



Mandate and Funding Guidelines

Goal of the Social Justice Fund

The history of the labour movement has always been based on the founding principle of what is best for the collective. Centuries ago, craft guilds established an employment insurance fund for guild members and ensured that in the event of death, the families of guild members were supported.

Today's unions have remained true to the principle of working for the collective. In today's world of global corporate rule, unions have expanded the collective to include our communities. Fighting only for the dues-paying membership is no longer enough if our communities are suffering. The growing gap between rich and poor and the ideology that capitalism should encourage citizens to do whatever necessary to thrive has resulted in unprecedented levels of poverty, unemployment, discrimination and illness. Conditions that are unacceptable for our members exist throughout our communities and the world.

As a collective of responsible, caring citizens, Agriculture Union members work to eliminate injustice and strive to achieve social justice for ourselves and those who require and desire a hand up.

Mandate

The Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund was established at the 2008 Triennial Convention and will be subject to three year cyclical reviews (as per the resolution).

The Agriculture Union is committed to building capacity in our communities and around the globe for people to participate and flourish in society. The principle focus of the fund will be to support initiatives in Canada. While the need is vast and daunting, the

Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund is committed to assist with projects that deal with:

- access to affordable, safe food supplies;
- marketing opportunities for agricultural products;
- safe working conditions;
- access to quality education; and
- anti-poverty initiatives in Canada.

Structure

The Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund (SJF) is governed by the National Executive who establishes and approves the parameters and guidelines for the partners and projects to be supported by the Social Justice Fund. These parameters and guidelines will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure a transparent process.

The Social Justice Fund will be administered by a committee consisting of the National Vice-President responsible for Finance & Communication, who will chair the committee, the Administrative Officer of the Agriculture Union, and three other members who will be appointed by the National Executive. The SJF Committee will administer the Fund and approve specific projects and programs within the parameters approved by the National Executive.

Changes to this policy will require approval at a Triennial Convention.

The Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund Committee will be responsible for:

- receiving and reviewing applications for funding received from Agriculture Union members; and
- establishing and maintaining a reporting framework for approved projects including reporting to National Executive and Council as determined by the National Executive.

Initiating SJF Projects

The Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund will consider three types of applications for funding:

1. **One-Time Funding:** This funding will be approved to meet a specific need or purpose. One time funding requests may be considered for projects or organizations outside of the five (5) mandates (e.g. disaster relief).
2. **Short Term Projects:** Proposals will be considered for funding specific projects or organizations by providing funding for a period up to one year. Proposals for short term projects must meet at least one (1) of the mandates of the SJF.
3. **Long Term Projects:** Proposals will be considered for funding specific projects or organizations by providing funding for a specified number of years. Proposals for long term projects must meet at least one (1) of the mandates of the SJF.

Appendix A

Funding Guidelines

The Social Justice Fund has a mandate to support and fund initiatives that deal with:

- access to affordable, safe food supplies;
- marketing opportunities for agricultural products;
- safe working conditions;
- access to quality education; and
- anti-poverty initiatives in Canada.

Framework

The SJF Committee is proposing the following framework of examples to guide the selection of projects within the five priority areas.

Access to affordable, safe food supplies:

- promote development of community gardens;
- promote access to safe drinking water;
- promote fightback campaigns against pollution of water and/or soil; and
- promote education around safe food production.

Marketing opportunities for agricultural products:

- promote “buy local” campaigns;
- promote value added products;
- promote education and awareness of the benefits of supporting local agriculture;

and

- promote farmers' markets.

Safe working conditions:

- promote education and awareness within community organizations by providing training, education or expertise resources; and
- provide needed resources to achieve safe working conditions.

Access to quality education:

- promote 'stay in school' projects;
- promote after-school projects;
- promote education and awareness around access to education in developing countries; and
- promote literacy and skills programs.

Anti-poverty initiatives in Canada:

- promote social justice through actions aimed at social, human and economic development;
- promote membership involvement at the community level; and
- raise awareness of the root causes of poverty and social injustice.

Project Proposals

Project proposals will be accepted from Agriculture Union members in good standing. The Social Justice Fund Committee will meet when necessary to review proposals. All avenues will be explored to keep costs to a minimum (ie conference calls, email, video conferencing, etc) as all costs to administer the fund must come from the Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund.

Project proposals must clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities will achieve the Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund Mandate.

Guidelines for Partnership

Groups or organizations funded by the Agriculture Union Social Justice Fund should adhere to the following guidelines:

- groups must follow a democratic process in their decision-making;
- groups should include an educational and advocacy component; and
- groups should attempt to secure other sources of financing.

Funding Criteria

Funding applications to the Social Justice Fund will be considered based on the following criteria:

- the activity must be planned and implemented by the group making the application;
- activities should provide ways of allowing participants (both staff and group members) to evaluate, on a regular basis, the progress the group is making in reaching its stated objectives;
- groups should agree on a reporting formula that is mutually acceptable;
- activities should facilitate and encourage cooperation, exchange and networking among groups sharing similar objectives;
- activities should seek community and union participation wherever possible, in the form of human resources, in-kind contributions, sponsorship of events; and
- funding for economic activities may assist groups to do feasibility studies, to acquire seed money, and to facilitate the group in getting access to capital and operational funding, other than Social Justice Fund funds, for such activities.