



To Help Other People at All Times

(from the Scout Promise) BY JOHN RIETVELD

In 2007, a Gala was held in Gatineau, Quebec, to celebrate Scouting's 100th Anniversary.

From the proceeds of the gala, the Scouts Canada Foundation launched the *No One Left Behind* (NOLB) grant program: a fund which helps individual youth fully participate in Scouting.

Between May 2008 and February 2009, 976 youth had received a membership fee subsidy and 258 youth had received a participation grant. Over \$76,325.00 in subsidies and grants have been issued.

Like all members, youth who receive support from NOLB are expected to do their best to raise some of the needed money by taking part in Scout Popcorn sales. But some youth fall short of what they need and their family cannot make up the difference. These are the youth NOLB is designed to assist.

Why is No One Left Behind needed?

Canada's demographics are changing and Scouting reflects the community in which it participates. In 2006, 30% (or almost 3 million) of the population over the age of 18 living in Ontario were born outside of Canada. Significantly, for more than half of Torontonians either one or both parents were born outside of Canada. These numbers are similar in Vancouver and Montreal and increasingly in Calgary/Edmonton.

In 2005, foreign-born residents had an average household income approximately 8% less than that of Canadian-born residents. These new Canadians are working hard to establish themselves in their new home but often struggle financially.

Nationally, single parent families make up 15.9% of all Canadian families and 25.8% of those families include children. Aboriginal, single parents and immigrant families make up the bulk of Canada's poor, while 48.6% of single parent families are considered poor. (* *Statistics Canada 2006 Census*)

Many of the children of these families would benefit from a Scouting experience but often lack the financial ability to cover membership fees and other costs.

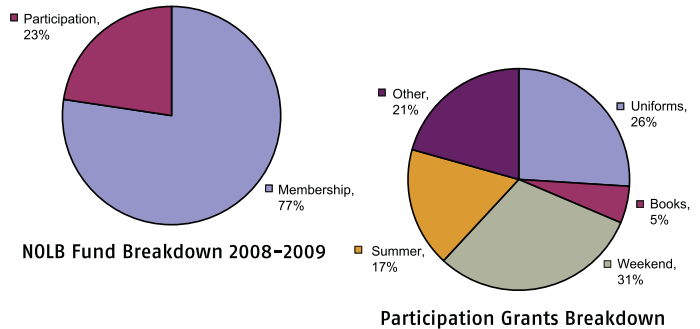
Across Canada, groups have noticed an increase in the number of families asking for help to fund their child's participation. No one knows how many more would like to take part in Scouting but are either embarrassed to ask or do not know help is available. These children deserve and need Scouting!

Where does the money come from?

Most of the funding comes from the Foundation's direct mail program. Through direct mail, ordinary Canadians are asked to donate. Last year over 5,500 people made a gift in support of NOLB. Several companies and foundations gave as well.

Who has NOLB helped?

A breakdown by sections shows the following recipients: 35% Beavers, 42% Cubs, 19% Scouts, 4% Venturers and 1% Rovers.



Fifty-seven percent of the fund was granted for registration, while the rest went towards participation costs. No One Left Behind subsidies and grants have been provided to youth in every province.

The Foundation does not ask for the names of youth who are funded through NOLB. After a grant has been made, the section Scouter is surveyed as to the reasons why their youth require assistance. From the surveys it was identified that 47% are from one-parent families and 73% come from low-income areas of our cities.

These are the children that No One Left Behind is meant to support, and we are pleased that they are now able to participate in Scouting.

How to apply for a grant

Are there are youth in your section that might benefit from the No One Left Behind fund? If so, visit www.scouts.ca. Click on Foundation and then click on No One Left Behind. Complete the application form, have it approved by your council commissioner or executive director and forward it to the Scouts Canada Foundation. For membership fee subsidies, a voucher is provided which is then attached to your registration forms in lieu of payment. A cheque is sent to the group commissioner for participation grants.

Together we can make sure that every child that wants to can be a part of Scouting. ✕

– John Rietveld is President and Executive Director of the Scouts Canada Foundation.

How can you help?

The Scout Law includes the phrase "To help other people at all times" and so it is appropriate to ask you to consider your ability to make a donation to NOLB now.

We acknowledge your donation of time is critical to the success of the Movement and we thank you for every minute you contribute. But some Scouters might also have the financial capacity to make a gift to NOLB in addition to their donated time. In fact, some already have (including people like Adam Baden-Clay – great grandson of Scouting's Founder Robert Baden-Powell).

You can send a donation by cheque or credit card today, call 1-888-855-3336 to give by phone, or visit Canadahelps.org to give on-line.