



RIGHTING RELATIONS

Adult Education for Social Change

A Women-Led, Pan-Canadian Network of
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation

Foundational Frameworks for Our Shared Work



Purpose Statement

A Women-Led, Pan-Canadian Network, strengthening the capacity of adult educators and adult education to bring about radical social change through political and economic literacy for a just society in Canada.

This program lends priority to the process of regional hub/network development with adult educators who work with and are from **Indigenous, Immigrant, Refugee and Low-Income communities**.

Program Goals:

- 1) To build adult education leadership capacity by creating regional and/or pan Canadian networks of adult educators and community activist hubs committed to social change;
- 2) To provide resources/support to adult educators/community organizers actively engaged in advancing political and economic literacy work and in organizing efforts within the selected constituencies;
- 3) To foster, advance and encourage a mutual dialogue of critical learning, support and collaboration between the targeted constituencies;
- 4) To contribute to the social and economic advancement of the communities involved and to document and share the gains.

Regional Hub Development

Over a five-year timeframe, hubs of activity will be phased in, focusing on each of the identified constituencies. Currently we are engaged in hub development in three regions: **the Western Region**, with a focus on Low-Income; **the Central Region**, focusing on Immigrant and Refugee communities, and **the Eastern Region**, with a focus on Indigenous communities. Whilst there are regional priorities to hub development, there is a deep recognition of the intersectional reality of our constituencies, and hubs are currently reflecting that multi-faceted, and intersectional reality.

Anticipated Outcomes

- A network of people (including adult educators and grassroots community organizers) that are organized and supported by hubs across the country. The hubs have created tools and spaces that support a common agenda across three constituencies and their respective social movements
- The building of a shared agenda mapping the learning within and among the three social actors that reflects the process of political and economic literacy.
- Dialogue to enrich decolonizing practices in adult education, documented on the Righting Relations Website
- The shared agenda serves as the basis for action by the network that builds a broader critical consciousness and moves towards a just society in Canada.

- Skilled women leaders and models of a women-led process that can be shared with allies in social justice education.

Foundational Frameworks

1) Popular Education

A dialogical and experiential process of facilitating collective reflection and action towards societal transformation, with a focus on the most marginalized sectors of society. Everyone is a teacher and a learner, and we begin with people's lived experiences as a site for developing critical consciousness and awareness of power. Practicing an intersectional analysis, we question all oppressive power relations and recognize the interlocking and inter-connected nature of systems. We practice praxis: action – reflection – action as our learning process and recognize that we make the road by walking.

2) Women Led

Recognizing the traditional teachings on Matriarchal Societies of the Wabanaki

A collective and heart-centered approach to leadership, based in dialogue, process and building deep kin-like support networks. Being radically inclusive, building trust, relationships and safe space are integral to how we work. Validating and building upon people's knowledge in emotions, body, mind and spirit, we recognize multiple ways of knowing. We seek to embody and cultivate hope, creativity and wholeness into our reflection and analysis. We recognize the importance of self-care, healing and community support in sustaining popular educators.

There shall be a preponderance of female-identified individuals present at all times, and at times the space may be open to female-identified people only.

3) Right Relations

We take inspiration from and recognize the reconciliation movement to right relations between Indigenous and Settler communities in Canada and draw from it, a way to build bridges across diverse peoples - Indigenous, Settler, Immigrant and Refugee. It is a practice of the Universal Laws of love, respect, compassion and empathy for all of Creation, recognizing our interconnectedness and the need to share power and space equitably. We recognize the importance of being authentic and being right with ourselves in the process of righting relations.

National Steering Committee

Program oversight and direction is provided by The National Steering Committee, a group of experienced adult educators from across the regions engaged in hub development, working with and representing the constituencies of focus to Righting

Relations (Indigenous, Immigrant, Refugee and Low-Income). The National Steering Committee leads and advises in the planning, design and facilitation of the program. The Catherine Donnelly Foundation has representation on the National Steering Committee and works collaboratively to give guidance and direction to the program.

About the Catherine Donnelly Foundation



The Catherine Donnelly Foundation is a private charitable foundation based in Toronto that provides grants to charities addressing issues related to Adult Education, Housing, and Environment (Climate Change).

For more information, please visit:

www.catherinedonnellyfoundation.org