



ACGC
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

CONNECT...

Fall 2022

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Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

Over the past two years, the energy and enthusiasm usually felt in our network in September, as organizations ramp up their programs and fundraising, did not materialize. Uncertainty, restrictions, and personal and organizational crises drained that energy, as we were all in survival mode.

This fall feels different.

There is a buzz in our sector and within the organizations that make it. Fall fundraisers have returned. Travel to visit partners has increased. Public engagement activities are ramping up again. At ACGC, we had an overwhelming response from members to serve on our board.

We started the fall with our annual conference, offering both in-person and online program activities to cater to the various gathering comfort levels and availabilities. While our Alberta-based program team is continuing to experiment with hybrid events, we know meeting in-person and fostering face-to-face connections, sharing a meal or a laugh, are extremely important to fostering partnerships.

Nowhere was this felt stronger than at Cooperation Canada's Futures festival from October 17-19 in Ottawa, where I was able to gather alongside over 500 sector representatives. The festival was an important moment to speak to others about the work of Alberta-based organizations, foster new partnerships, and to meet with former and current partners and colleagues on shared national initiatives.

Following the festival, Global Affairs Canada held the Annual Day of Dialogue, using the opportunity to share findings on research being conducted on localization, and to launch a new initiative to overhaul the Grants and Contributions process over the next five years. [You can read about the transformative initiative and my comments on it in an article published by Future of Good.](#) As part of the Inter-Council Network, I also had the opportunity to spend the day at Global Affairs Canada, speaking to the new Assistant Deputy Minister - Partnerships for Development Innovation, Patricia Peña, as well as the Director of the Engaging Canadians branch, Stuart Savage, about the great work happening in Alberta. I am hopeful that the new leadership, a continued interest in small and medium organizations, and a strong interest in public engagement, will provide Alberta organizations with greater opportunities to garner support for their work to end poverty and inequality worldwide.

INSIDE:

InSight 360 Video Experience Comes to Alberta Schools!

See page 7 for details

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ACGC UPDATES

ACGC Welcomes a New Board of Directors and Executive Committee

ACGC welcomed new members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee at the annual general meeting in September 2022.

Their names and affiliated organizations are as follows (starting on the top row from left to right in the photo): **Lorraine Swift** - *Change for Children Association*, **Bev Carrick** - *Embrace International Foundation*, **Aditya Chaudhuri** - *Engineers Without Borders*, **Benazir Rahman** - *University of Calgary International*, **Flora Trebi Ollenu** - *Trebi Ollenu Foundation for Community Development*, **Daniel Zopoula** - *Bridges of Hope*, **Kristin Poch** - *Operation Eyesight*, **Murwarid Ziayee** - *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan*, **Tahira Ebrahim** - *Bow Valley College*, **Greg Sowak** - *Norquest International*, **Karen Joe** - *Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)*, **Shawn Heinz** - *University of Alberta International*, **Paulina Lazarini** - *Sombrilla International Development Society*.



New ACGC board members

ACGC Bylaws Refreshed

The membership of ACGC approved revised bylaws at the September 2022 Annual General Meeting. The refresh aimed to update the language of membership from 'voluntary sector' to 'Civil-society', add the roles of the finance committee and executive director, and clarify processes when a board member changes organizations. A longer second stage of bylaw revision is anticipated in order to refresh our objects of incorporation and any further membership revisions. The new bylaws will be made available on our website after approval by the Government of Alberta.

ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Blessing Muyambo and Jasmeen Braich, whose terms with ACGC recently ended. We wish them all the best with their upcoming adventures.

New Staff

ACGC has recently welcomed the following staff:



Public Engagement

The 5th Cohort of the Alberta SDG Hub Launches

ACGC has entered into the final year of the [SDG Hub program](#) with a total of 13 members. An in-person retreat was held in Edmonton from September 23-25 to kick off the year.

The retreat consisted of various professional workshops in which youth learned about the SDGs, and held in-depth conversations about local and global development. The youth also had time to brainstorm and think through actionable passion projects which they will be guided to undertake throughout the year. We were fortunate to welcome artist and former ACGC staff member Zainab Azhar for a workshop with students about understanding global cooperation through art. Be sure to watch our social media channels throughout fall and winter 2022 to find out how the youth are taking meaningful action.



SDG Hub cohort 5 at in-person retreat

Spur Change's Youth Champions Program

The third cohort of Spur Change's Youth Champions Program is just ending. From webinars and poster campaigns, to storytelling events and essay collections, the 2022 champions brought the SDGs to the forefront of their projects and to Canadian youth.

Tijan championed [gender equality in The Gambia](#) in partnership with the Nova Scotia Gambia Association. MJ with the Ontario Environmental Network [highlighted the effects of climate change in Canada and abroad](#) with a fantastic animated video in English, French, and Spanish. Working with Change for Children, Peter connected rural Saskatchewan with environmental policy in Nicaragua by [highlighting the migratory path of birds](#) that tie both together. In Alberta, Esther Olatunji collaborated with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan to create videos linking the importance of girls' education and the reality of digital literacy in Afghanistan and in Nigeria.

Now that registration for the 2023 cohort is closed, the whole team is looking forward to the new and engaging public engagement activities that will be planned this coming year! Be sure to subscribe to [Spur Change's newsletter](#) and follow them on [social media](#) for updates.

Learn more about the [Youth Champions Program here!](#)



Youth Champions cohort 3 (2022)

Capacity Building

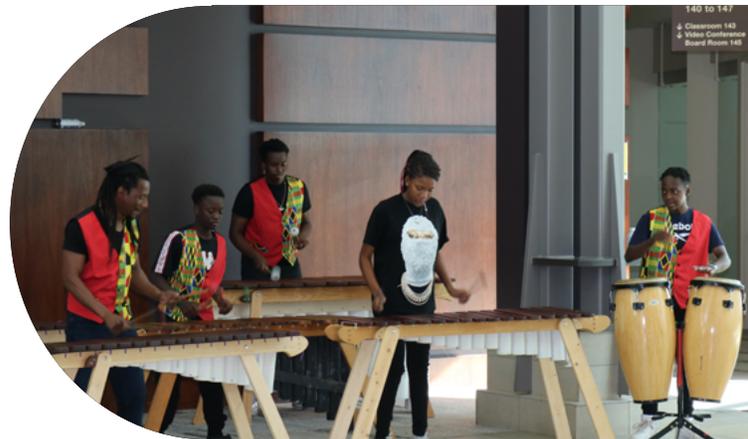
2022 Annual Conference: Trailblazing New Paths to Inclusive Development

The 2022 ACGC Annual Conference and AGM, held at the University of Alberta TELUS International Centre in Edmonton on September 16 and 17, was held in-person after years of online-only versions of the gathering due to the pandemic. Members and sector representatives gathered to attend a blend of both in-person and online presentations under this year's theme of "Trailblazing New Paths to Inclusive Development."

Day one's program began with a virtual panel, "[Innovative Financing for International Development](#)," featuring a number of sector professionals who provided their insights and innovative approaches to sector financing and funding. The University of Alberta's TELUS International Centre atrium was the venue for the afternoon's "Innovation Fair," in which local and international not-for-profits modeled ways that Albertans and their partners are experimenting, designing, and testing social innovations both locally and globally. Following a short evening reception, the conference's first keynote address featured [Alix Peterson Zwane, CEO of the Global Innovation Fund](#), who spoke on some of the challenges and achievements of her work in the sector, and her vision for the future of international development financing.

Day two of the conference started with an in-person panel discussion titled "[Voice and Inclusion in Social Innovation](#)," in which we heard from representatives of FIT funded organizations from around the world. Following ACGC's Annual General Meeting, the conference's second keynote was presented by [Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine](#) on Indigenous women, gender diverse people, youth, leaders and their partners carving out space in the sector to innovate.

We were pleased to end the conference with a Zimbabwean Marimba performance by Paul Mpofu and Sihle Sizwe youth. Their music was a perfect end to the kick-off of our fall and winter programming.



Zimbabwean Marimba performance by Sihle Sizwe Youth



"Trailblazing in Action" Innovation Fair



Insight 360 VR headset station at the Innovation Fair

Watch the full session recordings at acgc.ca/annual-conference



*Innovative Financing for International Development virtual panel
(Cam Do, Serge Levert-Chiasson, Jessica Villanueva, Susan Spronk)*



*Voice and Inclusion in Social Innovation panelists (on screen)
and their local Alberta partners (in room).*



ACGC's 2022 Global Connect youth presenting at AGM



*Keynote Address on Indigenous-led Innovations by Mariam Wallet
Aboubakrine*



*Keynote Address by Alix Peterson Zwane, CEO of Global
Innovation Fund*

Inter-Council Network

Fund for Innovation and Transformation Update

With the 5th and final intake complete, the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) has now awarded \$11 Million to over 50 projects since its launch in 2019. The FIT program was made possible through Global Affairs Canada, whose funding supports the testing of innovative solutions that aim to advance gender equality in low-income nations.

You can search and find more information on all current FIT-funded innovation testing projects on FIT's interactive map at fit-fit.ca/funded-innovations/map-page



ICN WEBINAR SERIES

TOWARDS A MORE DECOLONIAL, ANTI-RACIST AND FEMINIST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ICN Webinars: Towards a More Decolonial, Anti-Racist, and Feminist Public Engagement

This two-part series on public engagement held from September 21 to 23 by the Inter-Council Network examined current practices in public engagement and explored alternative practices for more decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches in public engagement.

The first session featured ICN research participants who reflected on the research process and shared findings and recommendations. The second session was a forward-looking discussion on better practices in public engagement and featured sector members that use decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches in public engagement.

Learn more about the sessions and [watch the full recordings here](#).

Coming Up

InSight 360 In-School: Project Update

The [Insight 360 experience](#) is coming to classrooms in the winter 2022! ACGC is supporting educators to bring stories of global development to life through an immersive 360° learning experience. By providing VR cardboard headsets to classrooms along with a curated selection of engaging films from the United Nations and International aid community, we are providing tools to explore issues and challenges faced by communities across the globe.

Learn more about the videos and workshops available at www.insightproject.ca/stories



Alberta Delegates to CSW67



ACGC is working in collaboration with the Inter-Council Network (ICN) to bring together youth from across Canada to participate in the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) as the ICN Youth Delegation for 2023. The delegation of 8 youths will travel to New York to participate in-person during the first or second week of CSW67 (either March 6 to 10 or March 13 to 17). The nomination process begins with each of the eight councils nominating up to 4 youth and concludes with a youth panel composed of former delegates selecting one youth from each council. The names of the youth delegates will be released by December 2022.

Resource Mobilization Training

The upcoming Spur Change national training program is in development, centered on a key SMO need – resource mobilization. We'll be exploring some interesting and unique ways you can support your work, and help you answer the questions of which funding and resource types are right for your organization. This hybrid training will build on the existing content of Change the Game Academy, and will include online modules followed by a one-day in-person regional workshop to synthesize learnings and create an organizational resource mobilization plan. More information will be announced soon – keep an eye on your inbox for an announcement in January!



**A BETTER
WORLD,
TOGETHER**

IDW and Top 30 Under 30

With the nominations for ACGC's 2023 cohort of Top 30 Under 30 now closed, we are hard at work preparing for this year's International Development Week (IDW) and accompanying Top 30 Under 30 campaign. Thank you to all those who submitted a nomination for a deserving youth this year. We can't wait to announce the 2023 cohort of Top 30 Under 30 during International Development Week (February 5-11, 2023).

Follow us online at [@ACGCNow](#) and [subscribe to our newsletters](#) for sneak peeks leading up to the announcement.



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 Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

To keep informed of all upcoming ACGC events, as well as the events and activities of our members, subscribe to the monthly [e-Bulletin newsletter](#).

ACGC Connect is published by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation [ACGC] with the financial assistance of Global Affairs Canada. ACGC is a network of organizations and individuals, located in Alberta, working locally and globally to advance sustainable development and global citizenship. We envision that all people can fulfill their potential and prosper, become engaged citizens in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and thrive in a healthy, sustainable world.

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ACGC Current Membership

Alberta Immigrant Women and Children Centre • Alberta Teachers' Association • Bow Valley College, International Education • Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies • Business and Professional Women Alberta (BPW Alberta) • Calgary Board of Education • Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief • Canadian Peacemakers • Canadian Volunteers United in Action Society (CANAVUA) • Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan • CAUSE Canada • Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) • Change for Children Association • Covenant International • Edmonton Public School Board • Embrace International Foundation • Engineers Without Borders - Calgary City Chapter • FOCAS Canada • Expand Hope Foundation • Hopethiopia • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) • Islamic Relief Canada • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Light Up The World • Literacy Without Borders • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • Mennonite Central Committee Alberta • Micah Center, The King's University • Nafasi Opportunity Society • Nile Care Advocacy for Peace and Development (NILECAPD) • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight Universal • Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council • Rainbow of Hope for Children • SCERDO - Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization • SihleSizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community Development Organization • Sombrilla International Development Society • Teach Peace Development • Trebi Kuma Ollennu Foundation for Community Development • Ubuntu - Mobilizing Central Alberta • United Nations Association in Canada - Calgary Branch • University of Alberta International • University of Calgary International

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