



January 2024

Greetings!

**Re: Financial Appeal for SFL Summer Camp
August 10 - 16, 2024**

It is January so naturally the SFL's thoughts have turned to summer – and specifically to the SFL Summer Camp. Can you believe that this bold move in 1989 to have a social justice camp for the children of union members has lasted all this time and has provided incredible experiences for hundreds of Campers? It will be our 36th Camp this year. Some day we will do a “Where are they now?” review of our Campers and the things they have accomplished in this world. Some Campers are actually now sending their children to the SFL Summer Camp! Wow!

Our Camp needs your support to continue to provide this wonderful experience of collective action, activism, fun and so much more. Financial donations of all amounts are needed and we thought that this year, you might like to know where your donations are allocated to support the Camp:

- Recreation and craft supplies: Each year, we spend around \$500 on our recreation supplies. Campers have a great time engaged in activities to suit all levels of interest and ability.
- Nursing supplies: We need to replenish our supplies each year. It usually costs around \$300 to restock our supplies. Our nurses need to be prepared with cold medications, itch cream, headache pills, bandages and more because you never know what might happen at camp.
- Youth Activity Coordinators (YACs): These are Campers who have “aged out” but still want to continue coming to the SFL Camp and contribute their ideas and activism. These are paid positions. The cost per YAC is about \$2,000. This year we anticipate a full camp and we will need 6 YACs. That is \$12,000 we need to raise.
- Special outings: In 2022, we spent the day at Wanuskewin and in 2023, we spent the day at Batoche. They were great experiences! We need to pay for a bus to take us all there, have lunch onsite and pay the host. We are not sure where we will go this year but this event is always important. Cost for all of this is about \$2,000.
- Rock climbing, ziplining and initiative tasks: Shekinah Retreat, where we hold camp, has some exceptional special events we like to take part in. We need to have the activity supervised by the Shekinah staff who are trained in these skills. Costs for this can reach \$3,000.
- Honorariums for guest speakers and performers: Every year, we invite people to come and spend some time with us at camp as we focus on a range of activities. We need to provide their mileage costs and a small honorarium for their time with us. We have had Traditional Indigenous Dancers, Black in Saskatchewan, singers, Drag Queens, artists and many more have joined us over the years. Our budget in this area is usually limited to around \$2,000.

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- Staff: All of our Counsellors, Nurses and Kitchen Magicians (AKA Food Services Staff) have their wages covered by their unions or they generously donate their time to Camp. However, we do hire a trained Recreation Director and at least one Assistant. We would like to have two Assistants this year as it is a lot of work to keep a camp of 70 people engaged, active and having fun. If we can raise the funds for the Recreation Director and two Assistants, we would need about \$8,000.
- Scholarships: There are kids in our communities who would really love our Camp and benefit from it, but their parents may not have the privilege of belonging to a union. When finances allow, we offer scholarships to cover the cost of registrations. Some unions tell us they are paying for "X" number of registrations for the children of their members and for "X" number of scholarships to ensure young people can attend camp. This may be something you want to consider.

There is a lot more we could share with you, but you can see that our Camp includes more than what registration fees cover for lodging and food.

Will you help us make the 2024 SFL Summer Camp another huge success? We hope so!


Please send your donations via etransfer to payment@sfl.sk.ca or by mail to the SFL at 220, 2445 - 13th Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 0W1 and indicate this is a donation to the 2024 SFL Summer Camp.

Now, check out the Camp brochure and do not forget about registering some Campers from your Union, Local or Labour Council. It would be a shame to have this incredible program and not enough campers. Please register early (there is an early bird registration fee to entice you to act quickly). Remember that registrations are not complete unless we have the registration form and the payment. Do not disappoint someone by not registering them in full and then they lose their spot! Last year, we were almost at capacity and we anticipate a full camp this year, so please act quickly.

It may be January, but things are heating up at the SFL for Summer Camp!

If you have any questions about Camp, please email me at bbyersclc@gmail.com or Steve Torgerson at steve@gsu.ca.

In Solidarity,



Barb Byers and Steve Torgerson
SFL Camp Directors

Enclosure: SFL Summer Camp Brochure/Registration Form

cc: Lori Johb, SFL President
Dionne Duff, SFL Accounting Administrative Assistant