



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Education in Action project Guatemala, March 2018

(Two weeks – exact dates will be confirmed later)
All applications must be received by October 31, 2017

Education in Action inspires people in meaningful solidarity with Guatemala.

The Education in Action project, supported by the PSAC Social Justice Fund, engages members and other Canadians to deepen their understanding of Guatemala and to build solidarity with Mayan communities.

PSAC Social Justice Fund (SJF) is organizing a 12-person delegation to travel to Guatemala in the spring of 2018 to work with, and learn from grass roots organizations empowering communities.

The project **is open to all PSAC members**, who are able to cover their own expenses (see application).

- Participation fee (US) \$625
(Participation fee covers all travel in Guatemala, accommodations and meals)
- Participants are responsible for their airfare from Canada to Guatemala and return.

SJF Subsidy program: The PSAC Social Justice Fund is offering subsidies to four PSAC young workers (18–35 years).

The PSAC Social Justice Fund is offering a subsidy to four young workers for the 2018 delegation. If you are a young worker or know of a young member who would benefit from this opportunity, please forward the attached application to them. More information is provided in the attached application.

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

Members who receive a subsidy from the PSAC Social Justice Fund, will be asked to write an article on a specific topic upon their return to Canada. This article will be posted on the PSAC Social Justice Fund website.

All participants are required to participate in two separate days of orientation prior to travelling, and another session upon returning, to reflect and share our experiences. These sessions are done on Saturdays and are done by webinar.

History: Roberto Miranda (1955-2011), PSAC activist and founder of the **Education in Action project** wanted to share this unique opportunity to work with and learn from communities and farmers of the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA), a grassroots cooperative working 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 cooperatively produced 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 such as the salary of a full-time school teacher, improving access to potable water and food security for the population.

Since 2007, members from different PSAC components have participated in this unique project: AGR, CEIU, CIU, PSAC local 70181, UCTE, UEW, NHU, UNDE/DCL, UNE, UNW, UPCE, USGE, UTE, YEU.

For more information, visit
[Education in Action, Canada – Guatemala, Solidarity works...](http://education-in-action.canada-guatemala.com)
education-in-action.squarespace.com/

The group will participate in workshops, marches, ceremonies and labour activities (coffee plantation and construction). **The group will visit:**

1. The Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) to learn about their work and their campaigns, and the benefits of belonging to a 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 all applications are reviewed.
2. You must be 18 years and older to be eligible.
3. Participation fee is (US) \$625. It covers your travel in the country, accommodations and meals.
4. You are responsible for the cost of your airfare from Canada to Guatemala and return. (Flights will be organized for you).
5. The working languages will be English and Spanish.
6. You will be required to have a valid passport (see www.cic.gc.ca/english/passport/index.asp).
7. Space is limited, so please return your application as soon as possible.

The PSAC Social Justice Fund reserves the right to cancel this tour for reasons such as not reaching the required number of participants for the tour and if deemed unsafe for reasons beyond our control. Should the tour be cancelled, the participation fee will be refunded.

Please return your completed application by **October 31, 2017** to:

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

Education In Action Delegation to Guatemala – Application Form 2018

A. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Name:	Applying for subsidy: YES or NO Birthdate:
Street address:	Postal code:
City and province :	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? Are you currently under a doctor's care and taking prescribed medication? Please explain.
