LA PROCHAINE GÉNÉRATION

X

NEXT GENERATION

GLOBAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

United Steelworkes, Unite The Union, Los Mineros and la Central de Trabajadores de Cuba organized an international youth exchange aimed at creating a new generation of trade union activists with connections around the globe.

In June 2014, 15 Next Generation union activists from Cuba, the United States, Mexico, the UK, and Canada met for ten days in British Columbia for the first ever Global Youth Exchange, hosted by the United Steelworkers. To start, the group met at the District 3 Summer School for the educational portion of the Exchange. This was full of lively discussions about trade union structure, power, climate change, and the role of youth in labour movements. In the classroom talks, the group gained a solid understanding of the struggles faced by young trade unionists around the globe. And, many strong connections and lasting friendships were made! Even though this was the educational segment, the classroom was not the only place for learning—the Summer School provided the perfect opportunity for the group to meet all sorts of local union members from across District 3.



After the week in the classroom, the group got a chance to get out and see where Steelworkers work and how its locals function. During the second part of the Exchange, the participants toured a mine and a saw mill. Several local unions also hosted the group, giving everyone ample opportunity to talk about the role of the locals and to better understand the daily lives of Steelworkers. The Exchange also held meetings with local and provincial politicians serving in and around Vancouver. Finally, the GYE met with local community activists working in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

All of the participants left the Global Youth Exchange inspired and ready to continue their activism in their communities. Wanting to put into practice what they'd learned on the exchange, the group committed to carry out community actions in the fall.

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

Workers Uniting The Global Union

unite theUNION

CTC

SINDICATO NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES MINEROS METALURGICOS Y SIMILARES DE LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA

GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

September 2014



Amanda Zakhour
USW - Local 5319
Canada

They teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a single mother of six who lost her home in an electrical fire.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund contributed financially to the project.

Juan Jose Rodriguez
CTC - Higher Education
Cuba

The stewards of the University of Havana went to a primary school in the university's neighborhood. They promoted the need to protect the environment and helped clean the area around the school.





Ruth Lopez Patiño
Los Mineros - Section 269
Mexico

They painted classrooms and a play structure in a school located in Reforma, close to the mine in which they work.

Marcos Velez
USW - Local 227
United States

They cleaned the grounds and repaired the roof of a widow's house. Now, the widow would not be evicted by the city.





Brigitte Womer
USW - Local 1000
United States

They went to the homes of members out of work due to serious illness; they painted fences, decks, did yard work or anything else that needed to be done at their homes.



Kasey Pisiak
USW - Local 5917
Canada

Also teamed up with Habitat for Humanity. The home they built will be given to a single mother of two

Jesika Parmar
UNITE - West Midlands
UK

They visited universities and colleges, offering students opportunities to benefit from UNITE.

Yunier García Rodríguez
Energy sector – CTC
Cuba

They repaired a water tank and pipes bringing water to the community





LA PROCHAINE GÉNÉRATION
NEXTGENERATION

LET'S KEEP THIS GOING

Participants in the Global Youth Exchange

Canada	Amanda Zakhour Vincent Boily Kasey Pisiak
USA	Alex Perkins Marcos Isaias Velez Brigitte Womer
UK	Gavin Sibthorpe Jesika Parmar Bryan Simpson
Cuba	Armando Alvarez Evora Juan José Rodríguez Martínez Yunier García Rodríguez
Mexico	Jose Luis Alvarado Torres Rafael Renteria Ruth Adriana López Patiño

Several of the Next Gen Steelworkers attended the Union's International Convention in Las Vegas in August, 2014. At the Convention, they spoke to the Next Gen Resolution, describing their positive experiences and their desire to continue the program. As part of the Next Gen Resolution, there was a commitment to continue the exchange and community actions related to it in the future.

The previous pages demonstrate how the youth trade unionists followed through on their promise to bring what they learned on the Exchange to their local communities. The Global Youth Exchange shows there are very exciting possibilities for future global unionism and community activism, as well as youth engagement in the labour movement. As the youth said at the closing of the event "*let's keep this going— our unions will support us*".

