



## ***Mae Sot Education Project*** **Volunteer Application and Selection Process for 2019**

**Objective:** To select four students (aged 18-26) from Bishop's University and Champlain College-Lennoxville, as volunteers to participate in the *Mae Sot Education Project*.

**Selection Committee:** To be comprised of four members of the project committee, with representation from each educational institution and one external member of the community

### **Application and Selection Timeline:**

- *Application Period* – September – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Interested students may acquire information and application forms from project committee members or from the web site, complete and submit them on or before the deadline.

- *Short Listing; interviews* – November, 2018

The selection committee will meet soon after the application deadline, will review all applications and shortlist candidates based on pre-determined selection criteria. Short listed candidates will be contacted and first interviews will take place in early-mid November.

- *Tentative selection* – December 2018

The selection committee will contact references, hold second interviews as needed and select volunteers. A contract will be signed with each student-volunteer, and preparation will begin. Individuals who are tentatively accepted will have to have a health examination and submit a medical examination form before final acceptance.

**NOTE: In January, 2019, students selected to participate must be prepared to immediately begin following a course in TESL preparation that will be offered by members of the Project Committee during the winter term. Details to be announced!**

### **Selection Criteria and Description of Responsibilities for Student Volunteers:**

#### Requirements

Students chosen for participation in the *Mae Sot Education Project* as volunteer ESL teaching assistants in Mae Sot, Thailand, will satisfy these requirements:

- Are currently enrolled in a program of study at Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville or Bishop's University or are recent graduates of either institution;
- Will be aged 18 to 26 at the time of departure for Thailand;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in social-justice issues and world affairs;
- Can provide evidence of their autonomy, self-reliance, and resourcefulness;
- Work well as part of a team;
- Show evidence of intercultural sensitivity and adaptability;
- Show evidence of emotional maturity and good judgment;
- Have prior experience leading activities for children and demonstrated effectiveness in working with children;

- Have a high level of mastery of spoken and written English;
- Show willingness to fundraise;
- Are in good mental and physical health.

### Assets

These traits will be viewed as assets in candidate selection:

- Prior international development experience or travel in poor countries;
- ESL/EFL teacher-training or teaching experience;
- Musical, artistic or athletic interests and skills;
- Residence in the Eastern Townships;
- Knowledge of Burma/Myanmar and Thailand and of issues related to forced displacement of people.

### Responsibilities

Students selected to participate in this project must be prepared to undertake the following:

Before departure for Mae Sot, Thailand – winter 2019:

- Be available to receive training in ESL teaching for children during winter 2019 (See note under selection process);
- Self-teach elementary Thai (with tapes, web resources);
- Engage in fund raising towards their participation in the project;
- Inform themselves regarding political and economic conditions and regarding inter-ethnic relations in Burma/Myanmar and on the Thai-Burmese border;
- With support and guidance from the Project Committee: plan their travel; lay the groundwork to address, on their return from Thailand, Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, as well as Champlain and Bishop's audiences; and begin writing for regional media;
- Attend cultural and political preparation briefings;
- Have a physical examination and all necessary vaccinations.

In Mae Sot, Thailand, from June – December 2019:

- Integrate into the Mae Sot community and into schools for migrant children from Myanmar;
- Assist in teaching of English, lead activities, model teaching techniques;
- Write at least two short articles/stories for publication in Eastern Townships media and for the project newsletters;
- Prepare materials for outreach and for talks about their experience to be given on their return.

On return, winter – spring 2020:

- If returning to the community, make presentations to Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, and on the Champlain-Bishop's campus;
- Write articles and/or give interviews for regional media.

Note: If not returning to the Lennoxville community, this requirement will be addressed in different ways.