



The Bark

Fall 2015

Harold Neth, Editor

News & Events

- December 02 – [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)

- December 03 – [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

- December 10 – [Human Rights Day](#)

- January 27 – [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#)

- Watch for Aspen Foundation Convention Presentations:

*North Central, February 4-5

*Palliser, February 18-19

*Others, TBD

- February 4 – [World Cancer Day](#)

- February 20 – [World Day of Social Justice](#)

- March 1 – [Zero Discrimination Day](#)

- March 8 – [International Women's Day](#)

- March 21 – [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

- March 22 – [World Water Day](#)

- Aspen is Hiring!

A part-time Communications and Outreach Coordinator. See [advertisement](#) on our web site.

Social Justice Learning Grants

Helping to educate Alberta's students on the importance of citizen engagement in social justice action is a key goal for Aspen Foundation.

The deadline for making grant applications was October 5th. The Selection Committee noted that they were very pleased to see the variety of projects in the 19 applications received from around the province.

The Selection Committee asks that applicants read the criteria carefully when applying. The Grants are primarily intended to provide start-up money for social justice projects that engage students in social justice learning and are sustainable. Grant moneys are not for flow through to other charities or to purchase commercially produced programs. If you did not receive a grant or did not apply this year, please consider applying next year.

Eleven schools were selected for complete or partial funding of their Social Justice Learning Projects based on how these met our criteria. One half of the grant is paid now. The balance will be paid on completion of the project, and the recipient provides an accounting and evaluation report. The following provides a summary for each of selected projects:

- **Next Step Outreach School, Vegreville, Elk Island Public Schools.** The Square Foot Gardening for Community project meets most of our criteria. A grant of \$750 is awarded to purchase materials needed to support student learning through community action and building student connections with the community.
- **St. Joseph HS, Edmonton Catholic Schools.** The Saints Social Justice Team doing learning projects related to many current issues will benefit from the program. We will assist with a grant of \$1,000 to purchase materials needed to support student learning.
- **GH Primeau Middle School, Morinville, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.** The We All Come From Somewhere program meets part of our criteria. The Selection Committee and our Board are interested in students learning about school/community gardens and building relationships with the community around refugee issues. We will support this program with \$150.
- **Keheewin Elementary School, Edmonton Public Schools.** The Building a Peaceful Community project meets our criteria for our grant program. Student learning through building school/ community relationships and learning about Gandhi and how we need to "be the change we want to see" will be very valuable as will be developing kindness and an understanding of our environment through recycling. We will provide \$100 to assist with this program.



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- **Evergreen Catholic Outreach School, Spruce Grove, Evergreen Catholic School Division.** The Support One Senior (SOS) project meets the criteria for our grant program. Student learning about building a school/community through involvement with seniors will help develop understanding of the difference between social justice and charity. We will assist with \$500.
- **Woodhaven Middle School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division.** The Woodhaven Connects program meets part of our criteria. Plans for student visits to sites such as a soup kitchen, the Bissell Centre and the Mustard Seed Church will help students learn about social justice issues. We will provide support of \$250.
- **Parkland Village School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division.** The Parkland Village School MicroSociety program meets part of the criteria. Student visits to the food bank and EI office and meeting with representatives from the John Howard Society and other NGO agencies will provide opportunities for students to learn about social justice issues. We will support the project with \$330.
- **Nose Creek Elementary School, Airdrie, Rockyview School Division.** The Gardens Replenish Our World (G.R.O.W.) project meets our criteria in part. A grant of \$400 will help students prepare, plant, care, and harvest a plot of fresh vegetables for the local food bank that will make these available to families. Students will develop empathy and respect in a spirit of co-operation as they confront a challenging social issue.
- **Bishop Kidd Junior High School, Calgary Catholic School Board.** The YAA! (Youth/Adult Alliance) project meets our criteria. The plans for students to learn about and with seniors through this program at a Senior's Centre will lead students to develop compassion and empathy. We supported this program with \$1,500.
- **Our Lady of Lourdes School, Calgary Catholic School Board.** The Our Lady of Lourdes Community Cooking and Caring school project meets our criteria. Students will learn about local food needs and develop basic life skills such as shopping and preparing food. We will provide \$960 to assist with this program.
- **Westhaven School, Edson, Grand Yellowhead School Division.** The Circle of Friends – Incorporating Multicultural and Antiracism Education project meets our criteria. The project will help students learn about diversity and acceptance of others who are marginalized. We will provide a \$1,500 grant.

The Selection Committee and the Aspen Foundation Board of Directors thank all of the teachers and students who made application for the Social Justice Grants for 2015-2016. They encourage application for the 2016-2017 school year in summer and fall 2016.

Your Support is key to offering Social Justice and Labour Education in our Schools!

Participate in our Annual Appeal & get a tax receipt

It is important that schools teach youth about building new, fairer, kinder, and more just workplaces, and communities. Friends like you make Aspen's work possible.

Thank you to the unions and individuals who have already donated. If you have not yet donated, please send your contribution. Aspen Foundation is a registered charity and provides income tax receipts to individual donors.

See our website and contact information at the bottom of this page or go to: CanadaHelps.org

Related Links & Info

- [Does Exxon fund Climate change deniers?](#)

- [Maquila Solidarity Network](#)

- [Aspen Foundation on Facebook](#)

- [AFLE Teaching Resources](#)

- [Social Studies Council](#)

- [Public Interest Alberta](#)

- [Parkland Institute](#)

- [UN Observances](#)

***Always review resources before using them in class.**



The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education

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