

International Collaboration for Education 2025



Are you ready
for something
more in your
professional life?

Are you looking
for a larger, more
global view
of education?

As a teacher,
do you feel you
have more to offer
and more to learn?

Are you ready
for a personal
and professional
adventure?

**If yes, volunteer for International Collaboration for Education 2025
(formerly Project Overseas) with the Canadian Teachers' Federation
and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.**

The CTF and STF are seeking English and/or French-speaking teachers at the elementary and secondary levels who are interested in volunteering their time and talents to offer professional development inservice programs in partnership with teacher organizations in developing countries. Each year, over 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer in countries in Africa and the Caribbean. This project takes place in July.

All candidates must:

- Be a Canadian citizen and hold a Canadian passport valid until at least July 2026 at the time of application (proof that a passport application has been made will be accepted).
- Be a member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and hold a valid teacher's certificate.
- Have completed at least five years of teaching in Canada by July 2025.
- Be in excellent health and be able to work in developing country conditions.
- Have high standards of professionalism and personal conduct.
- Show evidence of flexibility and mature judgment.
- Be willing to put the team and project needs above personal needs.

Please note:

- ICE is a volunteer experience.
- Administrative, travel and living expenses are covered by the STF and CTF.
- No salaries or honoraria are paid to ICE participants.
- No family or friends are permitted to accompany ICE participants during pre-departure orientation or overseas programs.

Please visit the Professional Resources section of our website, www.stf.sk.ca, for further information and application forms or contact us at stf@stf.sk.ca.



Application deadline: Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Interviews: Friday, November 22, 2024

Please see reverse side for our member experiences from Project Overseas 2024.



STF members, Karen Hovind and Ruth Smith, travelled to Grenada and St. Lucia in the Caribbean in July with Project Overseas 2024.

Karen Hovind

This summer I was given the amazing opportunity to participate in Project Overseas 2024 in Grenada. Three Canadian teachers partnered with their expert teachers.

The project started off a little uncertain as Grenada was hit by Hurricane Beryl just days before we were set to arrive. After some delays we eventually arrived in Grenada on July 6. We missed the scheduled planning time with our co-tutors but gathered on Saturday evening for a meet and greet. We felt very comfortable starting the course on Monday, especially since our Grenadian counterparts were experts in each subject.

The Grenadian Union of Teachers runs this summer course for members focused on their interest and feedback. July 8 was the beginning of our two weeks. I supported the special education course and was co-teaching with two special education teachers who specialize in sign language. We focused on four areas including social/emotional, physical, behavioural and sensory impairments. We often met for a debrief at the end of the day and to prepare for the next day using participant questions and conversations for planning.

Grenada is implementing universal education with some movement towards inclusive education. Behaviours and complexities that might not have been as present in classrooms before are creating more challenges for teachers increasing the need for better understanding of student supports and teacher training in this area.

It was so inspiring to be learning from and alongside the teachers in Grenada. It became clear very quickly that we have a universal education experience. In Saskatchewan we are dealing with very similar classroom and student needs. An increase in these needs requires an increase in understanding and training, and I am grateful to have been a small part working with teachers on these topics.

When teachers are given the opportunity to gather and talk about their work, it is honestly magic. The insight, creativity and collaboration were so inspiring.

We were lucky to have time to explore the island with our GUT hosts. We experienced their national dish, Oil Down, cooked over a fire by the past-president of the GUT. We ate together under a tree and learned about the vegetation around us. It was such a wonderful day!

A huge thank you to STF and CTF for the opportunity to travel to Grenada to support their summer course and to GUT for hosting us and sharing their culture with us.

Project Overseas is a game changing opportunity, and I am grateful for the learning, challenges and experiences that will no doubt impact my practice back here in Saskatchewan.

Ruth Smith

After some delays, our Canadian team arrived in St. Lucia on July 5. The opening ceremonies were held on July 8, and this was our first opportunity to plan with the co-tutors because of the delays.

Over the next eight days, the workshops focused on special education, differentiation using technology, positive discipline and mental wellness. There were four co-tutors and three Canadians supporting these topics. In addition, the St. Lucia Teachers' Union hosted guest speakers each day to facilitate dealing with trauma, self-defense, gender equity and other union topics.

On July 14 the SLTU hosted the Canadian team on a sightseeing tour of St. Lucia. There were no workshops on July 15 or 16 due to the Carnival holiday. Our Canadian team hosted a Canadian Culture celebration on July 18 and that evening we hosted our co-tutors and the SLTU executive to supper at a local restaurant. On July 19 was the closing ceremonies and St. Lucia cultural celebration. A debrief Zoom meeting was held on July 20 with the program director and co-tutors where we reviewed the participant survey responses. During this meeting, we brainstormed possible next steps to enhance next summer's institute. The workshops were well received by the participants and the feedback was very positive.

The program director and his team worked hard to make us feel comfortable and accommodated to make the workshops successful. Participants were very engaged, positive and motivated. Co-tutors were knowledgeable and eager to initiate ideas and present in the workshops.

The team leader training I received by the CTF was very valuable and great learning was done in a short period of time. The CTF was very supportive through continuous communication prior, during and post program. I had an amazing team to work with in St. Lucia which made this project experience exceptional.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate again in Project Overseas. I believe this is a valuable program for Canadian teachers and the partner countries. It hits home to me, especially after the past year of job action, how universal the rewards and challenges are of teaching.