

***Greater Edmonton Alliance***

***IAF Canada***

**Background**

The Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) is affiliated with other alliances in Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria through IAF Canada. IAF Canada, in turn, is part of the larger Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) that was established in 1940 to help working poor people have a greater voice in shaping the destiny of their communities. Canada is part of an IAF region that includes Alliances in New Zealand, Australia, Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

**Organizing for the Common Good**

The affiliates in Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton and Calgary are all non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue organizations that unite a diverse group of faith, community and labour organizations (see members below). They provide high quality training to help equip rank and file members become effective public leaders, build “power with” among their diverse memberships and take strategic action to hold both public and private power holders accountable for their public responsibilities –at the city and provincial levels.

**Ownership - Dues and Decision Making**

Organizations pay membership dues to become voting members of the Alliances. Faith institutions pay dues equal to 1-2% of their annual operating budgets while unions are expected to pay $3-5 per year for each member living in the target geographic area. The Greater Edmonton Alliance has a maximum dues level of $25,000.

Dues paying members make all major decisions for the organizations at regularly scheduled Delegates Assemblies. Delegates vote on which issue campaigns to pursue, elect officers, approve hiring of the Lead Organizer, and approve the annual budget. Each organization has one vote and most decisions are made by consensus.

In addition to the Delegates Assemblies, the Alliances have Strategy Teams that direct the organizations daily operations – especially focused on advancing issue campaigns. Most of the administrative business is handled by a small board of elected officers.

Action Teams are responsible for developing and advancing strategies to move priority campaigns – upon approval by the Delegates.

The Alliances offer local Leadership Institutes (9-12 hours) about 3 times per year to provide basic organizing training. The larger IAF network also conducts week-long Institutes 3 times per year in different parts of Canada and the US.

The members of any member organization (including family members) are welcome to participate in the Action Teams, serve on the Strategy Team (higher commitment) and attend the local Institutes free of charge.

**Annual Operating Budgets**

The Alliances operate on very lean budgets with an average of 65% of the operating budgets going to cover the salary and benefits for the single Lead Organizer in each area. The annual budgets for each Canadian affiliate are around $150,000:

**Current Campaigns - Edmonton**

Greater Edmonton Alliance*:*

* *Living Wages / Quality Jobs –* 1) Securing commitments from local governments and private employers to pay living wages to all employees and contractors and 2) establishing city bidding requirements for infrastructure projects requiring all contractors and sub-contractors to:
  + pay prevailing wages by craft,
  + contribute to retirement programs,
  + meet apprentice utilization targets, and
  + prioritize hiring of local, low-income and indigenous workers.
* *Mental Health / Addictions –* 1) Asking the city of Edmonton to adopt the Canadian Standard for Psychological Safety in the Workplace and 2) establish a fund that will:
  + subsidize mental health first aid training, and
  + provide financial support to community-based organizations conducting education, outreach and peer-to-peer support initiatives designed to reduce stigmas and reach people with mental illness who are hiding in the shadows.

**Member Organizations**



\* Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

\* Boyle Street Community Services

\* CSU 52

\* Edmonton John Howard Society

\* ELCIC Synod of Alberta and the Territories - Edmonton

\* Franciscans of Western Canada

\* Ironworkers Local 720

\* Lady Flower Gardens

\* Les Filles de Jesus

\* MillWoods United Church

\* Northeast Edmonton Agricultural Producers

\* Our Savior Lutheran Church

\* St. Augustine's Anglican Church

\* UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488

\* Ursulines of Jesus

Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

\* St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Parish

\* St. Clare Roman Catholic Parish

\* St. Theresa's Catholic Parish



* Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583
* Ambrose University
* Anatolian Turkish Islamic Center of Calgary
* Anglican Diocese of Calgary
* B'Nai Tikvah
* Beth Tzedec Congregation
* Bethany Care Society
* Calgary Climate Hub
* Christ Church Anglican
* Eritrean Canadian Community Association of Calgary
* General Teamsters Local 362
* Good Shephard Moravian
* Hillhurst United
* Knox United
* Synod of Alberta & the Territories - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
* Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
* Lutheran Church of the Cross
* Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary - Office of Social Justice
* Scarboro United
* St. Andrew's Anglican Church
* St. David's United Church
* St. Laurence Anglican
* St. Stephens
* St. Thomas United Church
* UBCJA - 2103
* Unitarian Church of Calgary
* Vibrant Communities Calgary



* Congregation Emanu-el
* Saint Vincent de Paul Society
* Shambhala Meditation Centre
* First Unitarian Church of Victoria
* BC Government and Service Employee’s Union
* Camosun College Students Society
* Sierra Club BC
* UVIC Graduate Students' Society
* Fairfield United Church
* Our Place Society
* Cool Aid Society
* Anawim Companion Society
* Indigenous Perspectives Society
* AIDS Vancouver Island
* Greater Victoria Teachers Association
* Cadboro Bay United Church
* St. John the Divine Anglican Church
* St Patrick’s Parish Church
* Sisters of St. Ann
* Holy Cross Catholic Church
* Hospital Employees Union
* Unite Here 40



* Downtown Eastside (DTES) Catholic Parishes
* Eco-Justice Unit of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
* Fairview Baptist Church
* First Lutheran Church
* Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
* Grandview Calvary Baptist Church
* KAIROS Metro Vancouver
* Longhouse Council of Native Ministry
* Presbytery of Westminster Social Justice Action Committee (The Presbyterian Church in Canada)
* Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community
* Sisters of the Instruction of the Child Jesus
* St. Catherine’s Anglican Church
* St. Clement’s Anglican Church
* St. James’ Anglican Church
* St. Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Parish
* St. Laurence Anglican Church
* St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Parish
* St. Thomas's Anglican Church
* Temple Sholom
* Urban Aboriginal Ministry
* Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
* Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1724
* BC Government and Service Employees’ Union
* Burnaby Civic Employees’ Union, CUPE 23
* CUPE Metro
* Hospital Employees' Union
* Public Service Alliance of Canada, Vancouver Area Council
* UNIFOR British Columbia Council
* UNIFOR 2002
* Unite-HERE 40
* United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518
* The Vancouver and District Labour Council
* ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement) Society
* Association of Neighborhood Houses of BC (ANHBC)
* Burundian Community Association
* The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
* Carnegie Community Centre Association
* HandyDART Riders' Alliance
* Living Income for Equality
* Reach Community Health Centre
* Single Mothers’ Alliance of BC
* Strathcona Residents Association
* United Way Community Impact and Investment
* Bachelor of Science in Nursing Department, Vancouver Community College
* Capilano University School of Communicatios