

## Sampling of 2015–16 Ed May Social Responsibility Grants

(Some projects are linked to online articles and resources)

Zone	Amount granted	Local	Notes
Metro West	\$1,150	41 Burnaby Teachers' Association	<p><b>BC Coast and Plains Aboriginal Art: Helltsuk and Cherokee Nations' Weaving with Colleen M. Johnson and Laura Borders</b></p> <p>The project is intended to serve 27 ceramics and sculpture students in Grades 9–12, as well as all of the Aboriginal students and staff, and—through exhibition—the entire school community. The artwork created will be displayed in the school with contextual panels for over 1,000 students, staff, and parents to see.</p>
Vancouver Island North	\$1,555	70 Alberni District Teachers' Union	<p><b>Traditional Cedar Wood Box</b></p> <p>As a school where one-third of the student population is Indigenous, we want to ensure a welcoming atmosphere for those students and their families. For this project, all teachers and students will learn the importance of the cedar wood box and have a chance to see a First Nations artist at work and ask questions. The box made by the artist will be displayed at the school entrance. Four classes at the school will also make their own, smaller cedar wood boxes, with the help of the wood shop teacher.</p>
Metro West	\$2,000	41 Burnaby Teachers' Association	<p><b>The Heart of Reconciliation</b></p> <p>The goal is to help guide many of our school's classes through the six steps found in the <a href="#">Project of Heart resource guide</a>. This would involve the decorating of 1,000–2,000 wooden tiles under the guidance of Elder Lillian Daniels, a residential school survivor and retired educator. We envision half of the tiles being installed on the tops of pillars located in the school atrium. Through consultation with students and community, we will select words or phrases to be screened on the pillars. The remaining tiles will be used as buttons that will become part of a woven blanket created by the students, staff, parents, and community members under the guidance of Elder Lillian Daniels.</p>

North Coast	\$2,000	52 Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union	<p><b>Gestures of Reconciliation and Justice for Indigenous Women</b></p> <p>A group of over 15 teachers at two secondary schools will work with students exploring the history of the Indian Residential School System and its lasting impacts, as well as the injustices facing Indigenous women today and in the past. Students will participate in the Project of Heart and the J4IW necklace projects, and create a permanent display with the objects produced. Teachers involved will host workshops for colleagues so the initiatives can grow beyond their schools.</p>
Metro Fraser Valley	\$2,000	36 Surrey Teachers' Association	<p><b>Paying It Forward through Social Responsibility</b></p> <p>Surrey RCMP recently reported that 65% of the police call-outs are due to mental health issues in our community. We are only able to address our larger issues as a collective when all groups making up the collective are represented. This proposal is to start a Youth Steering Committee with our most at-risk populations. The more involved our youth are in the community, the less likely they are to participate in negative activities.</p>
Okanagan	\$2,000	73 Kamloops Thompson Teachers' Association	<p><b>Ways of Knowing: Exploring Identity with First Nations Youth</b></p> <p>This project will echo our retreat last year, including three days at McQueen Lake, February 24–26, 2016. Students will participate in two small-group activities and one whole-group activity. Each workshop will explore the topic of identity, self-esteem, and pride. Students will engage in cultural activities including drumming and storytelling, and will be given the opportunity to express themselves artistically through a traditional carving workshop led by a First Nations carver. They will also participate in physical activities such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.</p>
Vancouver Island South	\$2,000	65 Cowichan District Teachers' Association	<p><b>A Celebration Day of Aboriginal People</b></p> <p>The objective of this event is to bring together school staff, district staff, parents, and Malahat First Nations members to plan and participate in a day of awareness and promotion of Aboriginal culture. Specific events of the day will involve presenters from the district Aboriginal Education Department, school staff, and</p>

			members of the Malahat and Métis communities. There will also be opportunities for students to participate in cedar weaving, dance, canoeing, lacrosse, song, art, and knitting. Traditional Aboriginal foods will be served.
Okanagan	\$2,000	17 Princeton District Teachers' Union	<b>JA Kitchen Kids: Primary Children Cook Heritage Foods</b> In this project, students will learn the basic skills in preparing healthy, home-style foods through carefully selected recipes from a variety of cultures during the proposed cooking workshops. <i>A Multicultural Cook's Guide Book</i> will be created with photographs, drawings by the students, and the recipes used. The students will develop attitudes of acceptance and respect for people of differing cultures through the participation of this program and by participating in antiracism lessons.
Metro Fraser Valley	\$1,000	36 Surrey Teachers' Association	<b><u>Welcome All: Message in a Bottle</u></b> This project centres on a collaborative effort between students of L.A. Matheson and Welcome Centre, non-profit groups working with refugees and immigrants, local members of parliament, etc., to raise awareness and empower the voices of those that need to see change at multiple levels. We will plan Welcome All Kits to be given to at least 300 families coming to our schools (including things like winter gear, <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> , books, toiletries, school supplies, etc.) These kits are meant to bring about positive connections between the newcomers and their new home, while also providing students the opportunity to reach out and help others. Our Message in a Bottle Campaign will see us deliver messages from students, families, and organizations to the federal government.

Vancouver Island South	\$2,000	61 Greater Victoria Teachers' Association	<p><b>Exploring Identity: Building a Social Justice Community in Middle School</b></p> <p>Our students have a desire to share their learning and spread a message of inclusion. They want to be agents of change. They have identified that they would like to do this by creating t-shirts and high-quality posters. Initial conversations have included messages about ending labeling, promoting religious and ethnic tolerance, and building awareness of First Nations issues. The students plan on wearing the shirts en masse on a regular basis to raise awareness, invite questioning, and incite conversation in the school and in our community. We would like to sell the t-shirts as well, with any profits to be donated to non-profit organizations. Furthermore, we will create mini-lessons with our students that they will present with their posters to other classes in the school.</p>
Kootenay	\$2,000	10 Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association	<p><b>Something to Think about: Connecting Communities with Compassion</b></p> <p>Grade 12 students will write picture books on a variety of social justice topics. These books will be published and taken on the road, where they will be shared in schools in British Columbia, Alberta, and Washington. At the Grade 12 graduation ceremony, these books will be officially donated to the school library.</p>
Vancouver Island North	\$2,000	85 Vancouver Island North Teachers' Association	<p><b>Revealing Integrity through the Storytelling of Youth</b></p> <p>Grades 8, 10, and 11 film students will create films culminating in a film festival involving the communities of Port McNeill, Alert Bay, Sointula, Woss, and Port Hardy. The films will address various issues, such as sexual identity, bullying, First Nations cultures, etc.</p>

North Coast	\$2,000	54 Bulkey Valley Teachers' Union	<p><b><u>Rainbow Crosswalk Together!</u></b></p> <p>There has been a proposal for Rainbow Crosswalks to be painted in Smithers, Terrace, and Prince Rupert, and all three municipalities have approved the proposal. In Smithers, this has received some strong opposition from conservative groups. With the crosswalk to be painted in the spring, the time is ripe for a new Out in Schools Tour to help deepen awareness in our schools about the importance of LGBTQ advocacy, support, and visibility. This time, we would like to include our district's elementary schools. We have also teamed up with Hazelton and Terrace. Members of our school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) will be involved in planning, promoting, and presenting the workshops.</p>
Metro West	\$2,000	392 Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association	<p><b>Japanese Internment Lesson Plan and Field Study Guide</b></p> <p>In collaboration with the Japanese-Canadian Community Association (JCCA), the Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) Antiracism Action Group's objective is to create a series of lesson plans for elementary and secondary school teachers that not only teach about Canada's past, but also provide a critical and social justice lens for students to consider current government and institutional policies (e.g., Bill C-51, immigration laws) that continue to target and marginalize certain groups.</p>
Metro West	\$2,000	392 Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association	<p><b>Climate Justice</b></p> <p>Grade 12 students at Windermere Secondary initiated the Climate Justice Project six years ago, and this year we will continue to give students a real-life opportunity to explore, improve, and use their individual and combined agency to make their schools and communities more environmentally just. The goal of the Climate Justice Project this year is to continue to build on the tremendous work done by their peers through three major events: an Earth Day Parade, the Seventh Annual Climate Justice Conference, and a screening of Naomi Klein's new film <i>This Changes Everything</i>, for secondary students at the Rio Theatre in Vancouver.</p>

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