



Educators for Solidarity **Partner Information**

This document is a brief introduction to the initiative partners and will address many of the questions or concerns you may have about traveling to El Salvador. This document is more specifically concerned with familiarizing you with the projects we will be visiting in El Salvador, and assisting you to prepare for the travel and experience. You will receive more detailed information about flight, detailed itineraries, etc. as we get closer to the departure dates.

Educators for Solidarity is an initiative launched by SCIC in 2016/17 and part of a larger Global Citizenship Education strategy which currently provides learning resources to schools across Saskatchewan. This is an opportunity for Saskatchewan youth to engage with Salvadoran youth, and Saskatchewan and Salvadoran organizations, seeing firsthand the impact being made in international development by SCIC member organizations.

Visiting Salvadoran projects will allow the Saskatchewan youth an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of Canada's international development efforts abroad. Students will have opportunities to meet with staff and volunteers from partner organizations as well as community members who have been impacted by the various projects. Through the Phase 1 pre-departure training, as well as the Phase 3 debriefing upon their return, the students will be supported in understanding these new experiences as well as learning more about the work being done by Canadian NGOs and their international partners. SCIC will work to develop the orientation and debriefing materials and activities for the participating youth. Throughout the Fall SCIC will continue to support the youth through writing tasks, resource creation, and teaching practice.

Participants will be accompanied to El Salvador by experienced staff from the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) and The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). We will depart Saskatchewan on June 19th, 2017 and return to Canada on July 2nd, 2017 (note: these dates may vary slightly upon availability of flights). Airfare, transportation, accommodation, and food expenses will be paid for by the Council (note: passport, visa and immunization expenses are the responsibility of the participants. If this is cost prohibitive, please contact the Council).

PWRDF, the host organization, and their partners, CoCoSI will be responsible for arranging in-country logistics (including transportation in country, accommodation, translation, etc.) and ensuring diverse opportunities for learning.

Upon returning to Canada, the youth will share their experiences and perceptions through a presentation and video they will create during their time in El Salvador. Youth will share their experiences with students and other organizations across Alberta throughout the fall of 2015. The presentations will be assisted and coordinated by SCIC, in both preparation and delivery.

SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (SCIC) – MANAGING ORGANIZATION

SCIC is a member-based organization comprised of organizations that are working in the field of international development and cooperation. There are currently over 50 organizations that include both Saskatchewan-based NGOs and national organizations that have chapters in Saskatchewan. The Council is provincial in scope and every effort is made to ensure that services and programming are accessible to organizations located in every region of the province. The Council is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of member organizations and elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

SCIC Mission Statement & Development Principles

The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation is a coalition of organizations involved in international development and committed to the recognition of the dignity of all people and their right to self-determination, to the protection of the world's fragile environment, and to the promotion of global understanding, cooperation, peace and justice. Members of the Council pursue these goals through supporting global citizenship programs and participatory projects with international partners.

The Council's goal is to support the work of its members through networking, leadership, information sharing, training and coordination, and represents their interests to governments and funders.

As the umbrella organization for international development agencies in Saskatchewan, SCIC has many tasks:

- Providing a structure within which members can share, learn and grow by interacting with one another;
- Facilitating and exploring new opportunities for Saskatchewan people, especially teachers and youth to be educated about global issues and get involved in international cooperation and development;
- Facilitating communication among and on behalf of member agencies in Saskatchewan and partners across the country;
- Advocating on international issues, and administering grants for international development assistance and education provided by the Government of Saskatchewan.

SCIC's Commitment to Global Citizenship Education

SCIC believes that Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is one method teachers and community members can use to disrupt our unconscious commitment to imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy. GCE is based on the idea that all individuals have a global duty to contribute directly to human rights protections and promote rights-enhancing political integration between states. Global Citizenship is a way of understanding, acting, and relating oneself to others and the environment by exploring what links us to people, places and cultures, as well as, the nature and equality of those relationships. Each individual's life has implications in day-to-day decisions that connect the global with the local which require a global consciousness and global competence. Global citizenship remains a powerful path toward democratic, inclusive citizenship by people committed to justice for the poor and marginalized throughout the world.

Current conceptions of global citizenship must transform because in its current framework global citizenship will not affect the systemic change that is needed in order to reach global equality in social, political, economic, and environmental realms. Global Citizenship Education must be treated in a way that lends itself to principles of critical education theory and an anti-oppressive pedagogy which requires individuals to critically engage with their identities, power, privilege, and complicity in perpetuating systemic and social forms of oppression.

For more information on SCIC's members and our current activities please visit www.earthbeat.sk.ca

THE PRIMATE’S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – SCIC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

SCIC is thrilled to be collaborating with the PWRDF for the Global Citizen Youth Leadership Program (GCYL). **The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)** *Le fonds du Primat pour le secours et le développement mondial* is the Anglican Church of Canada’s agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners’ initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world.

PWRDF is active in 22 countries, with partners drawn from Anglican churches, ecumenical organizations, and community-based groups. PWRDF supports people-centred development that improves the quality of daily life for vulnerable populations, promotes self-reliance, and addresses root causes of poverty and injustice. Our work is bound together in three strategic themes: Weaving a Culture of Peace with Justice, Building a Moral Economy and Accompanying Communities in Crisis.

Young people using peer education for HIV/AIDS prevention in El Salvador

PWRDF-supported development programs include:

- **Farmers** using traditional and innovative agricultural methods to improve their access to a secure food source;
- **Young people** using peer education for HIV/AIDS prevention;
- **Women** addressing reproductive health issues;
- **Indigenous peoples** recovering and preserving traditional ways for the next generation; Human rights workers documenting abuses;
- **Diverse ethnic communities** participating in dialogues and working towards peace.

For more information about PWRDF visit: <http://pwrdf.org/our-work/development-program/>

THE COMMITTEE AGAINST AIDS / Asociación Comité Contra El Sida Cabañas (CoCoSI) – EL SALVADOR PARTNER ORGANIZATION

CoCoSI was established on August 29th, 1999. In 2007, CoCoSI gained its own incorporation as an NGO and has been supported by PWRDF since 2005. CoCoSI is made up of professionals whose work involves developing workshops on HIV/STI’s and Gender Based Violence for women, children, adolescents and teens, persons living with HIV, prison populations and the general public. CoCoSI is organized into three programs that initiate development and execution of projects and activities:

1. **Prevention:** works in rural communities with youth, LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Intersexual), teachers and parents;
2. **Accompaniment and Mitigation:** coordinates with the Ministry of Health and Central Prison System and works with people living with HIV, people deprived of their liberty (PPL - prison inmates), MSM (men who have sex with men), transgender women, family members and populations from rural communities; and
3. **Social and Political Advocacy:** creates and records all radio spots and news reports to educate about sexuality, gender, gender based violence, LGBTI, human rights and report on violations of human rights.

CoCoSI is the only group in Cabañas carrying out such work and runs workshops with women's groups and men's groups, in schools with teachers, students and parents, with health professionals and in prisons. PWRDF celebrates CoCoSI accomplishments, such as the one in July 2010 when they received international recognition by the United Nations HIV/AIDS Program as one of 25 community-based groups from around the world involved in HIV/AIDS education, prevention and advocacy recognized with a Red Ribbon Award.

For more information about CoCoSI visit: <http://cocosi.org/>

**We will be visiting two other SCIC member projects in El Salvador and will provide information about these partners when the itinerary is finalized.*

EL SALVADOR

Your tour experience will include visiting projects in or near the capital city of San Salvador, and the department of Cabañas, El Salvador.

El Salvador is amongst the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with the highest levels of inequality. The large population stretches natural resources to their breaking points and contributes to housing shortages caused by lack of available land. Coffee production dominates El Salvador's economy and provides the majority of the country's jobs. Further expansion of agriculture is difficult because of the limited land available for farming. Those who farm simply to survive, subsistence farmers, make up 40 percent of the population and have no empty lands available to them.

The main challenges the country currently faces are migration, violence and social insecurity, gender inequality as well as the proneness to climate change impacts and the impacts of natural disasters.

El Salvador's educational system is compulsory. However, 30 percent of all children do not attend primary school. Adult literacy in cities approaches 80 percent but only about half of the people living in rural areas can read and write.

Typical Rural and Urban Home Life

In rural areas, most houses 20 feet by 20 feet and are made of mud or adobe bricks. Many times the structure is reinforced with pieces of wood as columns on the corners, and the roof is usually straw or aluminum if the family manages to get used aluminum sheets. Lack of sewage is usual, so pit latrines are common.

In urban settings, the typical materials are bricks and cement for the two common methods of construction. The first method are small (480 square feet) homes for low-income families which are called "casa de pasaje" or alleyway houses. The second method is considered a patio or open area design where half the space is considered the living room/dining room/ kitchen and the other half accounts for the two bedrooms and a bathroom. These types of homes have only one floor, and are inexpensive to build, since two houses share just one, thin brick wall, which divides them.

The other type of urban house setting for children living in urban areas is slums. In El Salvador, these are called "zonas marginales," or excluded zones. In this type of setting, most houses are huts made of aluminum sheets, plastic, and cardboard.

Your experience in El Salvador will probably be challenging, exciting, stressful, and fun. It is a mixture of the difficult with the wonderful, an introduction to a rich culture that will provide for you a unique experience.