



CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF NURSES UNIONS
LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE
DES SYNDICATS D'INFIRMIÈRES
ET INFIRMIERS

GUIDELINES FOR CFNU'S INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND

Purpose of the International Solidarity Fund

At the CFNU Biennial Convention in 2005, nurses voted to create a Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions International Solidarity Fund.

By creating an International Solidarity Fund, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions joins other labour unions in Canada which mobilize resources through collective bargaining and other means to support initiatives that foster solidarity with the disadvantaged, whether those disadvantaged by natural disasters or an unfair economic and social order. The CFNU International Solidarity Fund supports worker to worker exchanges, provides humanitarian assistance, and strengthens the capacity of workers to advance the right to health.

Governance

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) International Solidarity Fund is governed by the CFNU National Executive Board (NEB). The NEB will annually appoint members to a Committee on the International Solidarity Fund. The Committee has two major tasks:

- to serve as an advisory committee to the NEB regarding the parameters and guidelines to be reviewed annually; and
- to approve specific projects and programs within the parameters approved by the NEB.

Administration of the Fund, and support to the Committee will be carried out by CFNU staff, led by the Government Relations Specialist.

Funding

The International Solidarity Fund will be core funded through a one cent per member per month contribution, and supplemented by member organization donations and fundraisers. Funds will be dedicated to Humanitarian Assistance, Worker Exchanges and Capacity-Building. The amount designated to each category will be determined annually taking into account the priorities of CFNU.

The NEB may choose to support an international solidarity initiative in any of these categories through supplementary funding from CFNU operational funds at their discretion.

Criteria

Humanitarian Assistance

The Committee on the International Solidarity Fund will decide on an as needed basis, the provision of humanitarian assistance based on the below criteria. The Committee may decide to allocate full or partial allocation of funds in this category, depending on the nature of the crisis or to roll over the funds, in any given year.



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- existence of a Canadian-based organization with proven on the ground capacity to provide emergency relief of suffering rising out of famine, earthquake, war or any other large scale emergency;
- existence of a trade union which shares the values of CFNU for longer-term reconstruction projects, in order to strengthen the role of unions and their members in long-term social and economic rehabilitation.
- emergency relief to communities affected by disasters here in Canada, particularly when CFNU members form part of the affected communities or are involved in disaster relief initiatives, through for example, fundraising.

Worker Exchanges

The Committee on the International Solidarity Fund will seek to support eight members annually to engage in missions abroad that provide humanitarian assistance or capacity-building to a host community. The amount of support will be determined based on annual Fund income. Members will be asked to submit written requests and upon support, to file a written report with the Committee on their experience. Annual decision-making criteria include strength of the application with preference given to first time applicants. Balance will be sought between member organizations and projects.

Applications for travel support must be received by December 31st, for travel in the following year.

Consideration will be also given to requests arising from developing country or other partners to support nurses from one developing country to participate in international missions or events.

CFNU member education and training or support to attend international conferences, will not be funded from the International Solidarity Fund.

Building the capacity of workers to advance the right to health

International labour development work involves advancing the rights of workers or their unions in the developing world. The Committee on the International Solidarity Fund will seek to develop long-term partnerships with workers or unions in developing countries representing nurses or health care workers whose goals and objectives complement those of the CFNU, such as the defence of public services, democratic governance, transparency and accountability to the membership, or the defence of gender and equity rights. We will seek to support the work of counterparts by providing funding support and through international advocacy and education. We will bring our experiences with overseas colleagues to bear on policy work in Canada.



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In order to develop a relationship based on mutual respect, the Committee will look to support union or worker activities related to human and labour rights; gender and equity; privatization, globalization and its impacts; health, safety and the environment; and HIV/AIDS, eventually moving towards organizational rather than project support.

CFNU will look to work with Canadian organizations with field visit capacities such as CLC or CNA to identify and work with unions representing nurses in developing countries.