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

# Annual Project Report & Budget Request

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| Fiscal Year | 2025-26 |
| Name of Project | THE TUTOR PROJECT |
| Project Manager | Laurie Thompson |
| Approved Budget | $153,000 MXN |
| Actual Expenditures | $229,649 MXN |

**Comments**

The Tutor Project pays for Oaxacan university students to tutor and mentor high school students from low-income families in Oaxaca City and surrounding areas, including more remote areas thanks to the advancement of virtual classrooms. In many cases, the tutors have themselves previously received tutoring at our partner agency, The Oaxaca Learning Centre (TOLC), and can therefore serve as role models for the high school students. In addition to academic tutoring in chemistry, math, physics, college entrance exam preparation and English, TOLC provides mentoring, counselling and workshops designed to empower students and develop a range of skills and knowledge for future success. TOLC also offers family support activities to further guarantee success.

In 2025 over **4869 hours** of tutoring were given to **355 individual students** (167 male; 188 female). The results are proven: Students in TOLC's program improve their grades by 30–40%, and 83% pass entrance exams—more than double the state average. TOLC's approach involves academic, psychological and social dimensions. During this same year, **301 hours of psychological support** was offered, along with **163 hours of guidance counseling**. Furthermore, in June 2026, TOLC opened a dedicated, private counseling space to better attend the psychological support offered to all students at TOLC, an increasing need seen spread across the youth population served by our partner agencies.

TOLC also offers a robust four-week summer program, now including workshops given by the same scholarship students supported by CANFRO through the Advanced Education Project, giving those students experience in planning, preparation, budgeting and executing a workshop.

As noted in AEP Project Report: TOLC news from this year includes collaborating with other CANFRO partner agencies: TOLC joined forces with Libros Para Pueblos to open a dedicated library at TOLC, with a full range of programs and activities. **Biblioteca Semillas de Aprendizaje** opened its doors in early July 2026. The Coordinator of the Library is Karen Cuenca, a UNAM graduate who was a scholarship recipient through Fondo Guadalupe Musalem. Karen, in her new position at TOLC, 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 Oaxaca youth. In addition, CEI beneficiaries are welcomed at TOLC tutoring services and activities at the new library.

On average, 10 tutors work each month, and part or all of their stipend is paid with CANFRO funds.

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The cost of a full-time tutor at TOLC for 2026/27 has increased. Including year-end bonus and cost-of-living adjustment annual earnings for one tutor is between $54,000 - $60,750 MXN, depending on workload (weekends vs weekdays). Not all tutors work full-time, depending on class scheduling.

CANFRO has successfully secured some new TP funding for the next four years from the Harrison Cooper Foundation in Alberta. The Campbell Webster Foundation in PEI also supports the TP with a renewable annual grant. Finally, the Judy Schwartz Legacy Fund continues to support a tutor at TOLC for the CEI beneficiaries who access TOLC tutoring and activities.

This foundation and legacy support, in addition to the gifts of our loyal donors, allows CANFRO to provide stable and funding for 4 full-time tutors (or the equivalent for part-time tutors).

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| Current Fiscal Year | 2026-27 |
| Requested Budget | $270,000 (4 tutors' annual salary) |