Canadian Friends of Oaxaca Inc. (CANFRO)
PO Box 23043, Belleville, Ontario K8P 5J3
www.canfro.ca

Annual Project Report & Budget Request

Previous Fiscal Year	2025-26
Name of Project	EDUCATION PROJECT FOR GIRLS
Project Manager	Laurie Thompson
Approved Budget	$252,000 MXN
Actual Expenditures	$257,000 MXN

COMMENTS

In this project CANFRO provides guaranteed monthly stipends of 2000 MXN for 12 months to girls in grades 10, 11 and 12 from rural, indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in the state of Oaxaca so they may continue their education instead of stopping it in order to work or meet family obligations. This project also provides guaranteed monthly stipends to young women who have graduated from high school, with the support of this project, and have chosen to continue their education at the university level. The monthly stipends for the university students are either 3000 MXN or 4000 MXN, depending on where the student is studying. All scholarship recipients track the expenses for which the scholarship is used and submit monthly reports and receipts.

During fiscal year 2025-26, CANFRO supported **a record total of nine young women**, all of whom met the rigorous demands of the program operated by our partner agency Fondo Guadalupe Musalem (Fondo)**. Seven of the nine students are in high school** and **two are studying at the university level.** This was the first year that CANFRO extended its support to university level students in this project.

The Education Project for Girls, at the high school level, includes monthly intensive workshops in Oaxaca city on a wide range of topics designed for maximum enrichment of the students academically, emotionally, interpersonally and culturally. Topics include: educational support & counseling; prevention of gender violence; accounting; negotiation; nutrition; finances; sexual and reproductive health and rights; mindfulness; entrepreneurship; prevention of risky eating behaviors; addiction prevention; film debate, and more.

Each high school student has a volunteer tutor dedicated to her support throughout the three years. They meet during the weekend intensive in Oaxaca and have communication throughout. In addition, participants in the program must fulfill work on a community project, ensuring that the skills and experience the young women are gaining are then translated into workable shared knowledge and practices for their communities.

This sharing of skills and knowledge sometimes even goes beyond the communities. Currently, two EPG becarias who went on to complete their university degrees, are now giving back in a professional way as leaders at another of CANFRO's partner agencies. Karen Cuenca, a UNAM graduate who was a scholarship

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recipient through Fondo Guadalupe Musalem is now Planning and Evaluation Coordinator at TOLC. On behalf of TOLC, Karen recently gave a reading circle workshop to the current generation of becarias at Fondo Guadalupe Musalem – completing a full circle of enrichment and support for the young women. Also, Edith López, long-time Operations Coordinator at TOLC is also becaria graduate through Fondo. Additional news from this year includes the reworking of space at Fondo's facilities to create a comfortable and private space for enhancing psychological support and counseling of the becarias, an integral part of the project.	
Current Fiscal Year	2026-27
Requested Budget	$168,000 MXN (7 high school students @ $2,000 pesos/month x 12 months = $168,000 MXN)