

Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund



Overview:

A community trust formed in 2011, Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund began as a way to talk about funding social movements, while building a capital base to benefit social justice organizing over the long term. We came together to talk about money and personal wealth, and to encourage people with extra money who believe in grassroots social change to get serious about funding movements in Ontario and beyond. Our hope is to create a practice of consistently and dependably funding social movements by getting people to look at their finances and contribute what they can on a monthly or yearly basis. Our ultimate goal is not to generate more money for Groundswell, but to get more cash flowing for transformative social change. At a time when capitalism is in crisis, and inequality and exploitation flourish, we are trying to take a practical approach to building a better future. Groundswell is trying to breathe some life into a conversation about money, and help grow left social movements that are independent and resourceful.

The placement:

We are seeking a motivated and passionate upper year university student for a placement to support our grant making, outreach and operations teams. This role offers hands-on experience in community-based fundraising, grassroots organizational operations, and social justice advocacy within a collaborative environment.

<https://groundswellfund.ca/>

The position:

Your responsibilities will include:

- Assist in planning and promoting grassroots fundraising campaigns
- Create content for social media, newsletters, and our website
- Help coordinate events, including town halls, rallies, and workshops
- Conduct research on funding issues, policies, and potential opportunities
- Support outreach efforts to engage community partners
- Attend campaign meetings and assist with administrative tasks as needed

The opportunity:

Participating in a co-op placement with Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund offers a unique opportunity for students to bridge academic learning with real-world community engagement. Through hands-on involvement in social justice, advocacy, and grassroots organizing, students will gain both personal and professional growth rooted in social justice practice.

- Apply classroom theories about equity, anti-oppression, and systems change in a real-world, community-led context.
- Learn how transit systems are intertwined with racial, environmental, and economic justice.
- Community Engagement & Outreach: Build relationships with diverse stakeholders, facilitate conversations, and support grassroots mobilization.

- **Event Coordination:** Help organize community events, fundraisers, and workshops—gaining project planning and logistics experience.
- **Policy & Research Skills:** Conduct research, analyze data, and contribute to the development of reports and transit policy recommendations.
- **Communication Skills:** Write for public, academic, and advocacy audiences; manage social media and outreach materials.
- **Organizational Skills:** Learn how nonprofit and advocacy organizations operate, and support internal coordination tasks.

The ideal candidate:

- Strong research, writing, and communication skills—able to produce materials for both academic and public audiences.
- Brings creativity to event planning, content creation, and problem-solving.
- Capable of working independently, managing tasks, and taking initiative in a fast-paced, evolving environment.
- Passionate about dismantling systemic barriers related to community-based organizing and advocacy
- Enrolled in a relevant discipline such as Social Justice Education, Environmental Studies, Public Policy, Urban Studies, Geography and Planning or similar.
- Brings an academic lens to their work but can translate ideas into accessible, community-facing actions.

How to apply:

For information about the application process, go to: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/cel-how-to-apply/>

Application deadline: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

For more information about the course, please visit: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/>

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