



COMMON THREADS



**An OSSTF/FEESO
International
Solidarity Program**



What is it?

Common Threads is the name of our international solidarity program which researches a specific issue and develops curriculum materials for use in all Ontario English public secondary schools

It was created in 2001

Team travels in the summer and then spends the year designing new curriculum

Issue based and country specific



Globalization
Sweatshops
and the
clothes we
wear

From
Canada to
South
Africa:
Combating
HIV/AIDS
Together

• 2004
South Africa

Tapped
Out:
The
World
Water
Crisis

• 2006
Bolivia

Hungry
for
Change:
Food and
Food
Security

• 2008
Brazil

• 2002
Guatemala



PARTNERSHIP AGAINST AIDS

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK, WORK WITH
GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO SEEK
PREVENTION AND EXTINCTION OF HIV/AIDS

"USE CONDOMS SAFE SEX"
COURTESY OF... SOLLY'S TAKE AWAY

AIDS HELPLINE

0800-012-322















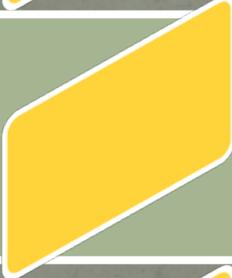
How Do We Decide?



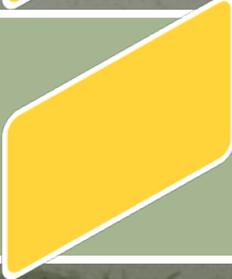
Issue must resonate with **Canadian** students and have a development theme



Gaps exist within the current curriculum



We must find a suitable educational union overseas and a Canadian NGO to partner with



All proposals are brought to Provincial Executive for final decision



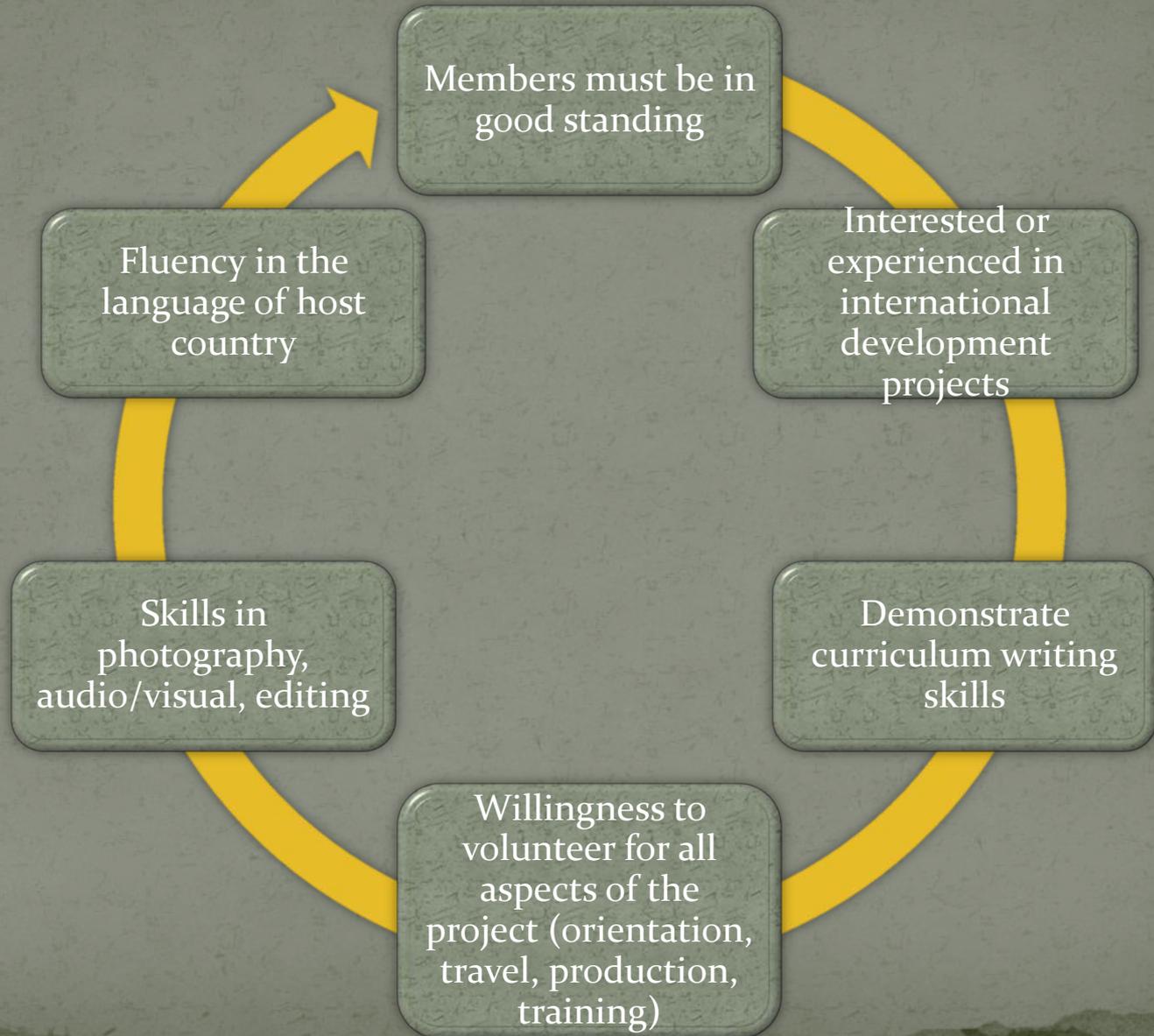
Volunteers Needed

Ads are placed in Update, on our website and a memo is sent out soliciting volunteers to apply for the common threads team

Applications have been received from every district and are reflective of the members

Approximately 80-100 interested members apply each time

Team Selection Criteria

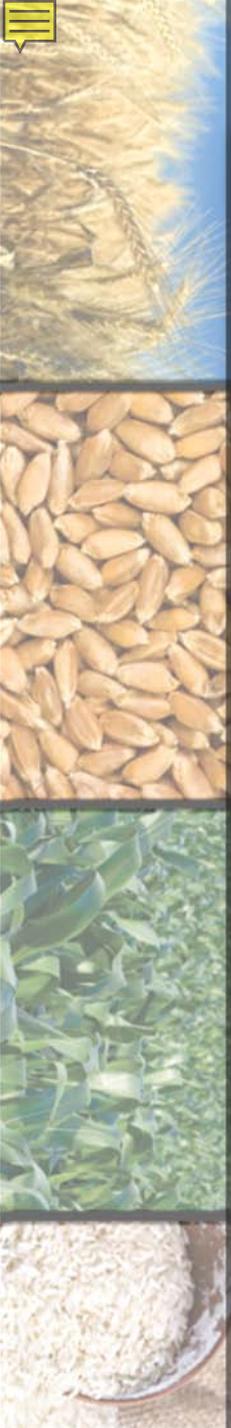


Why is Common Threads Different?



First Hand Narratives

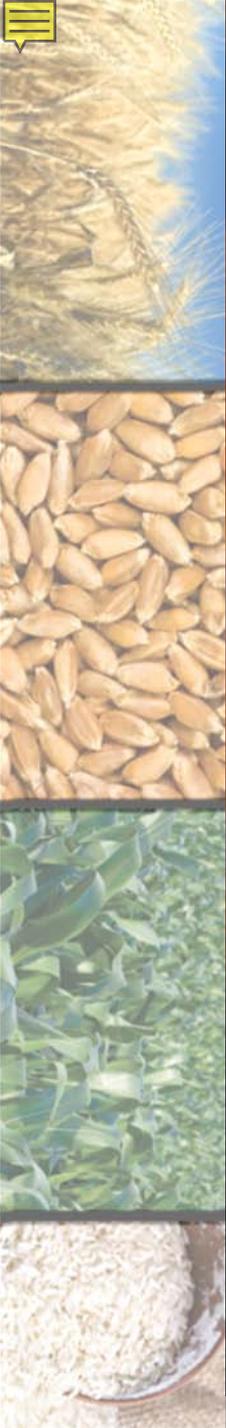




















Aracuai, Brazil





Evo Morales







“Classroom Ready”

Lesson plans contain activities which use a variety of teaching techniques

Black line masters included

Additional readings and learning strategies

Assessment rubrics

Multi media in nature



CIDA involvement

Since 2003, we have received 3 grants through the Global Classroom Initiative

They range from \$24-\$38,000

Allows us to gain exposure with the federal development agency

Allows for production of 1,000 copies

Adds credibility to our work



Partnerships

CT1 allowed us to develop relationships with the Maquilla Solidarity Network and the Sindicato de Trabajadoras de la Educacion de Guatemala (STEG)

CT2 strengthened our relationship with the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU)

CT3 established a new partnership with the Polaris Institute and the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Educacion Urbana de Bolivia (CTEUB)

CT4 established new partnerships with Food Share Canada and the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University







19.08.2007





Jundiba village, Brazil





Lessons Learned

- Members will agree to volunteer and stay involved throughout the design and training period
- Strengthened their new connection to Federation
- It is an excellent example of knowledge creation
- Program is inclusive of all members,-- teachers; support staff and professionals
- Issues have international and Canadian links for students
- Has raised the profile of OSSTF/FEESO Nationally and Internationally with our sister education unions

Common Threads has increased recognition for OSSTF/FEESO



Received two awards from the Canadian Education Press Association

Nominated for a Special Recognition Award from the Canadian Council on Learning

Has been featured in the Teacher's Zone of the CIDA website

Featured in the World Teacher's Day supplement of the Toronto Star (October 2, 2008)