



Annual Appeal

16.17

Dear Friends:

Albertans stood in shock and awe of the power of nature that descended upon Ft. McMurray during this May's forest fires. The response of people to rally behind those in distress was immediate. Many of the responses over the next several months after the fire were from groups of people coming together to organize relief efforts. These responses highlight the need for and ability of people to work together in the face of threats to our lives or livelihood.

The underlying principle of collective security was a motivation for Canadians to come together to develop programs such as Medicare, Employment Insurance (EI) and the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Improving our lives was also the motivation to develop credit unions, Co-op stores, labour unions and public services such as our system of public education.

In Alberta we have become accustomed to defending the gains previous generations made to give us our current standard of living and way of life. However, opportunities to progress need to be embraced when they arise. Such an opportunity has presented itself in regard to public education in Alberta.

Our Minister of Education, David Eggen, announced in June, 2016 that work would begin and take place over the next six years to renew the curriculum taught in Alberta schools. He indicated that Alberta Education would "be asking Albertans to provide input."

The Aspen Foundation plans to do what it can to ensure that issues of social justice and the stories of working people are told in the Alberta school curricula. We will attend consultative sessions to provide input on the development of the new curricula and resources used to teach them. We will continue to develop materials for students telling the stories about the lives of working people in Alberta, Canada and other places. (Please check out our recently completed video ballad *GWG: Piece by Piece* and accompanying lesson plans on our web page: [www.afle.ca, Teaching Resources](http://www.afle.ca/TeachingResources)). We will also pursue other opportunities to have the voices of the people who built this province and country heard in our classrooms.

Having young people hear and know about the values, history, dreams, aspirations and disappointments of average Albertans is important to the success of students individually and Alberta society generally. Every student should be able to compare and evaluate the value of an engaged and socially just society based upon the values of fairness, caring, equality and cooperation to those of the selfish corporate individualism.

Grasping the opportunity to have the next generation of Alberta citizens hear the narrative of working people will require more time, effort and money. We hope that other organizations representing the average Albertan will also take advantage of the opportunity to tell the story of their members. However, the Aspen Foundation will present the case for inclusion of social justice issues and our history, values, and perspective.

There is no time more important than now to support the work of the Aspen Foundation as Alberta Education reviews and renews school curricula. Please do your best to support having our voices heard in Alberta schools!

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Hansen
Executive Director



Support/Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Annual Individual Membership Fee

\$10

Tax Deductible Support. I will give an additional contribution of:

\$250 \$100 \$50

Other \$ _____

Mail your support to the address below or contribute on line at: www.CanadaHelps.org

Annual Institutional Membership Fee

Regular

Small \$ 50

Medium \$250

Large \$500

We will give an additional contribution of:

\$5000 \$2500 \$1000 \$500

Other \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Send donations to the address below: