

## **The OCASI School for Social Justice (SSJ)**

### **What is the SSJ?**

The OCASI School for Social Justice (SSJ) is a participatory capacity building initiative for new and experienced change agents to strengthen the social policy analysis, community organizing, and action on social, political and economic justice capability of OCASI member agencies.

### **Goal:**

Support social change leaders and activists from the OCASI network in their pursuit of an inclusive vision of social and economic justice, through a process of critical reflection and action for transformative change. This network of social change champions will also serve as a resource base to sustain the collective effort of Council to create change, as it works with individuals, communities, partners, and allies in the refugee and immigrant sector and in the broader social justice movement.

### **Objectives (learning outcomes):**

Using a popular education program and working collaboratively with resource people and with each other, participants of the School of Social Justice can expect to:

- Situate our approach to social analysis within a historical context, specifically by analyzing Canada's colonial history, the Indigenous Peoples' struggles for self-determination/resource control, and the history of racism
- Deepen their self-awareness through a critical understanding of the power structure of society and their location/participation in this power structure
- Construct an analytical framework for anti-oppression analysis, starting with themselves and sharing their experiences and reflections with each other
- Practice the use of specific tools for social analysis and apply them in examining how systemic discrimination/oppression works in society and its institutions
- Identify different forces working for and against positive social change and assess who/what forces are working with us or against us in relation to specific issues or goals
- Through the use of case studies/scenarios, evaluate different strategies for change and assess their possibilities and limitations
- Explain how the public policy cycle works and relate it to their role as community educators, organizers, and social change advocates
- Through case studies, identify different approaches and strategies in community organizing for policy change, both in its historical context and in relation to the current struggle of different immigrant and refugee communities and issues
- Show the links among these three popular movements: Indigenous Peoples, anti-Black racism, and immigrant/refugee rights; and identify common ground and differences among them
- Define who/what is an ally and evaluate approaches to coalition building, in relation to specific issues or campaigns
- Given different scenarios, apply technical communication and media engagement skills
- Working in teams, make a short presentation to demonstrate the application of action-reflection cycle and elements of popular education

- Share their reflections and evaluation of this SSJ program and specific sessions, in terms of program content, objectives, process/methodology, as well as their own participation

***- In addition, through three (3) webinars participants will analyze and compare specific cases of social change strategies in different settings, as follow:***

- The Charities Act: Possibilities and Limits for Advocacy (legal setting)
- Social Media and Social Change (media)
- Policy Change at the Municipal Level (local setting)

**Contact Information:**

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