

Anti-poverty initiatives in Ontario funded by the PSAC Social Justice Fund

Funding anti-poverty initiatives in Canada is one of five priority areas for the PSAC's Social Justice Fund. As part of this, the SJF funds initiatives that support a closer collaboration between union members and low income groups in the community, particularly activities that are part of anti-poverty coalitions at the community level. These activities include the development of educational initiatives or advocacy work such as letter writing, postcard campaigns, marches, white-band days, literacy and other activities.

Here is a list of groups and activities in Ontario that received funding assistance from the PSAC Social Justice Fund.

Thunder Bay Social Justice Committee

The Thunder Bay Social Justice Committee provides an opportunity for people living in poverty to have a voice and speak out to identify their own needs and solutions. The project intends to empower low-income individuals and building on their own skills, transform low-income people into advocates for the elimination of barriers for achieving economic security and social change. The project counts on support from the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic and the PSAC Area Council. Educational Workshops, including the video called Poverty Line: The Face of Poverty in Thunder Bay will be held at local high schools, union offices and community agencies. \$2,500

<http://www.kalc.ca/tbejc-1.htm>

Room of One's Own

ROOO is a Kingston based tenant and homeless person's group whose primary objective is to influence public policy at the community level to end poverty and homelessness. Recently, the group participated in a conference on Social Inclusion, with testimonies and presentation by women and people of colour who have suffered social and political exclusion. ROOO carries out on-going public education work on homelessness and poverty in general and intends to continue its involvement in the Make Poverty History Campaign in Kingston. \$2,500

Northumberland Coalition Against Poverty

The Northumberland Coalition Against Poverty is a coalition of low income people living in Northumberland county. Members include people on welfare, disability pensions, workers compensations, employment insurance and people working for low wages. The groups is organizing Four focus group sessions with low income residents, followed by an information day targeted to low income people, union members, and the general public. Activities are supported by the CEIU Local 628, the Northumberland Labour Council and other community Groups. \$2,100

<http://fourinfo.cioc.ca/details.asp?RSN=23897>

UWO Graduate Teaching Assistants' Union: Food Bank

The Graduate Teaching Assistants Union is carrying out research into the available food bank resources in the community, disseminating information about the existing needs and lobbying at both the local and the regional level for support. At a later phase, the Union will be raising awareness, and simultaneously organizing food bank structures and providing food for those in need. \$2,500

Justice for Migrant Workers

The Justice for Migrant Workers aims to build a movement/campaign that is based on migrant workers experiences and ultimately is driven by workers themselves to fight for employment and human rights. The project will undertake outreach in migrant communities in rural Ontario, raise awareness of the plight of migrant workers, document workers' complaints, housing conditions, and lobby the government to change policies on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Programme (SAWP). \$2,500

www.justicia4migrantworkers.org

Income Security Advocacy Centre - Hands Off Campaign

The Hands Off Campaign was launched by the Income Security Advocacy Centre to pressure the provincial government to end the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplements. With the next Ontario Budget expected this spring, the Centre is mobilizing again. The SJF donation has funded the graphic design and printing costs for an additional 40,000 provincial postcards. The Advocacy Center aims to mobilize low-income families, unions, legal clinics and anti-poverty groups to work together to rebuild the anti-poverty movement in Ontario. \$2,500

www.incomesecurity.org

www.handsoffnow.ca

House of Friendship – Courtland-Shelley Community Centre in Kitchener

The House of Friendship will be providing computer literacy to youth and adults, and a tutoring program for youth to improve their education and employment skills. The project will cover the costs of providing 25 hours of computer instruction per week for 30 weeks and 2 hours of tutoring assistance twice per week for 25 weeks. PSAC members will have to opportunity to share their computer and other skills by volunteering with the Programs at the Centre. \$2,500

www.houseoffriendship.org