



About CUPE's Global Justice Fund

SOLIDARITY IN A COMMON STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

In 1987, an ad hoc international solidarity committee was established to address concerns about political situations in Cuba, Nicaragua and South Africa.

That committee's efforts, and a growing awareness among CUPE activists, led to a resolution at the 1991 National Convention in Winnipeg that established the Union Aid Fund. It was formally incorporated in 1993.

WHY INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY?

As opposed to helping others as a form of charity, Global Justice Fund projects join partners to build awareness and understanding of globalization and its impact on public services and communities.

We improve our ability to organize and resist privatization and to promote the right to healthy strong communities wherever we live, based on respect for human rights and diversity.

HOW DOES THIS WORK BENEFIT CUPE MEMBERS?

Our work defending social justice, human rights, jobs and strong communities must look beyond the bargaining table, and beyond national borders. The Global Justice Fund is one tool we have in this struggle.

Public sector workers are suffering the consequences of privatization and deregulation all over the world. All of us benefit when we join with partners to share our experiences and strategies, tackle the roots of our struggles, and build alternatives. This is why we engage in international solidarity work.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL JUSTICE FUND?

The fund supports initiatives that strengthen movements working to improve conditions for workers, families and communities. This is achieved through cooperation and solidarity with unions and popular movements in and outside of Canada.

Who: CUPE members work in partnership with public sector unions, indigenous groups, women's groups, human rights groups and non-profit agencies that support workers' rights, often in coalition.

Where: The Global Justice Fund currently supports projects in Canada, Nicaragua, South Africa, Guatemala, Colombia and elsewhere. All of these projects bring workers together in one way or another to defend rights and strategize for change in an atmosphere of solidarity and hope.

Visit CUPE.ca/globaljustice for more information about current projects, how to propose projects, and how you and/or your local can show your support for international solidarity by contributing to the Global Justice Fund.

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For more information on the **Global Justice Fund** and other CUPE international activities, visit us online: www.cupe.ca/globaljustice or contact CUPE Research: research@cupe.ca

Projects can take place in Canada or abroad and they must:

- Deal with issues of interest to CUPE members.
- Lead to increased interest in international solidarity by CUPE members.
- Be part of an ongoing activity.
- Be cost-shared by the CUPE sponsor, where the sponsor is a local union, district council or division.
- Have direct involvement of workers or a labour union in the partner country.

HOW ARE PROJECTS SELECTED?

CUPE's National Global Justice Committee supports the work of the Global Justice Fund, promoting the participation of CUPE locals and reviewing proposals for projects to be financed by the fund.

CUPE's National Executive Committee (Global Justice Board of Directors) approves recommended projects that meet with approved criteria and strategic goals as established by 2001 convention policy.

FINANCES:

The fund currently collects and disperses about \$100,000 Canadian per year. It depends on contributions from CUPE locals, councils, divisions and committees as well as individual CUPE members and staff. Some funding also comes from CUPE national and from the Canadian International Development Agency.

Support for future project proposals will depend on the financial health of the fund – a strong show of support through regular contributions from CUPE locals is vital to keeping this work going and growing.

Show your solidarity: one cent per member per hour!

Some locals are bringing proposals to the bargaining table. Others are choosing to make regular contributions from membership dues. One cent per member per hour is about \$21 a year. Any amount makes a difference!

Contribution forms can be downloaded and one-time donations can now be made securely online at www.cupe.ca/globaljustice.

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