the community.

Aspen will continue to publish our newsletter of information and resources for teachers. *The Bark* has provided many teachers with material they can use to teach social justice concepts to their students. If you would like to receive it, please ask to be added to our mailing list.

A project nearing completion is to develop a recording of Maria Dunn's *GWG: Piece by Piece* into digital form with lesson plans for grades 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 12. The student lessons will deal with issues such as immigrants, women in the workplace, assembly line work, collective bargaining, globalization and individualism versus collectivism. These issues are dealt with in a creative manner in grade level appropriate materials that includes activities engaging to students.

The Aspen Foundation's goal is to promote an education that values dignity, fairness, cooperation, equal opportunity for all, and a society where people are engaged through hope and optimism rather than fear, division, hopelessness and inequality. We believe this work is important because as working people, we need to see ourselves in our education system and in other societal institutions. Young Albertans engaged in learning about social justice and labour issues will build a better society and a better future for all.

Please help us with your annual support to provide students with a more relevant education!

Yours in solidarity,
Gary Hansen
Gary Hansen
Executive Director



Aspen Foundation

for Labour Education

Support/Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____ Fax (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Annual Individual Membership Fee

\$10

Tax Deductible Support. I will give an additional contribution of:

\$250 \$100 \$ 50

Other \$ _____

Mail your support to the address below or contribute on line at: www.CanadaHelps.org

Annual Institutional Membership Fee

Regular

Small \$ 50

Medium \$250

Large \$500

We will give an additional contribution of:

\$5000 \$2500 \$1000 \$500

Other \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Send donations to the address below: