



ENDPOVERTYNOW

High School Chapter Guide

Introduction

Despite the luxuries many Canadians and world citizens enjoy, the reality is that today more than 1.2 billion people live in abject poverty. All across the world more than 800 million people go to bed hungry and 50,000 people die each day due to poverty-related causes. In Canada, one of the world's wealthiest countries, more than a million people, many of them children, live in poverty.

The challenge of global poverty is not something that is simply going to disappear. It is a battle that we, as human beings, must undertake. Poverty is a gross violation of human rights and it is our responsibility as global citizens to take action and make a difference.

One way to fulfill this responsibility and start making an immediate difference both here in Canada and around the globe is to found a chapter of End Poverty Now in your school or community. Founding an End Poverty Now Chapter will allow you to join our national network of citizens passionate about alleviating and eliminating poverty wherever it exists.

What are EPN Chapters?

End Poverty Now Chapters lead our organization's fight against poverty through a tri-pillar mandate of **educating** the public about issues related to global poverty, **fundraising** for the organization's grassroots development and redistributive projects, and providing **local volunteer** opportunities to alleviate poverty at the community level.

Education:

If poverty is ever to be eliminated, it will need to be made into an important political, social and moral issue in the public consciousness. Thus, the first task of EPN local chapters is to provide education on issues related to poverty.

Fundraising:

Poverty is best fought through the day-to-day efforts of individuals and organizations working at the grassroots level of their communities. Accordingly, the majority of EPN's budget is dedicated toward supporting these frontline heroes in the struggle against poverty.

Local Volunteering:

Fighting poverty requires more than just raising awareness and resources for the cause – it necessitates hands-on commitment to poverty alleviation work right in your own backyard. EPN chapters therefore provide opportunities to contribute to ending poverty in our own communities.

How do I start a Chapter?

All that is required to start an EPN Chapter is to find others in your school who share your passion for poverty alleviation, and to get in touch with EPN's High School Outreach Officer. From there, the Officer will provide support and guidance as you hold your first meetings, liaise with local partners, and hold your first events. EPN encourages creativity in fulfilling the tri-pillar mandate of education, fundraising and volunteering.

How to start an EPN chapter – step by step:

1 Before deciding whether or not you would like to create a chapter, **ensure that you are willing to dedicate the time necessary to effectively run a chapter.** That is not to say that running an EPN chapter requires you to sacrifice an excessive amount of your time. Nonetheless, you should be aware that running a chapter requires a great deal of leadership, dependability and dedication.

2 Get in touch with EPN's High School Outreach Officer: The High School Outreach Officer is your go-to person for any chapter-related questions. This officer is always available to address your concerns, provide advice about recruitment strategies, and help you to find volunteer opportunities for chapter members in

your local community. Contact the High School Outreach Officer now at hsoutreach@endpovertynow.ca!

3 Plan your first meeting. Find a teacher sponsor for the chapter and coordinate with he or she where the meetings should be held. Appoint a liaison within the interested group of individuals that will be responsible for consistent communication with the High School Outreach Officer of EPN. It is requested that this individual send the High School Outreach Officer bi-weekly updates to facilitate communication.

4 Recruit! Find all the people you know who may be interested in becoming a chapter member, and encourage them to come to your first meeting. Posting advertisements throughout the local community (in schools, shops, malls, on campus etc)!

5 Hold your first meeting. Don't be disappointed if you don't have a huge turnout at your first chapter meeting; turnout numbers will grow through word-of-mouth and as chapter members recruit friends. It's also useful to plan a fun activity for your first meeting or to provide some sort of incentive for people to attend. For example, you could screen a poverty-related film, plan a debate on a current issue in international development, or bring refreshments for attendees! The opportunities for creativity are endless. Don't stress too much about making progress on fundraising ideas in your first meeting; your main goal should be to recruit as many interested volunteers as possible and to see where their interests lie.

6 Start planning chapter activities. Chapter activities can include local volunteer activities (such as food drives, helping out at soup kitchens or in homeless shelters, etc) or fundraising activities for EPN's many projects. Please see p. 5-6 for a list of fundraising ideas.

7 Educate: Events such as conferences, speaker panels or workshops are fantastic ways to spread the message fundamental to the End Poverty Now mandate. You could also approach middle schools about the End Poverty Now Curriculum (available on the EPN website, <http://www.endpovertynow.ca>) and get children involved and educated early on!

8 Continue recruiting members, seeking out volunteer opportunities, and planning EPN fundraising projects! Never hesitate to get in touch with the High School Outreach Officer if you have any questions or concerns: hsoutreach@endpovertynow.ca



When starting a chapter...

There are a few **regulations** to keep in mind when starting a chapter. These regulations are meant simply to maintain the reputation and integrity of both EPN and your school's chapter.

Financial Regulations:

- All money raised by an EPN chapter must be accounted for, either by depositing the funds in a registered bank account (with EPN oversight), or by sending the funds directly to the EPN head office in Montreal
- Full and transparent budgets (i.e. expenses, revenue, receipts) must be provided for all EPN Chapter activities
- Any requests for funding (i.e. to run awareness events) must be fully budgeted and accountable head office in Montreal

Other Regulations:

- All EPN Chapters must conduct themselves so as to uphold the reputation and legitimacy of the organization, and operate with the highest levels of integrity, honesty, accountability and respect.

Suggested Timeline

It is important to have a general idea of what your chapter will be doing throughout the school year. This timeline is just a suggestion... don't be afraid to be creative!

September

- Register with your school as a student club
- Organize and hold first meeting of the year!
- Recruit new members (through activities nights, announcements, etc.)
- Appoint a liaison who will begin sending bi-weekly update emails to the High School Outreach Officer
- Brainstorm ideas for the year and establish a timeline suited for your chapter

October

- Begin holding regular meetings
- Plan and hold first major event (list of sample events at end of guide)
- Research local volunteer opportunities and get involved!
- Halloween allows for fun and novel fundraising activities, such as trick 'r' treat-ing for charity (canned goods, donations, etc.)

November

- Fundraising events (e.g. bake sales, samosa sales, auctions, raffles etc.)

- Continue regular meetings as well as being involved in your community

December

- Fundraising events and community involvement are always great ideas, but with more available time and the holiday season approaching – it may be easier to solicit participation and donations!

January

- Evaluate your progress – did everything go as planned last semester? What difficulties did you encounter? What should change to make the upcoming semester more successful?

February

- Fundrasing event and an educational event, such as a workshop or speaker panel

March

- Regular meetings focusing on the 5 Days campaign
- 5 Days for the Homeless!!!

April

- Annual audit / evaluation of your chapter

Summer

- Chapters are not required to hold events during the summer, but if members of your chapter are able and willing – please do not hold back!

Fundraising Ideas

Fundraising is what keeps EPN alive, and provides the resources for grassroots projects across the world. Why not try to have some fun with it?

Suggested Ideas for Fundraising:

- Art Exhibition
- A-thons: Juggle-a-thon, swim-a-thon, run or walk-a-thon
- Auction: anything including your services, donated art, baked goods etc. to the highest bidder; could be silent or live; try to find a local auctioneer
- Bake sale
- “Bake-off” Contest – charge a small fee for entries and provide a modest prize for winners
- Barbeque
- Bingo
- Blanket drive
- Booksales
- Bottle drive
- Car washing
- Carol singing in local shopping centres
- Collection jars: in shops, dental offices, theatres, etc
- Choral concerts
- Used clothing sale
- Cinema night: ask your local theatre to donate proceeds from the screening of certain films to EPN
- “Coins for Kids” – in local schools, children are encouraged to bring in \$1 to help fund EPN’s poverty alleviation projects involving children
- Comedy evenings
- Concerts
- Corporate sponsorship
- Craft sale
- Dances, carnivals, fashion shows
- Drama night: proceeds collected from ticket sales of a particular play donated to EPN
- Food drive
- Formal/Semi-formal Dinners
- Garage sales

- Guest speaker: sell tickets beforehand; send a press release to local newspapers to draw people from the larger community
- Hunger dinner: everyone pays for dinner but some people know they'll run the risk of eating plain rice
- Karaoke night
- Pancake breakfast: set up a stand to sell pancakes to students!
- Penny drive – have a competition with the different grades on who can raise the most money
- Photography contest: charge a small fee for each submission; solicit local businesses to donate prizes (e.g. tickets for events, coupons, CDs, gift certificates, etc)
- Photography exhibition: entrance fees go to EPN
- Poetry reading
- Sports teams: have local sports teams raise money for EPN or involve local athletes in EPN events
- Sleep outside in a visible place and solicit sponsors or donations
- Starve-a-thon: try a 12-24 hour famine to raise money for EPN through sponsors
- Supermarket collections: collection boxes on supermarket counters; sale of EPN products such as pins, greeting cards, etc, in supermarkets
- Teach: recruit a volunteer to teach a free class in anything – yoga, photography, computer skills, cooking, music, etc
- Unwanted gifts sale
- Restaurant contributions: such as gift certificates for auctions, space for a special event, food for a bake sale
- Scavenger hunt: charge a fee for participation/registration
- Second-hand sales
- Shave: raise money by shaving heads,
- Refreshment stalls: at local events
- “Poverty Trivia Night”: with a small participation fee; sell snacks during breaks

Thank you for your interest in
ENDPOVERTYNOW!

We hope that your chapter is a success, and we are always here for you if you need any help.



Contact Us

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