



**In A Troubled World: Is Canada Back? The Role of Canadian Small and Medium-Sized Organizations
Toward a Better World**

***** For Immediate Release – May 9, 2016*****

May 10, 2016 (11:00 a.m.)

The Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) will launch the results of a timely study on how Canadian small and medium-sized organizations are making our world a better place at the Charles Lynch Press Conference Room in Ottawa, Ontario, on Tuesday May 10, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Canada, under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, recently announced its ambition “to work together toward a better world”. It is a laudable ambition clearly demonstrated by organizations in every corner of the country, according to a recent study by the Inter-Council Network (ICN). Indeed according to Kimberly Gibbons, Executive Director of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC), who will speak at the press conference, “the study provides much needed evidence on how these groups work, who they work with, and why they are so effective at what they do.”

The research reveals the scope and untapped potential of many groups from coast to coast to coast, and draws attention to the impact over the last decade of changes in federal funding strategies on this important sector. “We are very pleased to have the evidence in hand, based on this report, that there is a strong case for partnership between the federal government and Canadians at a grassroots scale across Canada,” stated Janice Hamilton, Executive Director of the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC). “In many ways, we are proud the Prime Minister is announcing that we are back... and we are proud of the many groups across Canada that never left, and have been there all along struggling to make our world a better place.”

This study was commissioned by the ICN and undertaken by AidWatch Canada. It is being released in Ottawa at the very moment the federal government is launching a national consultation process on how Canada should assist poorer countries. “These Canadian groups are inspiring when it comes to engaging as global citizens,” stated Tracey Wallace, Executive Director of the Northern Council for Global Cooperation (NCGC). “Our study maps out how Canadians could potentially drive the Prime Minister’s ambitions.” The study can be found online in both English and French.

For more information please contact:

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The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. ACGC works towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world, with dignity and full participation for all. The Council has a mandate to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in international development. See www.acgc.ca

The Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN), represents over 400 civil society organizations from coast to coast to coast, and is made up of eight provincial and regional councils that are recognized for bringing local knowledge and priorities to the federal level. The ICN provides a forum in which the Councils collaborate for improved effectiveness and identify common priorities for collective action.

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