

## Overcoming Physical Distancing with Social Solidarity

The coronavirus pandemic and the physical distancing measures required to save thousands of lives - but also inducing a global recession - will require an unprecedented level of ***social solidarity*** in the months ahead. While almost everyone will be impacted, the most vulnerable and previously marginalized will take the biggest hits unless we stand together.

We have different ways of saying what social solidarity means and why it's important. Catholic social teaching emphasizes a "preferential option for the poor" - that we must see to the needs of the least among us first. Similarly, the union tradition talks about "in injury to one is an injury to all". Others might simply say "were all in this together" and we won't let anyone fall. Crises can bring out the worst or the best in us. Social solidarity speaks to the best of who we can be. This week, GEA will host the first of several "Civic Academies" to educate ourselves and learn from each other about how we can turn this crisis into an opportunity to become better neighbors and citizens - creating a better society for everyone.

The first Civic Academy will focus on how to organize through our community, faith and labor organizations – and into our neighborhoods – to reach those most in need, break isolation, and cultivate meaningful social solidarity.

Please join us (via computer & video if at all possible):

### ***Building Robust Member and Neighborhood Support Networks***

**Thursday, April 2 – 10:00 AM**

<https://zoom.us/j/177651207>

Meeting ID: 177 651 207

Dial by your location (if you can't join via internet)

+1 587 328 1099 (AB); +1 778 907 2071 (BC)

We encourage each organization to invite a team of people to attend – anyone who may be involved in planning and executing an outreach effort. The agenda will include:

- how to best divide up large membership lists;
- key practices to embed in outreach campaigns, and;
- how to provide the support that the people we are contacting may need.

Details will be coming out soon about a ***second Civic Academy*** – on **April 9<sup>th</sup>** – to help us understand ***What's Available, How to Access It and What's Missing*** on the federal, provincial and city levels to help people through the crisis. In the meantime, you will find an excellent list of resources compiled by the Alberta Federation of Labour [here](#).

Greater Edmonton Alliance for the Common Good

<http://www.greateredmontonalliance.org/>