

Topic: CEP Humanity Fund

Subject: HF Project Update and information.

Submitted to the membership of CEP Local 191

Submitted by rank and file member Pearl Bainbridge, June 25, 2011

*Winnipeg Free Press member Pearl Bainbridge, CEP Local 191's representative on the CEP Humanity Fund, submits this report on the recent activities of the Humanity Fund. Members can find the national Humanity Fund report at [www.cep.ca](http://www.cep.ca). All members are encouraged to forward recommendations for project ideas in your community to Sister Pearl at [prbainbr@mts.net](mailto:prbainbr@mts.net)*

Since 2002, I have served on the CEP Humanity Fund as a Project Advisory Committee Member. The members of the committee do not receive a per diem. They benefit from the knowledge your contribution of 1 penny per hour continues its positive effect on workers and their families worldwide. The function of the advisory committee is to vote on whether to recommend project/grant proposals for approval. Via telephone, the conference takes place, chaired by the re-elected executive secretary of the Humanity Fund, Duncan Brown.

The CEP established the Humanity Fund in 1990 as a registered charitable foundation to help people facing disasters and poverty and promote decent work and equitable development in Canada and around the world. Thousands of CEP members in more than 100 local unions have negotiated a small, tax-deductible contribution of a penny per hour into their collective agreements (approximately \$20 per year) designated for the humanity fund; in many cases negotiating matched employer contributions.

Membership can find an **official list** of projects approved on the Communications Energy and Paper workers Union web site, [www.cep.ca](http://www.cep.ca). The page contains a 'content by topic' listing on the lower right hand side. Click on 'humanity fund' – open up the **PDF** document indicating current report.

Amongst the recent projects /grants recommended for approval, I want to point out some of the following Canadian, as well as international organizations that have or will benefit from your contribution:

**LITTLE BUFFALO, ALTA** -- The CEP Humanity Fund donated \$20,000 to build an outdoor hockey rink for the Lubicon Cree, a community of about 500 in Little Buffalo, a six-hour drive north of Edmonton. CEP Local 707 has also donated thousands of dollars in hockey equipment.

**PROJECT: LUBICON YOUTH** (re. N1106-PC)

First initiated by Alberta Federation of Labour and Amnesty International, **this project is a joint effort of unions, employers and human rights activists working together to improve the lives of a forgotten First Nations community in Alberta.** Together they have raised \$97,000.

Despite living in a wealthy province, amid the operations of oil and gas companies making mega profits, residents live in Third World conditions. Many homes lack running water or indoor toilets. During the last century, the Lubicon band was not included in the treaty signing process. They have been fighting the Canadian government for their rights in recent years. Meanwhile the community has seen oil & logging companies decimate their land and have not received any benefit from those enterprises.

-Lubicon youth identified the main reason for a high drop out rate from school is the lack of things to do in the community. They also indentified a hockey rink as a priority solution. CEP Local 707 has been involved in planning the rink and will provide trades and labour services. The Lubicon youth are involved with fundraising efforts by approaching businesses in the Peace River to contribute funds and supplies. More importantly, the youth will donate their labour to assist in building the rink and are keen to learn more about the trades.

**PROJECT: N-1120-GC - Newgate 180** is an addiction program headed by CEO Dennis Buckley, a retired Bell Canada employee and former member of CEP Local 34-0 where he served as Bells Substance Abuse Coordinator. Newgate 180 is a community-based organization in Merrickville, Ontario. It provides a professional, structured program of training, intervention and treatment in a residential environment for workplace employees with dependency problems.

Editorial note: Manitoba needs people like Mr. Buckley as waiting times to get into a program can be long and detrimental

**PROJECT: N-1103-GC, Artheart - Community Art Centre, Toronto**

Artheart provides children, youth and adults living in the inner city with visual arts education, programs and materials, free-of-charge. By using art as a vehicle, ArtHeart helps to develop self-esteem, creativity, life-skills and learning. Participants are empowered to improve their quality of life while putting their hands and imagination to work.

**HF Contribution; \$2,000 towards total project budget: \$119,275**

**PROJECT: N-1122-GC, Gallery 44 – Youth Outreach, Toronto**

An award winning program, non-profit, artist-run centre in Toronto is committed to the advancement of photographic art. The 'at-risk' youth in the program often feel isolated and excluded from mainstream society because of cultural and economic barriers. In addition to teaching skills, the program helps break down feelings of exclusion and builds on their self-awareness and confidence. The participants become more positively involved in their communities, using their new skills in cultural development such as documenting community events, working with community members and passing on their new skills to others.

**CEP HF Contribution; \$5,000 co-funding \$5,000 from CAW SJF towards total budget: \$18,500**

**PROJECT: N-1102-GC, ACORN – Institute of Canada (AIC), Ottawa**

ACORN Institute Canada uses research and training to combat the poverty, discrimination and community deterioration that keep low-income people from taking advantage of their rights and opportunities. Specific use of this project is Anti-poverty leadership development in Ottawa, Ontario.

**HF Contributon; \$3,000**

**PROJECT: N-1104-GC, Canada Without Poverty, Ottawa**

CWP works for the elimination of poverty in Canada. Acting from the belief that poverty is a violation of human rights and that poverty elimination is a human rights obligation. 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 inception in 1971 they have been governed by people with direct, personal experience of living in poverty, whether in childhood or as adults.

**HF Contributon; \$10,000 (2011)**

**PROJECT: N-1129-PI –MENA Telecom (2011) – Middle East and North Africa 2011**

Phase 1 of a possible three-year project.

UNI is the global union of skills and service workers, representing 900 unions & 20 million workers world wide. CEP is affiliated to UNI on behalf of its members in the telecom, media and graphical sectors. The local project partners include: Egypt-General trade Union of Telecom Workers, Egypt, Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Morocco National Federation of Post & Telecom Unions. Palestine-Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions, Tunisia General Federation of PTT

Trade unions are among the groups that successfully brought down the long-time dictators in Tunisia and Egypt. In Bahrain they are leading the struggle for democratic reform. As a result, conditions have developed for independent, democratic trade unions to operate more freely.

This project will promote and strengthen the capacity of MENA telecom unions strengthen democracy, promote decent work and equitable development, advance international labour rights and standards and achieve concrete improvements in working and living conditions to contribute to poverty reduction, social justice and inclusion.

The project aims to initiate a network and to develop organizing and other plans. They key activities include: 1) a workshop to establish the network analyze situation and opportunities and develop strategic plans 2) conduct in-depth research on the industry and companies.

**HF Contributon; US \$34,200**

**PROJECT: N-1130-PI, National Union of technical and Professional Petroleum Workers,**

**Mexico, June 2011-2012** In the mid nineties the professional Pemex successfully mobilized to stop attacks on their job security and attempts to privatize the petrochemical industry. Over the years, their anti-privatization actions to form an independent national union met with harassment, threats, punishment and firings. However, in 2008, they successfully established a union. After two more attempts by government and the company to break the union, UNTyPP finally registered in 2009. The company then forced its 30,000 technical and professional employees to resign from the union or lose their job. Those who refused, along with UNTyPP's organizers and leaders (including the National Executive Committee) were fired and violently removed from their workstations by paramilitaries. UNTyPP is still seeking reinstatement of its leaders.

The project objective is to educate professional and technical workers about 'decent work'; to research and promote health and safety as well as strengthen the right organize. The key activities

include meetings throughout Mexico to educate and organize workers; conduct research in collaboration with universities on 'decent work' within the industry then disseminate results and present and discuss with Pemex.

**HF Contributon; US \$19,000**

In closing, I invite our local membership with knowledge of charitable organizations in their neighborhood or community in need of funding to contact the CEP Humanity Fund based in Ottawa in how to submit a project proposal.

NOTE: In order to submit a proposal for consideration, a charity group must have a charity registration number and must meet Humanity Fund criteria.

In solidarity,

Pearl Bainbridge, CEP local 191