

The Coady Chair in Social Justice

St. Francis Xavier University and Coady International Institute

Guidelines

Background and Purpose

The Coady Chair in Social Justice honours the spirit of Dr. Reverend Moses Coady and the leaders of the Antigonish movement. It has been designed as an interdisciplinary approach to bridging highly relevant local and global concerns involving St. Francis Xavier (StFX), the Coady International Institute and the Antigonish Community.

The purpose of the Coady Chair in Social Justice is to reinforce and strengthen StFX's commitment to social justice issues and ecological action. It aims to encourage discussion and dialogue on campus and in the community while serving as a catalyst for increased scholarship and education. The Chair offers an important means for deepening the University's commitment to its service to society mission, to develop student's understanding and sense of social responsibility, and to support the Coady International Institute as a centre for global citizen leadership and social justice at StFX.

Coady Chairs in Social Justice are recognized thought leaders, researchers and /or activists. In exercising this role, Chairs engage in public presentations, seminars and workshops held on campus and, at times, off campus, that bring students, faculty, community members and citizen-leaders together for shared learning.

The Coady Chair in Social Justice is also an opportunity for experienced social justice practitioners, researchers, activists and / or thought leaders to reflect and write, while sharing their experience and expertise with the StFX, Coady International Institute, and Antigonish communities. This is especially important for social justice activists, for whom the Chair may be a chance for personal rejuvenation, as well as for synthesizing their knowledge and experience for the benefit of others.

Criteria for selection of the Coady Chair in Social Justice

- Chair nominees will reflect the underlying values and principles of the Antigonish movement, including equality, solidarity, economic justice, the dignity of the individual, and the importance of education.
- Chair nominations may be academics, researchers or practitioners, who have extensive and proven experience in the field of social justice.
- Chair holders will be expected to contribute to thinking and learning on social justice across a range of audiences, including Coady participants, StFX students and faculty, and the Antigonish community.

Chair Visit Guidelines

- A Chair-holder term visit may range in length from a few weeks to a semester of several months.
- Timing of visiting Chairs will ideally be during the periods of September – December to coincide with the Coady International Institute Diploma Program and StFX fall academic term. Visits may occasionally be scheduled outside of this period however the preference is for fostering broad engagement across the campus during periods of high attendance.
- Chair holders may receive a stipend consistent with other such Visiting Chairs or speakers on the campus.

Process Oversight

The StFX and Coady International Institute Coady Chair in Social Justice Committee meets regularly to oversee all aspects related to the management and oversight of the Coady Chair of Social Justice. The Committee is chaired by the Vice-President of the Coady International Institute and includes at least one additional Coady Institute staff member,

at least two StFX faculty members, and at least two community representatives, one of which is a representative from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha.

The Committee will work to select and appoint a Chair. A number of factors may influence the frequency of nomination and / or appointment of a Chair. For example:

- Resources needed and available to support the Chair selection.
- Availability of successful candidates for the year of appointment.

The Social Justice Committee will aim to effectively manage the process with the aim of ensuring an annual or biannual Chair appointment.

Nomination Process

The nomination process for the Coady Chair of Social Justice is an open process, with the nomination form available year-round on the StFX and Coady web-sites http://www.coady.stfx.ca/coady/chair_in_social_justice/.

Nominations can be made by faculty and staff of St Francis Xavier University, the Coady International Institute, and the Antigonish community. Self-nomination is permitted. Please note that the Committee encourages that self and community nominations are accompanied by a letter of support by a StFX or Coady faculty or staff member.

Nominations should include a motivation statement of up to one page in length briefly explaining the candidate's qualifications and proposed focus, areas of work and / or research during the Chair.

Completed nomination forms and the candidate's CV are to be submitted to the Social Justice Committee.

Nominations may be submitted throughout the year. Nominations received by Dec 31st will be considered as part of the selection process in the following January -March period. Nominations are kept on file for five years.

Awarding the Coady Chair in Social Justice

The Coady Chair in Social Justice Committee regularly reviews nominations and determines successful candidates. Decisions on Chair awards will generally occur once annually. Additional Chair awards may be considered in the event of sufficient resources and applications.

The Chair of the Committee / designate will contact the successful candidate and confirm acceptance prior to any public announcements.

The Committee will oversee all communications and planning with the successful candidates, and will collaborate to ensure the Chair is supported and adequately accompanied during their placement.

Unsuccessful nominations may be re-submitted in subsequent years for consideration.