



# Annual Appeal

2018-2019

## A New Vision for Public Education

Picture this — an Alberta where **all** students feel successful and supported in their education. This is the mission and vision of the Aspen Foundation for Labour Education — and it is a lofty one. What changes need to happen for this remarkable result for Alberta's students?

Might it mean that no student comes to school hungry? Might it mean that every student has a safe and trusted adult to turn to for personal guidance? Could every student see examples of success from people who look like them, who share their experiences or background? Would First Nations, Metis, Inuit students, students of colour, LGBTQ+ students, immigrant students, and working class students see themselves reflected in their education and supported by their school's teachers, administrators and school boards? Could every student be challenged with compelling learning experiences that teach them the skills to analyze and engage with issues in their communities and lives?

The Aspen Foundation helps teachers provide these experiences, supports and more. Our Social Justice Learning Grants are distributed annually to schools across our province. These grants go to support remarkable projects which support experiential learning for our students, but they also help the staff in our province's schools. For example, the Aspen Foundation supported the formation of a school division's very first Gay-Straight Alliance. The GSA also included a presentation to staff in the school, to increase their ability to support underrepresented students. This is just one of many successes of our Social Justice Learning Grant in 2017/2018. We supported 13 school projects, including a conference on global issues around water access, blanket exercises and reconciliation activities between settler and Indigenous students, a partnership between a rural and on-reservation school to connect the students and have them study the effects of logging on a local river, in-school community gardens to feed the hungry in our community, and many more that can be viewed under the [Social Justice](#) tab on our web site: [www.afle.ca](http://www.afle.ca).

Our organization continues to produce ground-breaking educational resources which reflect the lives of working people to students and show them the incredible capabilities of the power of the people when they work together in solidarity. In the coming year, we will be completing a grade 9 resource about the cultural and political impacts of poverty, a grade 6 resource on engagement in the democratic process, and work on developing a cartoon series which will explore social justice topics in a fun, dynamic, and kid-friendly way. We have also developed a workshop for parents and union members to analyze and engage with factors in the Canadian economy and create plans of action to build the future they want to see for themselves and their children. In this way, we can all collectively move towards this shining new vision for public education.

Will you support us in the coming year to achieve these goals?

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hansen".

Gary Hansen  
Executive Director