

**Projects Funded by Local Social Justice Grants in 2015–16**

Local	Project Title	Description
<b>North Vancouver Teachers' Association</b>	Social Literacy: Be Moved!	Three teacher-librarians will lead a team of teachers in their respective schools with an inquiry that will implicitly teach empathy. The teams will use the Aboriginal approaches of talking circles, story sharing, symbolism, and community elders to teach a small focus group of eight students the culture of tolerance and compassion for minority groups and an appreciation for the diversity of people. The school teams will use compelling picture books, presentations from community leaders, and virtual field trips to important Canadian museums to create meaningful lessons for the students. In turn, they will present their knowledge on the respective school websites to share with their community.
<b>South Okanagan Similkameen</b>	The Green Project: Growing Responsibly for Education and the Environment	We will design and install an organic, indoor vegetable garden that will be used by two schools and their lunch programs, the Student Environmental Club, as well as multiple courses, including sciences, home economics, environmental studies, and social studies. This initiative will provide students and staff with ongoing opportunities to practise sustainable living principles. The indoor garden will be housed in a highly-visible area of our school, making it an integral and important part of our school culture and an important component of reaching our greater goal of making students and staff more environmentally-aware.
<b>Greater Victoria</b>	Social Justice Youth Conference	We will offer a one-day conference where topics of gender equality, privilege and discrimination, environmental justice, and globalization/fair trade are explored through experiential workshops. Youth who have been trained by the Didi Society will facilitate these workshops. In addition to workshops, there will be opportunities for youth to network on the social justice topics of interest and learn from each other about what they are doing.
<b>Boundary</b>	SAGA Stuck on You	This activity was planned by students. To advocate for safe spaces and for acceptance of LGBTQ youth, students will "blitz" the school and community with BCTF rainbow stickers, asking teachers and businesses to post the stickers and to identify the space as safe for and accepting of LGBTQ youth. Funds will be used to purchase t-shirts to identify LGBTQ participants and their allies.

<b>Coquitlam</b>	Social Justice for Newly Arrived Syrian Refugees	The project will inform and educate newly-arrived Syrian students and their families about important topics that will positively affect their success and integration into our school system by offering four workshops to these students and their families. Teachers from four schools will plan workshops and share strategies and resources to meet the needs of these students. Funds will be used to cover TTOC costs for planning time and to pay guest speakers.
<b>Kamloops/ Thompson</b>	Social Justice Movie Event	Two movie nights featuring Aboriginal and LGBTQ themed films will be offered. The events will be open to teachers, students, and community members with the goal of raising awareness and promoting discussions. These films are available for schools to purchase as classroom resources. Funds will be used to rent the films and the venue and for publicity.
<b>Surrey Teachers' Association</b>	Elder Stories	This project will create a connection between children and their elders through sharing a childhood story about the elder. Children will write and illustrate their elder's story and create an art project—called an <i>arpillera</i> —to accompany this story. The school has a high English Language Learner (ELL) population.
<b>Greater Victoria Teachers' Association</b>	Welcome Figure Celebration	A welcome figure that is a permanent symbol of welcome and inclusion for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and staff will be placed in Spectrum School. Aboriginal students will be empowered by hosting a ceremony and information fair with the school as well as a formal ceremony for the school and community. The ceremony will formally acknowledge and celebrate the placement of this figure and share its significance. Students from the elementary school next door will be invited on a separate occasion. Funds will be used for materials, community members' labour to build the figure, and for information leaflets.