

Report of the Committee on Equality and Social Action

Every year, the Committee on Equality and Social Action (CESA) hears from dozens of organizations working to deliver vital services, education, advocacy and support on behalf of vulnerable people in BC. In the fall, CESA members gather to hear short presentations from groups applying for support through HSA's Equality and Social Action Fund. The CESA Fund is based on 0.6% of total HSA revenue, as per Resolution #27 passed at the 2012 HSA Convention.

This year, HSA provided \$132,280 for disbursement through the Fund, and the Committee received 36 requests for funding. The requests, totaling \$215,503, far exceeded the budget, so tough choices, as always, needed to be made. Committee members examined applications and materials submitted, and on November 8-10 of 2021 gathered for a virtual meeting in which presentations were delivered by representatives of each group.

The criteria used to determine successful recipients are as follows:

- promotion and protection of trade union rights
- promotion and protection of human rights
- elimination of inequalities in society and the workplace
- promotion of issues relevant to women
- elimination of poverty
- promotion and protection of a healthy environment

Committee members worked diligently to

assess the work of each group and make funding choices in support of Fund policy. The Committee creatively stretched out every dollar to ensure that as many community organizations as possible could be supported. The Committee stands proudly in solidarity knowing that the money will make a significant positive difference to the most vulnerable people in our society.

Following the union's regular practice, the Committee presented to the Board their recommendations on these requests, and the Board granted approval.

Social Justice Day

Social Justice Day is observed each year on February 20, and to help support this important event CESA recommended a number of important topics for a workshop led by HSA's Education Committee and staff. This workshop was held February 17 over Webex. CESA members were in attendance for the interactive session which included breakout discussion groups and an opportunity to hear from people with lived experience and expertise.

The agenda for this day-long session was facilitated by Kelly Terbasket and Denise Lecoy from kinSHIFT, an Indigenous-led social enterprise initiative supporting settlers to gain the knowledge and skills to cultivate respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and places. The workshop focused on issues of reconciliation and explored the difficult issues arising from the legacy of

Canada's residential school system.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherylee Hylands, Chair, Region 8 Director
Mandi Ayers, Region 10 Director
Nicole McIntosh, Region 6 Member at Large
Tonya Harford, Region 3 Member at Large
Hanif Mithani, Region 3 Member at Large

Projects Funded by CESA in 2021:

Vancouver Co-Operative Radio	\$2,480
Living Wage for Families	\$3,000
Story Money Impact	\$3,000
Autism Support Network Society of BC	\$3,000
Great Van GoGos	\$500
Sher Vancouver	\$1,000
Richmond Women's Resource Centre	\$4,000
Union Protein Project	\$5,000
West Coast LEAF	\$3,000
Refugee Livelihood Lab RADIUS (Health Promotion Lab)	\$4,000
BC Civil Liberties	\$2,500
Sierra Club BC	\$5,000
First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society	\$2,000
Project Somos	\$4,000
Castlegar and District Services Society	\$7,000
Haqq Education and Referral Services Foundation (HERS)	\$3,000
BC Society of Transitions Houses	\$4,500
Seniors' Services Society	\$10,000
Camp Jubilee	\$5,000
CoDevelopment Canada (\$14,000 donation set by Convention)	\$14,000
YWCA Metro Vancouver	\$5,000
Ann Davis Transition Society	\$7,500
Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative	\$3,800
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	\$4,000
Positive Living North	\$5,000
Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)	\$5,000
Penticton and Area Access Centre	\$6,000
Single Mothers Alliance	\$7,000
Mom2Mom Child Poverty Initiative Society	\$3,000
Total Donations	\$132,280