

REPORT TO LOCALS

June 2011

ADMINISTRATION

Finances

As of January 1, 2011 the Humanity Fund's financial position (unaudited) was:

Gross Assets	\$774,674
Liabilities (including all committed grant & project funds)	\$472,615
Net Assets	\$302,059
Expected Contributions (average of last three years)	\$348,510
Total Funds Available	\$650,569

Contributions

A contribution data base has been developed to record contributions remitted to the Humanity Fund to ensure that employers contribute in the amount and in the manner required by the applicable collective agreement and to maintain control over late remittances.

NEW GRANTS & PROJECTS – HUMANITARIAN

Humanitarian – Red Cross – Manitoba & Quebec Floods

\$5,000 grant to provide emergency assistance to the thousands of people impacted by the floods in Manitoba and Quebec, including immediate aid (shelter, food and supplies) as well as recovery to people most affected, i.e. those who have experienced a complete loss or major damage to their home.

Humanitarian – Red Cross – Alberta Wild Fires

\$5,000 grant to provide emergency assistance to the thousands of people forced to evacuate their homes in the face of the wild fires in Slave Lake and surrounding areas in northern Alberta, including shelter food and supplies.

Humanitarian – Oxfam Canada & Quebec – Japan Earthquake & Pacific Tsunami

\$5,000 grant to provide emergency assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake that struck Japan (8.9 magnitude – the worst in Japan's history) and the resulting tsunami that affected 20 countries along the Pacific coast. Tens of thousands of people went missing and whole towns were destroyed. Japanese and international aid agencies provided emergency response efforts including evacuation, search and rescue and emergency first aid.

Humanitarian – Oxfam Canada – Ivory Coast & Liberia Political Crisis

\$5,000 grant to provide emergency assistance in the Ivory Coast and Liberia, where months of political conflict, violence, looting and displacement following the election in Ivory Coast created a humanitarian crisis, with more than one million people displaced from their homes and 135,000 refugees forced to flee to Liberia. The majority of the displaced are children, many of whom are at risk from disease and hunger.

Humanitarian – Red Cross – Middle East & North Africa Crisis

\$5,000 grant to provide emergency assistance in northern Africa. Violent political clashes in Libya led to thousands of people dead and injured and tens of thousands of people escaping to neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt. The Red Cross and Red Crescent are providing food and basic medical care to those in the conflict areas as well as those who have fled across borders.

Humanitarian – War Child Canada – Children of War

\$5,000 grant to support work with children whose lives have been torn apart by war and conflict, to reduce poverty, provide education and defend their rights.

NEW GRANTS & PROJECTS – HIV/AIDS

HIV/Aids – Stephen Lewis Foundation

\$5,000 grant to support Afri Grand project which supports African grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren. The Stephen Lewis Foundation works with community-based organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since 2003, they have funded more than 300 projects in 15 countries, including counseling and education, care and treatment, distribution of food, medication and other necessities, home-based health care, helping orphans and vulnerable children, and supporting grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

NEW GRANTS & PROJECTS – CANADA

Canada – Canada Without Poverty – Anti-Poverty Work

\$15,000 grant to support the anti-poverty work of Canada Without Poverty (formerly the National Anti Poverty Organization). Acting from the belief that poverty is a violation of human rights and that poverty elimination is a human rights obligation, CWP's work includes raising awareness about poverty, participating in research to generate new knowledge about poverty, and striving to influence public policy to prevent and alleviate poverty. CWP works to address the structural causes of poverty, such as public policies that advance or constrain the social and economic development of individuals, families and communities. One of the special characteristics of CWP is that, since our inception in 1971, they have always been governed by people with direct, personal experience of living in poverty, whether in childhood or as adults. This lived experience informs and helps to guide CWP's work.

Canada – ACORN Institute – Anti-Poverty Leadership Development

\$3,000 grant to support anti-poverty leadership development in Ottawa.

Canada – ArtHeart – Community Art Program

\$2,000 grant to support arts education for low income persons in Toronto's inner city.

Canada – Alberta Federation of Labour – Lubicon Youth

\$10,000 grant to support construction of hockey rink to combat high rate of school drop out amongst Lubicon Cree youth in Little Buffalo, Alberta. The Lubicon is an isolated band in northern Alberta that has been fighting the Canadian government for their rights in recent years. The project is being built with the support of the community and CEP Local 707.

Canada – Strathcona Community Dental Clinic

\$1,500 grant to support dental education and treatment services to low income persons in Vancouver's inner city.

Canada – FoodShare – Good Food Box

\$3,000 grant to support a good food box program in Toronto, operated in partnership with the local farming community.

Canada – Romero House – Refugee Settlement

\$7,000 grant to support refugee housing and support services in Toronto, in particular a volunteer intern program.

Canada – Family Service Toronto – Anti Poverty Education

\$2,000 grant to support Campaign 2000, an educational campaign to raise public investment to reduce child and family poverty in Canada, including publishing an annual report card on child and family poverty in Canada and in several provinces.

Canada – Newgate 180 – Addiction Program

\$2,000 grant to support a community-based, residential addiction treatment program. Newgate is also involved in the occupational health and wellness field and works with, and receives support from, the CEP Ontario Communications Counsel.

Canada – Plan Nagua – Mental Health & Work Integration

\$3,000 grant to support social, educational and vocational activities for people with significant mental health problems in Quebec City.

Canada – Braille Atout

\$1,400 grant to support adaptation of software and manuals for training in braille in Sherbrooke.

Canada – Coalition Sherbrookoise pour le travail de rue

\$500 grant to support resources and services for young people living in the street in Sherbrooke.

Canada – Fonds d'aide aux enfants du camp Mariste

\$500 grant to provide financial support to lower income families for children to attend summer camp.

Canada – L'alliance Sherbrookoise pour l'autonomie à domicile

\$2,500 grant to support assistance and services to people with disabilities to help them achieve greater independence, including social integration, purchasing specialized equipment, volunteer training, respite care and childcare, etc.

Canada – La rue des Femmes de Montréal

\$500 grant to help provide homeless women and women in difficulty in Montreal with a safe environment and the means to regain control of their lives, including shelter, meals, day care and support for health and justice issues.

Canada – Motivation jeunesse 16/18 ans

\$1,000 grant help young people who have dropped out of school by providing an educational program combining work and school, including psychosocial coaching, practical training in business and the teaching of basic subjects.

Canada – Portage Foundation

\$500 grant to assist drug addicts in Quebec and New Brunswick by providing them with a complete range of services.

Canada – Les Ailes de l'Espoir, Saint-Calixte

\$500 grant to assist low-income individuals in Saint-Calixte by providing food, clothing, furniture, school supplies, wood for heating, pharmaceutical products, electricity, etc.

Canada – Auberge Madeleine

\$800 grant to assist women in difficulty, who are victims of domestic violence or who suffer from mental health problems, drug addiction and alcoholism by providing lodging and other assistance.

Canada – Service de répit Emergo

\$3,500 grant to assist families throughout Quebec faced with the problems of autism and other pervasive developmental disorders.

Canada – Maison au Diapason

\$1,000 grant to support palliative care home in Bromont, Quebec.

Canada – Service d'hébergement Saint-Denis

\$1,000 grant to provide lodging and assistance to troubled youth in Montreal.

Canada – Maison Tangente

\$500 grant to support services for homeless young adults in Montreal, including shelter and food, needs assessment, support and direction as well as training (budget, leisure, nutrition, etc).

Canada – Regroupement des Magasins-Partage

\$1,000 grant to support a food sharing store for low-income individuals in Montreal, allowing them to redevelop initiative and shop in respect and dignity.

Canada – Projet intervention prostitution

\$1,500 grant to support work to reduce problems related to prostitution in Quebec City through prevention, awareness building, information and intervention, especially in high schools.

Canada – Loisirs adaptés Maison Grandi-Ose

\$3,000 grant to provide assistance to people living with disabilities and their families in Maurice, Quebec, to help them develop independence and improve their quality of life.

Canada – Gallery 44 - Youth Outreach

\$5,000 grant to support a youth outreach program, working in collaboration with community organizations that support at-risk youth (street-involved, homeless, native, LGBT, abused, family violence, substance abuse and poverty). Each year they work with fifty youth from several community groups.

NEW GRANTS & PROJECTS – INTERNATIONAL

International – Peace Brigades International – Protective Accompaniment

\$10,000 grant to provide protective accompaniment for clergy, union leaders, campesino leaders and human rights activists threatened by politically motivated violence.

International – North South Institute – Canadian Development Report

\$1,000 grant to support the research and publication of the 2011 Canadian Development Report – A Global Crisis of Development, which aims to approach the global crisis from a north-south perspective, looking in particular, at how the crisis has impacted developing countries.

International – Maquila Solidarity Network – Decent Work – Mexico & Central America

\$15,000 project to strengthen the capacity of women's and labour rights organizations in Mexico and Central America to effectively engage with international and national clothing brand companies, local manufacturers and national and state governments to promote decent work in maquila factories.

International – Horizons of Friendship & Maria Elena Cuadra – Nicaragua Maquilas

\$40,000 grant/project with Horizons of Friendship (a Canadian development organization) Maria Elena Cuadra (a Nicaraguan women's organization) to promote decent work and labour rights for women workers in Nicaraguan maquila factories, including: training of working women leaders and managers; and strengthening the capacity of Maria Elena Cuadra's legal assistance service and communications and outreach activities.

International – Horizons of Friendship & FEASIES – El Salvador Maquilas

\$35,000 to a grant/project with Horizons of Friendship (a Canadian development organization) FEASIES (a trade union federation) to strengthen their organizational capacity at the national and local level, to defend workers rights and fight for decent work, including: education and planning; decent work and gender equality; and working with social partners to participate in social dialogue to advance decent work.

International – Caribbean-Canada Emerging Leaders Dialogue

\$10,000 grant to the Caribbean-Canada Emerging Leaders' Dialogue – a two-week leadership development conference that brings together 120 future labour, business, government and community leaders from Canada and the Caribbean. The HF grant will facilitate participation of union leaders from the poorer Caribbean countries.

International – Centro de Estudios de Formacion Sindical – Gender & Work in Argentina

\$10,000 project with Centro de Estudios de Formacion Sindical (a research and training centre created by Federación de Trabajadores de la Industria y Afines, a federation of unions representing workers in the several sectors of the Argentine economy, including steel, tire, sugar, corn refining and pulp and paper) to establish a women's research and training centre – the Centro de Estudios Mujeres y Trabajo de la Argentina – to contribute to gender equality and equal opportunity in the world of work and within union and social movement organizations in Argentina.

International – Rights & Democracy – Forced Labour in Burma

\$10,000 grant to Rights and Democracy (created by Canada's Parliament to support human rights and promote democratic institutions and practices around the world) to work with Canadian Friends of Burma to promote the end of forced labour in Burma.

International – Frente Autentico del Trabajo (FAT) – Organizing in Mexico

\$40,000 to support a project with FAT (an independent, democratic labour federation in Mexico) focused on strengthening the capacity of FAT to organize workers, promote decent work and respect for employment and labour rights – including independent, democratic unions to workers operating under “protection” contracts or who may not be aware that they are union workers. The FAT project will also pursue options under the NAFTA labour side agreements for challenging the failure to comply with international labour standards in Mexico.

International – Columbia Institute – Investing in Decent Work

\$10,000 grant to the Columbia Institute to develop research and tools to assist institutional investors in Canada and internationally in ensuring that their investment strategies promote and protect decent work. The three priority areas are forced labour, precarious employment and health and safety.

International – CLC & FTUB – Burma

\$15,000 project with Canadian Labour Congress to strengthen the capacity of Federation of Trade Unions of Burma (FTUB) to improve working and living conditions of agricultural and industrial workers in Burma, one of the poorest countries and most undemocratic and repressive countries in south-east Asia, with almost one third of its 50 million people living in poverty and massive internal and external refugee problems.

International – UNI – MENA Telecom

\$34,200 project with UNI Global Union to strengthen the capacity of telecom unions in the Middle East and North Africa to promote decent work, advance international labour rights and standards and improve working and living conditions. The aim of this initial one-year phase of the project is to initiate a network, analyze the situation and opportunities resulting from the “Arab spring,” research the industry and companies and develop strategic plans (especially strategic organizing).

International – UNTyPP – Mexico

\$19,000 project with the National Union of Technical and Professional Petroleum Workers of Mexico to educate workers to research and promote decent work in the petrochemical sector, including researching decent work (especially health and safety), educating and organizing workers and promoting decent work (with research results) within Pemex.

PROJECT PARTICIPATION

International – UNI – Decent Work – Zimbabwe

Long time CEP activist Sister Louise Grenier participated in a recent workshop on gender in Harare, Zimbabwe as part of the Humanity Fund’s Decent Work project with UNI Global Union and the Zimbabwean telecommunications, postal, graphical, commerce and banking worker’s unions. Reports from our Zimbabwean colleagues were that Sister Grenier’s participation and the opportunity to share information, experience and expertise greatly enhanced the workshop and project. As with all project participants from CEP, Sister Grenier has been asked to provide a report and evaluation of her experience.



CEP Humanity Fund

GENDER WORKSHOP

(UNI Global Union & Zimbabwean Telephone,
Postal, Graphical, Banking & Commerce Unions)
Harare, Zimbabwe
April, 2011

Report by Louise Grenier

CEP Local 8284 &
CEP National Executive Board

I would like to start by thanking CEP for giving me the opportunity to take part in the humanitarian project in Zimbabwe. This was a rewarding and educational life experience.

The training session on gender equality which I attended was devoted to making women realize that it is possible for them to access elective positions within their union executive or any other organization.

The session stressed the prime importance of integrating women into all areas of life, including union work and political action. If the necessary tools are provided to them, women will, in the future, be able to see to it that their demands, often not taken seriously at present, are recognized and respected.

We know that women have played an important role in the major social changes initiated by unions. The problem is that women have always had to balance their family and work obligations, received less education and information, been confronted with stereotypes and faced sexual harassment.

The training session allowed the women to reflect and share. They talked about the reasons for their involvement and the difficulties that they had to overcome at work or in their family environment. They need to take part in decision-making since the laws that are established as a result affect their lives and those of their children. They want their concerns to be taken into account and this requires that they have a say and be represented at the highest levels on the social scale.

The quality of the training that CEP enables women to receive is paramount in their lives. I met very fascinating and intelligent women full of dreams and expectations. They will undoubtedly have to radically change their values and customs in order to really take their place.

Thanks to the education and information provided to them, I sincerely believe that they will one day be an integral part of society.

Not only will they be committed activists but they will also be the first to pass on their knowledge to younger women.

During our exchanges, I stressed the importance of community and political alliances that will enable them to develop support networks and even to find women to be their mentors.

Lastly, I must say that my involvement in the labour movement is stronger than ever. I have seen with my own eyes the difference that my organization can make in the world.



JOIN THE 1¢ CHALLENGE

Every year thousands of CEP members contribute one-cent-an-hour (or \$20 per year) to the CEP Humanity Fund to help people facing disaster and poverty and promote decent work and equitable development in Canada and around the world.

Currently there are more than 100 CEP locals participating in the Humanity Fund. The CEP's National Executive Board has endorsed the Fund as a national bargaining goal and has challenged all other CEP locals to increase participation in the Fund by including it in their collective agreements.

The Executive Board has established a goal of having all CEP members and locals participate in the Humanity Fund.

CEP National Executive Board – Policy 223

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

Duncan Brown
Executive Secretary
dbrown@cep.ca

In Quebec:

Joe Gargiso
Vice President
jgargiso@scep.ca