



TOGETHER²⁰¹⁷

Collaboration, Innovation, and the
Sustainable Development Goals



ACGC
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

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Leor Rotchild from Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR) speaks with Helle Bank Jorgensen from Global Compact Network Canada about working in new ways with new partners for greater success.

Executive Summary

In September 2015, world leaders agreed on a transformative, global agenda for sustainable development at the United Nations. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² commits countries to a universal, rights-based agenda that integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and aims to benefit all people everywhere with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and leaving no one behind. Canada signed onto the

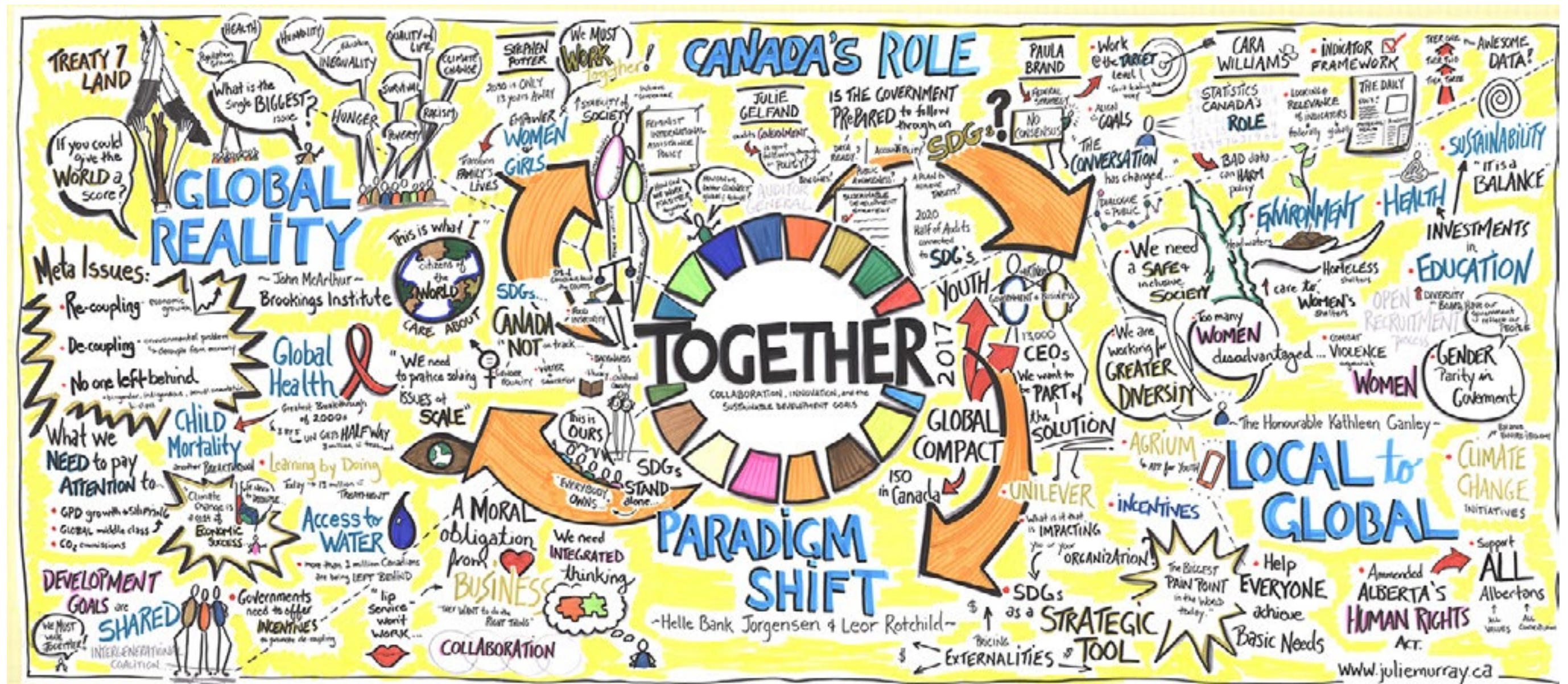
2030 Agenda in 2015, recognizing that the importance of the agenda for progress on sustainable development in Canada. In 2018, Canada will carry out a voluntary national review³ as part of the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda and report to the United Nations' High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.⁴

1 United Nations. 2015. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

2 United Nations. 2015. "SDGs." Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

3 United Nations. n.d. "Voluntary National Reviews." Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

4 United Nations. n.d. "High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development." Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>



Together 2017: Collaboration, Innovation, and the Sustainable Development Goals

Organized and convened by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation,⁵ Together 2017: Collaboration, Innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals⁶ was the first-ever multi-stakeholder symposium in Canada dedicated to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Symposium brought together representatives from across academia, civil society, different levels of government, Indigenous communities, the

private sector and youth and set a foundation for how all stakeholders can work together to use the 2030 Agenda as a framework and common language, creating better organizations in a better world. In total, 270 attendees, representing 150 organizations attended. Attendees also included 50 youth.

Symposium Objectives

The Symposium provided an opportunity for participants to showcase their work, celebrate accomplishments towards the SDGs, and identify where there is more work to be done. Specifically, the Symposium created a space for:

Learning about current work by all levels of government, civil society, and the private sector, leveraging regional and global knowledge to strengthen relationships and present new possibilities for increased collective impact;

Sharing good practices and lessons learned between organizations, institutions, communities and individuals, including methods and tools for effective research and policy work; and

Creating new partnerships and forward-thinking innovative solutions for the achievement of the SDGs, looking at possibilities and opportunities both in Canada and around the world.

⁵ Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. 2016. "ACGC." Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <http://acgc.ca/>
⁶ Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. 2017. "Together 2017: Collaboration, Innovation And the Sustainable Development Goals." Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <http://www.together2017.ca/>

Key Findings

Accelerate efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda

- Though some efforts are underway to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Canada has taken limited action to date.
- There is a need for the federal government to demonstrate greater leadership, raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda, carry out widespread, inclusive and participatory consultations with Canadians on national priorities and how Canada can best implement the SDGs, outline national priorities and begin building partnerships for a “whole-of-society” approach to implementation.

Canada requires significant efforts to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030

- To realize the SDGs, Canada will need to take further action to halt negative trends, realize breakthroughs where progress is stalled and accelerate ongoing efforts for all SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.
- Special attention is needed to improve sustainable development outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and women and girls, and to address climate change.

Raise awareness

- Awareness of the 2030 Agenda is low among Canadians. The federal government recognizes that it needs to do more in terms of public education and awareness to support SDG implementation.
- Non-state actors in Canada have been working to raise awareness of the SDGs through webinars and events, compilations of how Canadians are contributing to the SDGs and educational materials, particularly for youth. Civil society and the private sector are well-placed to engage Canadians on the 2030 Agenda. The federal government should work more with these partners to engage Canadians further, including through the provision of financial support.

Canada can play a strong role in financing the 2030 Agenda

- Canada can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad through the strategic use of its development finance institution, the creation of provincial banks and through regulatory changes that promote social enterprises and other alternative business models that promote sustainable development.

Accelerate implementation

- The landscape for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada is positive. The current federal government and many sub-national governments are responsive and open to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Stakeholders across sectors are keen to collaborate.
- Canada can accelerate implementation by building the knowledge base and awareness of the 2030 Agenda for collaboration, setting and prioritizing national goals, providing strategic support for multi-sector collaboration, and ensuring accountability through monitoring and reporting.

Localize the 2030 Agenda in partnership with provinces, territories, and municipalities

- Canada will require collective efforts from federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to implement the 2030 Agenda and reach the SDGs. Leadership by the federal government is critical in this context of shared responsibility.
- Aligning government efforts to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is among the first steps in implementation. There is a need for governments to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into how decisions are made.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration are critical to realizing the 2030 Agenda

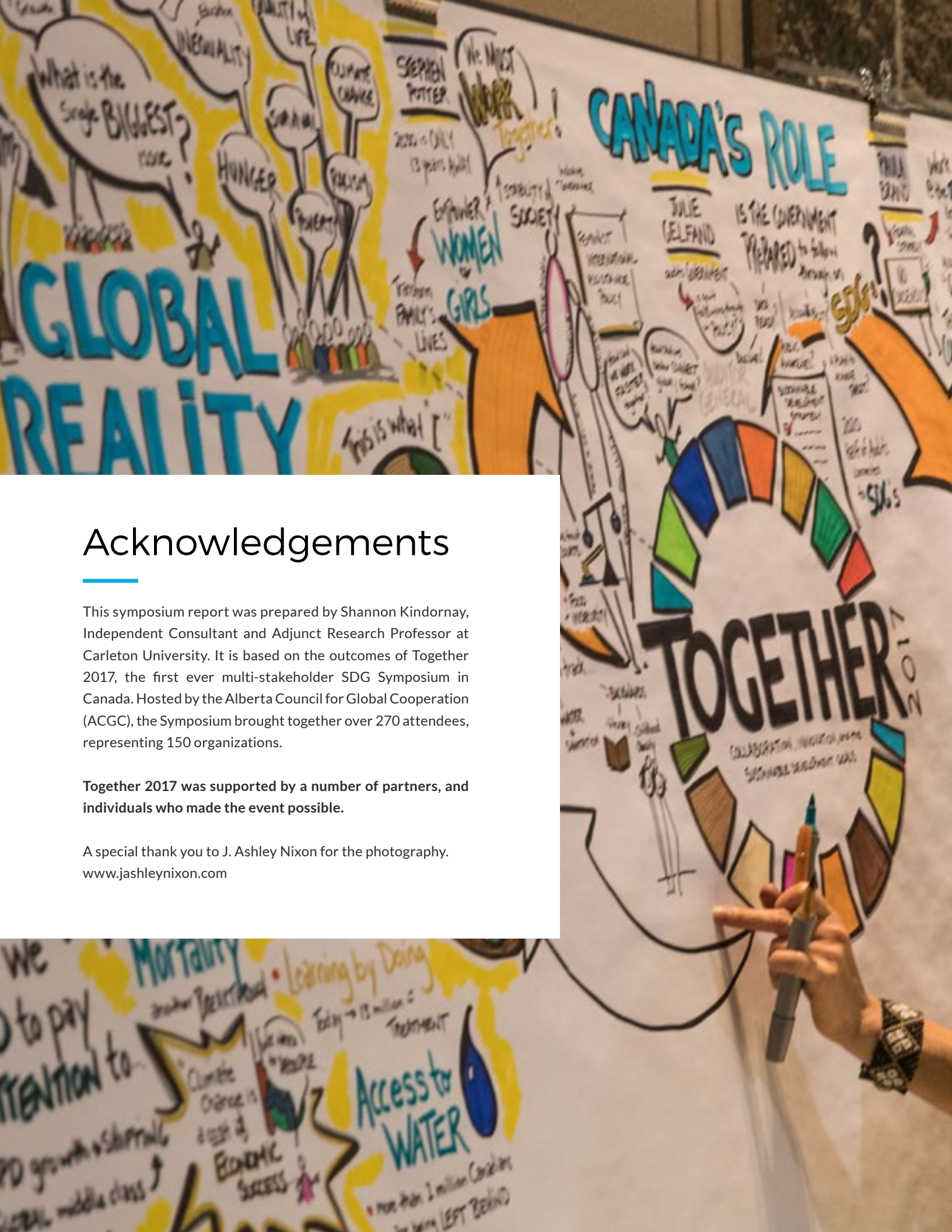
- The scope and scale of sustainable development challenges requires all parts of society to work together through enhanced collaboration and partnership.
- Challenges to increasing collaboration and partnership include knowledge gaps and cultural differences within and across sectors, lack of financial and human resources, and limited government policies to support the 2030 Agenda or promote multi-sector collaboration.
- Canada has an opportunity to more strategically support collaboration and partnership through the establishment of common goals, frameworks that support multi-sector collaboration and the provision of finance. Symposiums like Together 2017 and its successor symposiums are a good way for the government to support multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships on the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda matters for Canada

- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs provide a shared vision for action in Canada and globally, focus attention on reaching the furthest behind people first, provide an opportunity for Canada and Canadians to lead, and offer a framework for matching partner countries’ needs with Canadian solutions through global partnership.

Canadians from across sectors are leading the call for a whole-of-society approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda

- Civil society organizations in Canada are supporting the 2030 Agenda by raising awareness and developing educational tools, advocating for robust implementation in Canada, reporting on SDG progress, supporting research, building bridges between domestic and international civil society organizations, and implementing projects that target the SDGs.
- The 2030 Agenda affirms the sustainable way of life of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world supported the development of the 2030 Agenda. Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada and abroad is critical for learning from Indigenous wisdom and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs serve as an important frame for responsible business in Canada and abroad. Though some companies are taking progressive action on the 2030 Agenda, there is still a need for many to see the agenda as embodying business and life.
- Universities, colleges and research institutions support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They provide evidence on the SDGs, convene stakeholders from across sectors, collaborate with practitioners, carry out development projects, teach sustainable development as a core competency and train future leaders.



Acknowledgements

This symposium report was prepared by Shannon Kindornay, Independent Consultant and Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University. It is based on the outcomes of Together 2017, the first ever multi-stakeholder SDG Symposium in Canada. Hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), the Symposium brought together over 270 attendees, representing 150 organizations.

Together 2017 was supported by a number of partners, and individuals who made the event possible.

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www.jashleynixon.com

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Delegates from various sectors gathered at the University of Calgary for Together 2017.

Introduction

In September 2015, world leaders agreed on a transformative, global agenda for sustainable development at the United Nations. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ commits countries to a universal, rights-based agenda that integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and aims to benefit all people everywhere with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² that cover all dimensions of sustainable development and support progress within planetary boundaries. Canada signed onto the 2030 Agenda in 2015. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly⁷ in September 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recognized the universality of the 2030 Agenda, noting its relevance globally as well as in Canada, particularly in terms of reaching the people furthest left behind, Indigenous Peoples. In 2018, Canada will carry out

a voluntary national review³ as part of the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda and report to the United Nations' High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.⁴ Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Canada requires strong leadership by the federal government to set priorities through an inclusive, consultative process and coordinate efforts across government departments, between levels of government and by non-state stakeholders. The federal government also has a role to play in raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda among the public, integrating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into policies and programmes, and monitoring and reporting on results. Given the federal makeup of Canada, provincial and municipal governments are critical to supporting implementation, particularly in terms of localizing and adapting the agenda to context-specific realities and needs. Importantly, the 2030 Agenda envisions an inclusive, participatory “whole-of-society” approach to implementation. Efforts by civil society,



Julie Murray captures the conversations at Together 2017.

Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, academia and youth should also be promoted, including through enhanced multi-sector collaborations and multi-stakeholder partnerships. In 2015 and 2016, Mel Wilson from M.J. Wilson and Associates Inc. led a series of SDG roundtables in the province which resulted in the idea of holding a national symposium. Recognizing the critical importance of the 2030 Agenda for Canada and the world, the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation⁵ hosted Together 2017 on October 23–24th, 2017 in Calgary. Together 2017⁶ was the first-ever multi-stakeholder symposium in Canada dedicated to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Symposium provided an opportunity for representatives from across civil society, different levels of government, Indigenous communities, the private sector, academia and youth to showcase their work, celebrate accomplishments towards realizing the SDGs, and identify where there is more work to be done. The Symposium set a foundation for how all stakeholders can work together to use the 2030 Agenda as a framework and common language, creating better organizations in a better world. In total, 270 attendees, representing 150 organizations

attended. Attendees also included 50 youth. Annex 1 provides the symposium agenda and list of participating organizations. The final session of Together 2017 featured Reimagining Collaboration, a shared inquiry into multi-sector collaboration for the SDGs to help us understand where we are now, the future we envision for collaboration, and how to achieve that future. Representing input from some 120 Together 2017 participants, and led by Yvonne Jeffery, this research has contributed to the findings described throughout this report. This report provides an overview of where Canada stands on the 2030 Agenda, examples of government and non-state actor efforts to support sustainable development, and key messages from the Symposium. With the Symposium held in Alberta, many of the examples in the report are from the western region of Canada. To showcase efforts across the country, the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation asked other provincial and regional councils to provide examples of their efforts and efforts by their members to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Their inputs are presented throughout the report.

⁷Prime Minister of Canada. 2017. “Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Address to the 72th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,” Prime Minister of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/09/21/prime-minister-justin-trudeaus-address-72th-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

Canada’s commitment to Agenda 2030

Shortly following the October 2015 election and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Canada’s Minister for International Development and la Francophonie was mandated⁸ to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. As part of her mandate to establish a new policy for Canada’s international assistance efforts, Minister Bibeau launched an international assistance review⁹ in 2016 that included wide spread consultations with Canadians on Canada’s development priorities, including supporting the 2030 Agenda. The *Feminist International Assistance Policy*¹⁰ that emerged from this process seeks to reduce extreme poverty and create a more prosperous society by focusing on women and girls. The policy includes six action areas. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the core action area. The remaining five action areas have a major emphasis on gender equality and inclusiveness, and include Human dignity (education, health and humanitarian action); Growth that works for everyone; Climate action; Inclusive governance; and Peace and security. The action areas are underpinned by efforts to improve the effectiveness of Canada’s international assistance through a greater focus on results, streamlining bureaucratic processes, integration of development with other foreign policy priorities,

and building partnerships with Canadian organizations and others. With respect to Agenda 2030, the policy states that:

Sustainable Development Goal 5—achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls—is the entry point for Canada’s international assistance and will drive progress in the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [The Government of Canada believes] that the best way to reduce poverty and leave no one behind is through a Feminist International Assistance Policy. [It is] committed to helping to achieve the SDGs in Canada and in developing countries. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will be at the heart of Canada’s approach to implementing the SDGs.

Implementation of the Feminist International Assistance Policy is one of the government’s first steps towards implementing the 2030 Agenda. In preparation for the 2018 voluntary national review, Global Affairs Canada hosted a half-day consultation in September 2017 with stakeholders from academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Speaker Spotlight:

Steven Potter, Director of Development Policy at Global Affairs Canada highlighted how Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy will drive Canada’s contributions to the 2030 Agenda globally by focusing on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

8 Prime Minister of Canada. 2015. "Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Mandate Letter (November 12, 2015)." Prime Minister of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-international-development-and-la-francophonie-mandate-letter>
9 Government of Canada. n.d. "International Assistance Review." Government of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-en-jeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/review-examen.aspx?lang=eng

Goals in Canada’s Federal Sustainable Development Strategy and the SDGs

	EFFECTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE A low-carbon economy contributes to limiting global average temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius and supports efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius		
	LOW-CARBON GOVERNMENT The Government of Canada leads by example by making its operations low-carbon		
	CLEAN GROWTH A growing clean technology industry in Canada contributes to clean growth and the transition to a low-carbon economy		
	MODERN AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE Modern, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure supports clean economic growth and social inclusion		
	CLEAN ENERGY All Canadians have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy		
	HEALTHY COASTS AND OCEANS Coasts and oceans support healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems		
	PRISTINE LAKES AND RIVERS Clean and healthy lakes and rivers support economic prosperity and the well-being of Canadians		
	SUSTAINABLY MANAGED LANDS AND FORESTS Lands and forests support biodiversity and provide a variety of ecosystem services for generations to come		
	HEALTHY WILDLIFE POPULATIONS All species have healthy and viable populations		
	CLEAN DRINKING WATER All Canadians have access to safe drinking water and, in particular, the significant challenges Indigenous communities face are addressed		
	SUSTAINABLE FOOD Innovation and ingenuity contribute to a world-leading agricultural sector and food economy for the benefit of all Canadians		
	CONNECTING CANADIANS WITH NATURE Canadians are informed about the value of nature, experiencing nature first hand, and actively engaged in its stewardship		
	SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES All Canadians live in clean, sustainable communities that contribute to their health and well-being		

image: United Nations and Environment and Climate Change Canada



Paula Brand (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Stephen Potter (Global Affairs Canada), Cara Williams (Statistics Canada), Julie Gelfand (Office of the Auditor General) and Laveza Khan (Alberta Council for Global Cooperation).

The strategy was established following a 120 day consultation with Canadians on sustainability. The consultation revealed low awareness of the SDGs by Canadians and a diverse range of views on sustainability. Nevertheless, the strategy aligns to the 2030 Agenda at both the goal and target levels. The SDGs influenced how Environment and Climate Change Canada, which oversaw the development of the strategy, framed sustainability, with a greater focus on social aspects. For example, the strategy addresses issues related to food, rather than soil quality only and new targets have been introduced that are more relevant to people, rather than only the environment in which people live. The importance of leaving no one behind also changed the conversation by, for example, focusing on

Indigenous Peoples who do not enjoy universal access to quality drinking water like other Canadians. For its part, Statistics Canada participated in global efforts to develop an indicator framework for data and reporting on the SDGs. As a member of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators,¹² Statistics Canada helped develop the 244 indicator framework¹³ for the SDGs in consultation with other federal departments. Statistics Canada has also evaluated the global SDG indicators in terms of relevancy to the Canadian context and data availability. Though some indicators may not be particularly relevant for Canada (such as the proportion of population below the international poverty line [US\$1.90 per day]), they are still important globally.

Speaker Spotlight:

Cara Williams, Chief Advisor of International Relations at Statistic Canada showcased Statistics Canada's global leadership in contributing to the development of the SDG indicator framework and efforts to integrate the SDGs into Statistics Canada's work. Statistics Canada is creating an SDG dashboard for the Government of Canada that will provide information on SDG targets, indicators and data.

Speaker Spotlight:

Paula Brand, Acting Director General of the Sustainability Directorate at Environment and Climate Change Canada provided insights on how the SDGs influenced Canada's Federal Sustainable Development Strategy by prompting a greater focus on social dimensions of sustainability and efforts to leave no one behind.

Statistics Canada has begun to integrate SDG reporting into its work. For example, in its daily press release,¹⁴ Statistics Canada notes instances in which information is related to a specific SDG as part of efforts to create awareness. It is also developing a portal with a dashboard containing SDG data in the form of targets, indicators, description and data source. Finally, Statistics Canada is preparing an annual publication with unofficial data from civil society and the private sector. The publication will cover one to three goals at a time. Statistics Canada also plans to release a publication on the importance of partnerships. While these efforts are welcome, overall the federal government has taken limited action on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Canada. Notwithstanding the efforts noted below, there remains limited awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the

SDGs among provincial and municipal levels of government, academia, civil society, the private sector and the general public. While all stakeholders in Canada have a role to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda, these efforts should be guided by leadership at the highest levels. To date, the federal government has assigned leadership to federal government departments for the SDGs. An Inter-Departmental Working Group on Canada and the SDGs also exists, coordinated by the Privy Council Office, alongside Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. While these efforts are welcome, the federal government has yet to raise awareness among the general public, carry out widespread, inclusive and participatory consultations on how Canada can best implement the SDGs, and develop national priorities.

Federal Departments Responsible for SDG Implementation in Canada

- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Privy Council Office
- Status of Women
- Statistics Canada



11 Government of Canada. 2017. "Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy." Government of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng
12 Government of Canada. 2018. "Federal Sustainable Development Strategy." Government of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <http://www.fdsd-sfdd.ca/index.html#/en/goals/>
United Nations Statistics Division. 2018. "IAEG-SDGs – SDG Indicators." United Nations. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

13 United Nations Statistics Division. 2018. "SDG Indicators – SDG Indicators." United Nations. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>
14 Statistics Canada. 2018. "The Daily – In the news: Statistics Canada" official release bulletin." Statistics Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/dai-quo/>



Keynote address by John McArthur from the Brookings Institute.

Speaker Spotlight:

John McArthur, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute argued that realizing Agenda 2030 means recoupling economic and social progress, decoupling economic progress from environmental degradation and focusing on leaving no one behind.

With Canada's plan to report to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 the federal government will need to accelerate efforts on SDG implementation, particularly in terms of involving other levels of government and adopting a whole-of-society approach to implementation. In March 2018, Canada's Office of the Auditor General will release an audit on Canada's preparedness to implement the SDGs.¹⁵ The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development will submit a report to parliament that examines whether the government is prepared

to implement the SDGs. The audit is part of efforts¹⁶ by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions¹⁷ to support implementation of the SDGs. The auditing plan focuses on public awareness, policies, institutional mechanisms for implementation, and data. Canada will be among one of the first countries to be audited for SDG preparedness. By 2020, the Office of the Auditor General hopes to ensure that all audits will include reference to SDG targets or indicators as relevant.



Key Findings

- Though some efforts are underway to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Canada has taken limited action to date.
- There is a need for the federal government to demonstrate greater leadership, raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda, carry out widespread, inclusive and participatory consultations with Canadians on national priorities and how Canada can best implement the SDGs, outline national priorities and begin building partnerships for a “whole-of-society” approach to implementation.

15 Office of the Auditor General of Canada. 2018. "Planned Reports." Office of the Auditor General of Canada. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_fs_e_29401.html
16 INTOSAI. n.d. Auditing Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Vienna: INTOSAI. <http://content.intosaicommunity.org/library/auditing-sustainable-development-goals/incosai-theme-papers/theme-1-concept-papers-and-other-documents-incosai/159-approach-i-auditing-preparedness-for-implementation-of-sustainable-development-goals/file>
17 INTOSAI. n.d. "INTOSAI.org." INTOSAI. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://www.intosai.org/>

The 2030 Agenda in Canada: Where Canada stands

A number of studies have examined Canada's starting point for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The 2017 SDG Index and Dashboards Report¹⁸ prepared by Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, shows that Canada needs to step up efforts to realize most SDGs, with the distance to SDG achievement greatest for SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 12 on climate action and SDG 15 on life on land. The report highlights SDG achievement for SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy. A 2015 report¹⁹ assessing priorities for SDG implementation and data availability found that Canada needs to accelerate action to improve outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and women in Canada across a range of SDGs. It also highlighted the need for greater efforts to address climate change.

John McArthur and Krista Rasmussen's 2017 report²⁰ published by the Brookings Institute that carried out a diagnostic on the status of the SDGs in Canada found that Canada

SDGs requiring critical attention in Canada

According to the analysis, Canada is not on track to meet any of the gender-related goals. Indigenous communities are most impacted by lack of access to clean water. Food insecurity in Nunavut is at 40%. Canada's domestic progress on some goals will also have a disproportionate effect on global progress. For example, Canada's contributions to marine protection are significant given the length of the country's coastline. The Alberta government has taken a number of steps to address gender equality. Alberta is the first province to establish a Status of Women Ministry. The ministry seeks to identify creative ways to promote gender quality with limited resources. A private members bill was put forward in 2015 to establish safer spaces for survivors of domestic violence, enabling an individual to break a rental agreement without financial penalty if experiencing domestic violence. The bill was informed by widespread consultations with law enforcement agencies,

Speaker Spotlight:

Julie Gelfand, Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development presented how the Auditor General is examining the preparedness of the federal government to implement the SDGs in Canada. She called on Canadians to submit their concerns and inputs through a petition to the Office of the Auditor General.

requires efforts to accelerate progress on all SDGs. There are a number of SDGs for which progress is mostly moving backwards or where breakthroughs are needed. While some indicators are on track for goals such as SDG 1 on no poverty and SDG 4 on quality education, all goals include targets for which Canada needs to accelerate efforts. The report also highlights who is being left behind in Canada and points to regional disparities.

women, women's shelters, and survivors of domestic violence. The province has also invested in emergency shelters and improving access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. Every piece of legislation in Alberta goes through a gender-based analysis that includes an examination of impacts on individuals of different sexual orientations and minority groups. The cabinet of the Alberta government is also balanced in terms of representation by women and men.

18 Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Durand-Delacre, D. and Teksoz, K. 2017. SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). <http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report--full.pdf>
19 Kindornay, S., Sharpe, A., Sengupta, P., Sirag, E., and Capeluck, E. 2015. Canada 2030: An Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ottawa: Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and Centre for the Study of Living Standards. http://www.post2015datatest.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Canada-2030-Final-2014_.pdf

Canada is behind on gender equality



The Together 2017 Symposium highlighted the magnitude of gender inequality taking place in Canadian communities. The World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report²¹ ranked Canada 35 out of 144 countries in 2016. The index examines gender equality outcomes in terms of health, education, political empowerment and economic participation and opportunity. Canada ranks particularly poorly on political empowerment, and to a lesser degree, economic participation and opportunity. The earnings gap between men and women in 2011 was just below \$20,000. In Alberta women put in a full week of unpaid labour in terms of household chores, childrearing, and caring for older family members. This work is often not considered as an economic contribution. Women are also more likely to live closer to the poverty line, have less discretionary income and less money for investments and savings than men. They have less resources or time for self-care measures and are more likely to need access to the healthcare system. Gender inequalities are exacerbated for immigrant and Indigenous women.

Despite these challenges, there is much that Canada can do to improve gender equality. The government can move beyond ad hoc solutions to the adoption of a feminist approach across government. Tweaking existing efforts and investing more in gender-based analysis is insufficient. A number of areas need to be addressed including:

- protection of pay equity;
- improved access to childcare across Canada;
- better access to care for seniors (as women often take care of elderly family members);
- income tax rules that can deny women access to programs if their partner earns too much;
- higher living wages;
- increasing women and girls’ participation in fields related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- greater investments in programs for women, and;
- mobilization, research and advocacy for gender equity across sectors and governments.

Speaker Spotlight:

Ricardo Acuña, Executive Director at the Parkland Institute called on the government of Canada to adopt a feminist approach to all policy areas that is supported by leadership at the highest levels in government, appropriate legislation and policy, and efforts to address structural barriers to gender equality.

Helle Bank Jorgensen, United Nations Special Advisor, and President of the Global Compact Network Canada, argued that the private sector has a role to play in supporting SDG 5 on gender equality stating that it is smart business. Companies cannot leave 50% of the world behind and expect to succeed.

Christina Luo, member of Plan International’s Youth Advisory Council, highlighted the importance of intergenerational partnerships to realize the SDGs and in particular, SDG 5 on gender equality. Social media is an important tool for taking conversations into the public space, allowing youth and others to share their voice and advocate for gender equality.



Deborah Drever MLA for Calgary Bow speaks on a panel for Gender Equality, accompanied by Helle Bank Jorgensen from Global Compact Network Canada.

In 2016, a survey of Canadian companies by the Global Compact Network Canada²² found that SDG 5 on gender equality is among companies’ top SDG priorities. A Gender Equality Forum²³ held in April 2017, co-hosted by the Global Compact Network Canada, set out an action agenda to advance women’s empowerment and SDG 5. There is a need for businesses to start promoting women and recognizing their qualifications within companies, not just at the highest levels of leadership.

Youth also have a critical role to play in supporting gender equality in Canada and abroad. There is a need for all stakeholders to engage youth that are not typically engaged in gender equality discussions by ensuring accessibility and providing support. Moreover, an opportunity exists for the Canadian government to engage the public in a national and grassroots conversation on realizing gender equality with the aim of producing concrete recommendations.

Speaker Spotlight:

Deborah Drever, Member for the constituency of Calgary-Bow, presented a number of initiatives by the Government of Alberta to improve gender equality. Led largely by the province’s Status of Women Ministry, the government passed a bill to support victims of domestic violence and is currently piloting an affordable childcare program.



Key Findings

- To realize the SDGs, Canada will need to take further action to halt negative trends, realize breakthroughs where progress is stalled and accelerate ongoing efforts for all SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.
- Special attention is needed to improve sustainable development outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and women and girls, and to address climate change.

20 McArthur, J., and Rasmussen, K. 2017. "Who and what gets left behind? Assessing Canada’s domestic status on the Sustainable Development Goals." Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/who-and-what-gets-left-behind-assessing-canadas-domestic-status-on-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

21 World Economic Forum. 2016. "Global Gender Gap Report." World Economic Forum. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=CAN>

22 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. "Global Compact Network Canada – Canadian Sustainability Network." Global Compact Network Canada. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://www.globalcompact.ca/>

23 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. "The Gender Equality Forum 2017." Global Compact Network. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available <http://www.globalcompact.ca/genderequality2017/>



Building the groundswell for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada: Insights from Together 2017



The 2030 Agenda matters for Canada

Shared vision

The 2030 Agenda represents a shared vision and common language for partnership, collaboration and innovation across sectors. It opens up the opportunity for Canada and countries around the world to focus their efforts on people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership in every community.

Leave no one behind

The 2030 Agenda’s focus on leaving no one behind is critical for Canada. It means that sustainable development will only be achieved when all people’s rights are recognized, protected and fulfilled. A number of communities and groups in Canada are being left behind including Indigenous Peoples, women and girls, new Canadians and minority groups. Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Canada means focusing on the people furthest behind first.

Speaker Spotlight:

Heather McPherson, Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, noted that the 2030 Agenda is critical for Canada because it focuses on leaving no one behind. Sustainable development has not been achieved if even 1% of the population continues to lack access to clean water or education.

Image: Heather McPherson, Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation.

Speaker Spotlight:

Leor Rotchild, Executive Director of Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, argued that mega forces shaping the world, including the retreat by the United States from global leadership, offer an opportunity for Canada to lean in and for business to lead through more robust leadership. Canada should celebrate what it is doing and show its companies why it is important for them to become leaders.

Mel Wilson, President of M.J Wilson & Associates, sees the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a guiding framework to match needs with solutions. Canada can use the SDGs to match its expertise and solutions to the needs of partner countries.



Leor Rotchild, Executive Director of Canadian Business for Social Responsibility.

An opportunity to lead

The 2030 Agenda presents an opportunity for Canada to lead by example. The Prime Minister’s speech at the 2017 United Nations General Assembly showed a commitment by the Canadian government to solve problems at home in line with the SDGs. The country has also demonstrated a commitment to support the 2030 Agenda abroad through the Feminist International Assistance Policy. Indeed, as Canada works to achieve the 2030 Agenda at home, it should not lose sight of its moral obligation and role as a diplomatic and development partner in helping other countries achieve the SDGs. Canada should continue to stand in solidarity with other countries, promote respect for human rights and be a generous contributor to humanitarian aid. In this context, Canada can show leadership by increasing its official development assistance and committing to the international target of providing 0.7% in official development assistance of gross national income. Beyond the federal government, there are stakeholders

working within and across communities to promote lessons learned in supporting sustainable development. They know that leadership matters and countries are looking to Canada for leadership. Through strong leadership, Canada can solve problems at home and contribute to helping other countries deal with their challenges.

Matching needs with solutions

The 2030 Agenda serves as a guiding framework to match needs with solutions. Strong implementation of the SDGs in Canada provides Canada with the basis to insist that all countries make strides towards the 2030 Agenda at home and in their contributions globally. Canada’s relationship with other countries can now be guided by the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The SDGs are a communication tool that can help Canada to see where it can best help other countries based on their national sustainable development priorities.



Key Message

- The SDGs matter for Canada. They provide a shared vision for action in Canada and globally, focus attention on reaching the furthest behind first, provide an opportunity for Canada and Canadians to lead, and offer a framework for matching partner countries’ needs with Canadian solutions through global partnership.

Raising awareness of the Agenda 2030

A critical step in implementing the 2030 Agenda is raising public awareness and developing country ownership. This step is important for generating support for the agenda and setting out national priorities for implementation. Countries are expected to own the SDGs by identifying priorities and adapting the goals to national, regional and local contexts. Representatives from federal government departments recognize that public awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is low in Canada and that greater efforts are needed. Many people think the 2030 Agenda is a development agenda, similar to the Millennium Development Goals,²⁴ and applies only to developing countries. While the Prime Minister’s statement to the United Nations General Assembly deliberately focused on the domestic implications of the 2030 Agenda for Canada, the federal government has yet to launch a public awareness campaign, or hold widespread consultations. Outside the federal government, non-state actors in Canada have been doing their part to raise awareness of the 2030



Journey 2050 takes students on a virtual farm simulation that explores world food sustainability

Agenda. Civil society, the private sector and others are working to educate the public through information campaigns, curriculum development and social media. One innovative approach to reaching youth has been the development of digital learning software. Agrium Inc.,^{25,26} a provider of crop inputs and services, has been working to engage stakeholders on the SDGs through the development of educational applications. Created with educators and distributed via partners, Agrium Inc. developed free applications to educate Canadians, and in particular students, on the SDGs, including Farmers 2050,²⁷ Journey 2050²⁸ and Global Hero.²⁹

Engaging youth on sustainable development

Canada’s Sustainable Development Advisory Council has a youth element. An amendment has also been made to the Sustainable Development Act that calls for generational equity and participation, and more diversity in discussions on sustainable development. In preparing the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, Environment and Climate Change Canada made use of a variety of offline and online consultation mechanisms by hosting webinars, events, and dialogues with the aim of engaging a wide variety of voices, including youth.



British Columbia Council for International Cooperation’s SDG Booth Camp youth delegates at Together 2017.



“Together 2017: Alberta’s Notebook for the Global Goals” cover illustration by Paul Twa.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been showcasing how Canadians are contributing to sustainable development. The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation created Together 2017: Alberta’s Notebook for the Global Goals.³⁰ The notebook shares a diverse collection of stories of Albertan’s contributions to the SDGs through creative storytelling. The notebook aims to educate and inspire Canadians and people around the world to learn, share and take action for a more sustainable and just world. Story contributors included members of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation: Alberta Teachers’ Association; Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan; Change for Children; Development and Peace; John Humphrey Centre for Peace & Human Rights; Junior Global Citizen Club; Keiskamma Canada Foundation; Light Up The World; Mennonite Central Committee; Nafasi-Opportunity Society; Operation Eyesight; Rainbow for the Future; and Sombrilla



Alberta Council for Global Cooperation launched “Together 2017: Alberta’s Notebook for the Global Goals” during the Together 2017 Symposium.

International Development Society. The notebook also includes stories from all three levels of government (including Alberta’s Minister of Culture and Tourism and the Premier of Alberta), youth and students. The stories were captured through interview, video, poetry, illustration, photo essay and short story. Partnering to share stories from across sectors aims to model SDG 17 on partnership for the goals through collective action underpinned by diversity of expression. Woven throughout the notebook is a series of illustrated patterns designed by cover artist Paul Twa that channel the spirit of the SDG framework. This unique visual system was used to highlight and indicate the specific goals discussed in each story. The use of multiple forms of expression is central to emphasizing the impact of collective and diverse efforts on individuals’ lives while reminding readers that all people can play a role in achieving the SDGs. To build awareness of contributions to sustainable development in British Columbia, the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation developed a searchable online “Movement Map”³¹ that showcases efforts by over 2100 groups. In 2017 the Northern Council for Global Cooperation extended the mapping work to Canada’s northern territories adding an additional 400+ groups to the map. The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation plans to expand the mapping across Canada and beyond. For its part, the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation is also working to map out organizations across Alberta that are working on the SDGs in order to expand networks, work across sector lines, and mobilize common action. The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation

24 United Nations. n.d. “United Nations Millennium Development Goals.” United Nations. Accessed 18 January 2018. Available at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
25 Following Together 2017, Agrarium Inc merged with Potash Corp to create Nutrien.
26 Nutrien. 2018. “Home.” Nutrien. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <https://www.nutrien.com/>
27 Ag for Life. n.d. “Farmers 2050.” Ag for Life. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://agricultureforlife.ca/farmers-2050/>
28 Nutrien. 2018. “Journey 2050 School Program.” Nutrien. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://www.journey2050.com/>
29 Google Play. 2018. “Global Hero.” Google. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.agrium.sdgawareness>
30 Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. 2017. “Together.” Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://together.acgc.ca/>

31 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. 2017. “Movement Map.” British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <https://bccic.ca/map/>
32 Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. “The Global Goals for Sustainable Development.” Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://mcic.ca/global-goals>
33 Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. 2016. “Top 30 Under 30 2018.” Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://acgc.ca/get-involved/top-30-under-30-magazine/>
34 Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. 2016. “Change Your World Youth Leadership Program.” Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://acgc.ca/get-involved/change-your-world/>



Amanda Ozga and Melissa Bui holding “Together 2017: Alberta’s Notebook for the Global Goals”.

showcased how Manitobans are contributing to the SDGs through a video³² launched during International Development Week in 2017. A number of CSOs have also hosted face-to-face events and carried out other efforts to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation engages youth on the SDGs through holding workshops and presenting at conferences. Since 2015, the council’s annual Top 30 Under 30 Magazine³³ and accompanying social media campaign has highlighted youth working on the SDGs. Youth who were part of the 2017 Change Your World Youth Leadership Program³⁴ helped produce five short videos on the SDGs during their learning program in Uganda. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation carried out a series of workshops in each of the four Atlantic provinces on the SDGs, engaging diverse stakeholders from municipal and provincial governments, environmental organizations, universities and the not-for-profit sector. Since 2014, the council has integrated conversations related to the SDGs into its annual symposium, and will continue to do so in the future.

The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation launched a series of community roundtables with CSOs throughout British Columbia to discuss how the SDGs relate to their work and the opportunities they see in working with the SDG framework. Through organizing and facilitating the roundtable meetings, it became clear that many groups are working on and impacting the SDGs. The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation has described this potential SDG movement as an “Invisible Mosaic.”³⁵ The Invisible Mosaic refers to organisations that are advancing the SDGs in a context where the general public and even the groups themselves are not aware of their contributions. The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation is generating awareness of the importance of SDG 15 on life on land through student conferences. From October 2017 to March 2018, the council is offering a one-day student conference in six regions of Manitoba, exploring the interconnected nature of the planet and suggesting actions students can take to make a difference in their community and the world. The goal of the conference is to equip students to go back to their schools and community and organize a follow up event. Generating

35 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. 2015. “The Invisible Mosaic: BC and the Sustainable Development Goals.” British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <https://bccic.ca/the-invisible-mosaic-bc-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/>
36 Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. 2011. “Generating Momentum Goes Live.” Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://mcic.ca/news/entry/generating-momentum-goes-live>
37 Ontario Council for International Cooperation. 2017. “Global Citizens Forum 2017.” Ontario Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://www.ocic.on.ca/what-we-do/capacity-building/global-citizens-forum-2017/>
38 Act 4 Global Change. n.d. “Global Citizenship Workshop.” Atlantic Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://www.act4globalchange.ca/citizenship/workshop>



Leslie Robinson and Melissa Bui from the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation.

Speaker Spotlight:
Amanda Ozga, Designer and Melissa Bui, Community Liaison, showcased how the Together 2017 Notebook was prepared in a visual way, recognizing the accessibility of imagery to explain sustainable development regardless of language.

Momentum³⁶ conferences are held every year and the theme is always drawn from the SDGs. The Northern Council for Global Cooperation hosted an SDG roundtable in October 2016 with participants from private sector, First Nations, civil society and the government in the Yukon and plans to host a similar roundtable in the Northwest Territories in April 2018. Finally, the Ontario Council for International Co-operation co-hosted the Global Citizens Forum 2017³⁷ bringing together leaders, practitioners and issue-specific experts from Canadian and international civil society organizations, Ontario-based colleges and universities, Diaspora, Indigenous, and youth communities, government, and the private sector to discuss, problem solve, and seek new ways of working together to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. The Ontario Council for International Cooperation’s 2015 and 2016 Annual General Meeting and Symposium also focused on the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to these efforts to raise public awareness, provincial and regional councils have also developed curriculum to engage high school students on the SDGs. The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation is supporting teachers, and creating classroom resources. In Atlantic Canada, an on-line lesson plan³⁸ explicitly linked to Atlantic Canada’s curriculum outcomes and the SDGs was developed that exposes students to the urgency of social and environmental challenges, and showcases solutions that are happening in the region. The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation is developing Sustainable Foundations: A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The teaching resource will be launched in February 2018 during International Development Week. The Quebec council, Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, has developed educational materials on refugees used in schools throughout the province of Quebec.



- Key Findings**
- Awareness of the 2030 Agenda is low among Canadians. The federal government recognizes that it needs to do more in terms of public education and awareness to support SDG implementation.
 - Non-state actors in Canada have been working to raise awareness of the SDGs through webinars and events, compilations of how Canadians are contributing to the SDGs and educational materials, particularly for youth. Civil society and the private sector are well-placed to engage Canadians on the 2030 Agenda. The federal government should work more with these partners to engage Canadians further, including through the provision of financial support.



Mark Butler, Director of International Education at Bow Valley College, speaking to City of Calgary Mayor, Naheed Nenshi.

Localizing the 2030 Agenda

Localizing the 2030 Agenda is about taking into account sub-national contexts in implementation. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme are working together to support countries to localize the 2030 Agenda³⁹ and place the priorities of local communities at the heart of sustainable development efforts. They note that “all of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments. That’s why the achievement of the SDGs depends, more than ever, on the ability of local and regional governments to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable

territorial development.” In this context, sustained exchanges between global, national and local actors are more important than ever. In Canada, localizing the 2030 Agenda involves provinces, territories, and municipalities. The SDGs related to social dimensions of development are largely the remit of provinces. Goals related to economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development will also require cooperation from provinces and territories, and coordination across Canada. Municipalities play a critical role in supporting SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, as well as other goals, such as SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 12 on

Speaker Spotlight:

Mayor Naheed Nenshi for the city of Calgary argued that it is a misconception that SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities is the only SDG that matters for cities. There is work to be done on all of the goals, including those related to infrastructure, energy use, poverty, hunger, access to water and partnerships.

Andrea Reimer, Councillor for the City of Vancouver called for governments to focus on action, rather than who is responsible for what, stressing the need for collaboration and the role of the federal government in taking first steps in this direction.

³⁹ Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) and United Nations Development Programme. 2017. “Localizing the SDGs.” Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) and United Nations Development Programme. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <http://localizingthesdgs.org/about-us.php>



Mike Simpson from the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation moderates the discussion on subnational coordination and the SDGs.

Collaboration to realize SDG 4 on quality education

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada⁴⁰ serves as an important forum for collaboration on SDG 4 on quality education. The council leads in promoting education and life-long learning, and works with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



Speaker Spotlight:

Carolee Buckler, Manager, Planning and Performance Manitoba Education, noted that the global agenda align’s relatively well with the goals of Training. Addressing climate change and implementing the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada aligns with the 2030 Agenda.

Sukumar Periwal, Executive Director, Strategic Policy & Planning, Intergovernment Relations Secretariat, Government of British Columbia, highlighted that alignment can be challenging and incentives are needed.

sustainable consumption and production. While recognizing the important role of Indigenous governance to realizing Agenda 2030, this section looks specifically at provincial, territorial and municipal governments, with contributions from Indigenous Peoples addressed in the latter sections. A strength in the Canadian context is that responsibilities are fairly well defined across levels of government. Provincial and federal governments are working to ensure that institutional arrangements are in place to support the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, leadership by the federal government, as noted above, is critical in this context of shared responsibility. Aligning government efforts to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is among the first steps in implementation. There is a need for governments to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into how

decisions are made, not simply into five year plans. For provinces and territories, the 2030 Agenda tends to align well with existing priorities given its focus on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. At the municipal level, there is a need to generate greater understanding of the linkages between the 2030 Agenda and municipal issues. Municipalities tend to wait for the federal government to provide advice and direction. An important way to move the agenda forward is through monitoring progress at local levels by the federal government. Reporting itself can often create change. Going forward, there is a need to begin with existing institutions and use them to tackle the 2030 Agenda.



Conversations about climate action and sustainable energy in Alberta.

Addressing climate change in Alberta

Alberta is the highest emissions producing province in Canada. Reducing emissions will require new technologies and a multi-stakeholder approach. The adoption of electric cars, wind power, and other technology is set to occur more quickly as larger companies have become involved. However, the rate at which products are retired will be a limiting factor. Financial innovation is also needed to support investments in climate adaptation and resilience, as well a healthy regulatory environment that supports innovation. Public opinion on climate change in Alberta influences the direction of solutions. Albertans are seeing the impacts of climate change. This has created a common ground to discuss action and necessary changes. The Alberta Government and members of the private sector are working to reduce emissions and support Alberta's contribution to addressing climate change. Emissions Reduction Alberta⁴¹ is mandated to identify technologies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since it was initiated in 2009, Emissions Reduction Alberta has invested \$324 million in projects working on various time scales and across sectors.

The organization is supporting a mix of energy sources for the future. Alberta faces the challenge of moving from science to feasible, commercial projects in efforts to introduce new technologies to reduce emissions. Nevertheless, clean energy projects are emerging. The Pembina Institute's New Energy Map⁴² showcases new energy projects from 2012 onwards in the areas of renewables, energy efficiency, bioenergy, transportation, education and clean technology. Enbridge⁴³ operates the world's longest crude oil and liquids transportation system and is a North American leader in delivering energy. The company sees itself as playing an important role in the provision of energy for growing populations and balancing this with environmental concerns. The company recognizes that energy will change drastically in coming years with demand set to increase by 40% between now and 2040. The company has invested \$160 million in wind energy in Canada, and laid down transmission lines to the United States. It is the second largest wind and solar power generator in Canada. The company supports carbon pricing mechanisms that are equitable, transparent, and cost efficient.

Speaker Spotlight:

John Van Ham, Energy and Sustainability Leader, argues that climate change strategies for 2030 and 2050 need to be inclusive of everyone. Everyone will live in the new future and everyone should be involved in how that future is imagined and formed.

40 Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. n.d. "Council of Ministers of Education, Canada." Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. Accessed 19 January 2018. Available at <https://www.cmec.ca/en/>
41 Emissions Reduction Alberta. 2017. "Home Page." Emissions Reduction Alberta. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://eralberta.ca/>
42 PEMBINA institute. n.d. "Pembina Institute's Alberta New Energy Projects Map." PEMBINA institute. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.mapreach.ca/alberta/>
43 Enbridge Inc. 2018. "Home." Enbridge Inc. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://www.enbridge.com/>

Speaker Spotlight:

Steve MacDonald, Chief Executive Officer at Emissions Reduction Alberta, argued that the SDGs provide clarity in terms of the outcomes the world needs. They should drive action and give hope towards sustainable development by 2030.

Four cities taking action on the 2030 Agenda:

Experiences from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Vancouver

Cities tend to be machine-like rather than ecological, and competitive rather than cooperative. This creates a challenge for them to adapt to changing social, ecological, and economic progress. **The city of Calgary** is working to meet this challenge by becoming a sustainable city. The State of our City⁴⁴ project looks at the health of Calgary's living environment. Informed by consultations with over 2000 citizens, the project includes

reporting on 40 indicators related to volunteerism, housing affordability, bird population surveys, adult literacy, transit usage, and more. Calgary's Citizens Agenda⁴⁵, developed through consultation with Calgarians on how to make the city healthy, vibrant and sustainable, sets out 12 priority policies and action goals, many of which align to the SDGs.

1. **A Living Wage is guaranteed for all Calgarians.**
2. **Community-Oriented Development – living close to work and services – is the standard in all new and established communities and plans.**
3. **Transit Spending – a minimum of 65% of the transportation budget is spent on transit, walking, wheeling, and biking.**
4. **Affordable Housing – zoning is implemented so that 15% of housing stock in all communities is affordable.**
5. **A 100% Renewable Energy Strategy is developed for Calgary.**
6. **Sustainable Education is part of the core curriculum for grades K-12.**
7. **Transit-Oriented Development is mandated with minimum densities of 14-20 units per acre throughout Calgary.**
8. **Green Buildings – standards are established for commercial, public and residential construction in the city.**
9. **Sustainable Economic Diversification – a strategy focusing on sustainability and diversification is implemented**
10. **A Foreign Professional Accreditation – a program is implemented by the City of Calgary to hasten accreditation and success.**
11. **Preventative and Primary Health Care – an increase in the Calgary Health Region Health Care Budget from 3.6% to 10% in these areas.**
12. **Zero-Waste – a strategy is developed for Calgary to become a 100% zero-waste city.**

44 Sustainable Calgary. 2015. "Citizens Agenda Project." Sustainable Calgary. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://sustainablecalgary.org/citizens-agenda-project/>
45 Sustainable Calgary. 2015. "Active Neighbourhoods Canada." Sustainable Calgary. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://sustainablecalgary.org/home/anc/>
46 City of Edmonton. 2015. End Poverty in a Generation: A strategy. Edmonton: City of Edmonton. https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PDF/EndPovertyInAGeneration_Strategy.pdf
47 City of Edmonton. 2018. "The Way We Green: Environmental Strategic Plan." City of Edmonton. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/the-way-we-green.aspx
48 City of Edmonton. 2018. "Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence." City of Edmonton. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/edmonton-waste-management-centre-of-excellence-members.aspx
49 City of Edmonton. 2015. Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy. Edmonton: City of Edmonton. https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/EnergyTransitionStrategy.pdf

Speaker Spotlight:

Perry Stein, Community Planner for the City of Lethbridge, argued that realizing sustainable development means challenging dominant paradigms, taking on leadership roles and reducing risk aversion to take action.

Other efforts include the Active Neighborhoods⁴⁶ project that aims to engage Calgarian’s in planning processes to make communities more “livable,” activities aimed at increasing transit choices for those who are car-free, and the Manchester Project to create more affordable housing.

The city of Edmonton is a fast growing city that faces the challenge of inclusivity with over 100,000 Edmontonians currently living in poverty. Urban sprawl is a challenge. Approximately 95% of Edmonton’s energy comes from non-renewable resources. To address these issues Edmonton has developed a number of plans. End Poverty in a Generation⁴⁷ is a roadmap for poverty reduction that includes community action plans and focuses on shared prosperity. The Way We Green⁴⁸ is Edmonton’s environmental plan. It aims to address the city’s two biggest challenges – energy and climate change. The city has also established the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence,⁴⁹ a Community Energy Transition Strategy⁵⁰ to mitigate climate change impacts, and is focusing on sustainable transportation.⁵¹ The city is also working on Resilient Edmonton,⁵² a climate change adaptation policy developed through a stakeholder-driven process.

Lethbridge is located in the South-West corner of Alberta and borders the largest First Nations reserve in Canada. The city is faced by a number of sustainable development challenges, including a dominant paradigm that focuses on growth at the expense of landscapes, the need to take on greater leadership in promoting social and environmental outcomes, narrow thinking that promotes silo approaches to sustainable development, avoidance of more contentious

issues in public discourse, inability to anticipate change to solve challenges and adversarial attitudes when engaging across sectors. Despite these challenges, the city is taking action to reduce its per capita environmental impacts by establishing baseline data and addressing technical problems in a collaborative manner. The city is also strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage. Next steps to overcome sustainable development challenges in the city include challenging dominant paradigms, taking on a leadership role and action, better integrating economic, social and environmental conversations and making use of inclusive models of participation.

The city of Vancouver has committed to 100% renewable energy. Vancouver wants to be the world’s greenest city by 2020. Under the leadership of Mayor Gregor Robertson, Vancouver has developed a Greenest City Action Plan⁵³ with high level objectives, goals and measurable targets under a clear timeline. The plan’s high level objectives include zero carbon, development of a green economy and reducing the city’s ecological footprint. The city has completed the majority of its high-priority actions to become green. It has the largest vehicle charging capacity in the world and 70% of waste is diverted, composted and recycled. Community gardens have been developed and the green jobs are growing. To realize its objectives, the city has partnered with businesses and residents. Mandatory reporting has also been important, prompting organizations to work harder to meet the objectives of the plan and promoting greater accountability.



Key Messages

- Canada will require collective efforts from federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to implement the 2030 Agenda and reach the SDGs. Leadership by the federal government is critical in this context of shared responsibility.
- Aligning government efforts to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is among the first steps in implementation. There is a need for governments to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into how decisions are made.

50 City of Edmonton. 2018. "Green Living: Transportation." City of Edmonton. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/gonna-love-green-transportation.aspx

52 City of Edmonton. 2018. "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience." City of Edmonton. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/environmental_stewardship/climate-change-adaptation.aspx

53 City of Vancouver. 2018. "Greenest City Action Plan." City of Vancouver. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/greenest-city-action-plan.aspx>



John Snow speaks to the sub-national coordination of the SDGs.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships for the 2030 Agenda: Collaboration and Innovation

Speaker Spotlight:

Leor Rotchild, Executive Director of Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, argued that innovation and collaboration for the 2030 Agenda in Canada will require different players to push long-standing systems to change. Regardless of how good one organization is on its own, it cannot achieve the most ambitious global agenda ever established without breaking down the silos that exist.

According to Paula Brand, Acting Director General of the Sustainability Directorate at Environment and Climate Change Canada, the government is always receptive to solutions and propositions from academics and civil society. Action is going to take place across many dimensions of sustainable development with inputs and solutions needed from all stakeholders.

The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of working together and working together differently. The scope and scale of sustainable development challenges requires no less than all parts of society working together. Each sector has a role to play. Government supports collaboration and innovation, taking on a leadership role. The government, private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and youth innovate and identify and implement solutions to complex problems. Academics support efforts with evidence and innovation. Moving forward, there is a need for new forms of partnership and collaboration, and innovation in ways of working. This means that all stakeholders must do their part based on their responsibilities and capacities. What matters is collective achievements. While there is clearly a need for collaboration and partnership

to support the 2030 Agenda, Canada is not without its challenges in this area. Low awareness of the 2030 Agenda hinders opportunities for collaboration. Gaps exist in terms of knowledge about partnerships with stakeholders unaware of who is doing what within and across sectors. Moreover, language, culture, work styles and understandings of sustainable development challenges vary across sectors. Competition between sectors and organisations also exists. Many stakeholders lack financial and human resources to research, implement and collaborate on the SDGs. Others are hindered by old thinking, unwilling to embrace change, adapt and take risks. In this context, an overarching limitation is the lack of government policies that support the 2030 Agenda or promote multi-sector collaboration.



Julie Gelfand participates as a panelist on sub-national coordination and the SDGs session.

Speaker Spotlight:

Kerry Brinkert, Manager of International Projects and Partnerships, at the College of the Rockies has learned that consideration for political context is important for successful partnerships. In order for the college's efforts to improve healthcare in Kenya to succeed, the college created partnerships with public sector workers, community volunteers and traditional birth attendants.

Despite these challenges, Canadian stakeholders continue to pursue partnerships. They have learned the importance of building capacity for partnership and creating spaces to share knowledge. High levels of commitment, managing expectations, using diverse and frequent communication methods – online and offline – and investing in relationships are key to successful collaborations. Partnerships take time, money and commitment. Trust and respect are critical and stakeholders must balance patience and persistence. They are more successful when based on each partner's comparative

advantage as well as mutual benefit, and where relevant, a clear business case. Going forward, Canada has an opportunity to more strategically support collaboration and partnership for the 2030 Agenda. Identification of common goals is an important first step. Frameworks for multi-sector collaboration and problem solving should be established, such as communities of practice and working groups. Funding should also be made available by governments and others specifically for multi-sector partnerships.



Key Messages

- The scope and scale of sustainable development challenges requires all parts of society to work together through enhanced collaboration and partnership.
- Challenges to increasing collaboration and partnership include knowledge gaps and cultural differences within and across sectors, lack of financial and human resources, and limited government policies to support the 2030 Agenda or promote multi-sector collaboration.
- Canada has an opportunity to more strategically support collaboration and partnership through the establishment of common goals, frameworks that support multi-sector
- collaboration and the provision of finance.



Delegates engage in Q&A period with mainstage speaker.

Contributions by Canada to realize the 2030 Agenda and make progress on the SDGs

Civil society

A day-long National Conversation⁵⁴ on Canada and the SDGs, an initiative of the Canadian Council for International Co-Operation and Community Foundations of Canada, was held in June 2017. With inputs from 46 national and provincial civil society networks, the pre-event survey⁵⁵ revealed that CSOs in Canada focus most on the SDGs related to partnership, education, gender equality, health, climate action and economic growth. They are least focused on clean water and sanitation, life below water, life on land, affordable and clean energy, zero hunger and responsible consumption and production. Over half the networks that responded to the survey focus on domestic and international implementation of the SDGs while 41% focus only on domestic issues. Almost 90% of respondents agreed that the SDGs are a useful framework for advancing their work while nearly 40% collect data linked to the SDGs. In addition to **raising awareness and developing educational tools** as noted above, CSOs in Canada **advocate** for the robust implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada. In the lead-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change, CSOs called on the Canadian government to provide leadership on reducing inequality, combating climate

change and ensuring women's rights at home and around the world through the We Can Do Better⁵⁶ campaign. Prior to British Columbia's provincial election in May 2017, the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation launched the BC2030⁵⁷ Campaign. The campaign asked how British Columbia can show leadership on the SDGs. Non-partisan all candidates meetings were held in four communities based on SDG related issues. The BC2030 website included responses from provincial party leaders regarding how their party would address the SDGs if elected. SDG scorecards were also developed. Candidates' forums were held with the scorecards using a traffic light scheme to show whether the community was doing well, average or poorly in relation to each of the SDGs based on available community and riding level data. A BC2030 Election Toolkit⁵⁸ was developed, providing resources and templates for CSOs and citizens. The campaign has now grown beyond the provincial election and will look at how the province can show political, civil society and private sector leadership toward achieving the SDGs over the years leading up to 2030 with a focus on upcoming municipal and federal elections in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

54 Canadian Council for International Co-operation. 2017. Bringing Canadian Civil Society Together Around the Sustainable Development Goals. Ottawa: Canadian Council for International Co-operation. http://www.ccic.ca/resources/CFC033_SDG_Report_EN.pdf
55 Canadian Council for International Co-operation. 2017. National Gathering on Canada and the SDGs. Presentation June 27th, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FeK8pDq57XpwzqzxFIRspG5MD06lecKljSgQXeif0fQ/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p>
56 Canadian Council for International Co-operation. 2015. "Latest News from CCIC." Canadian Council for International Co-operation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at: http://www.ccic.ca/media/news_detail_e.php?id=347



Aatif Baskanderi from Engineers Without Borders Calgary City Chapter speaks about social innovation during the “Getting to 2030” visual showcase presentation.

Speaker Spotlight:

In her work developing partnerships in the water and sanitation sector, **Shauna Curry, Chief Executive Officer at the Centre for Affordable Water & Sanitation Technology**, has seen the importance of managing partner expectations and ensuring alignment between organizational priorities and the needs of local communities.

CSOs are also **monitoring progress** on the SDGs. Canada’s first civil society led voluntary national review designed to inform the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017 was produced by the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Where Canada Stands - A Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report⁵⁹ looked at Canada’s progress towards the SDGs under review in 2017. The Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, the Quebec provincial council for international cooperation contributes to sustainable development by monitoring the impact of the Canadian mining industry to promote corporate accountability, campaigning with the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability.⁶⁰ Research to support the 2030 Agenda is also being coordinated by CSOs. For example, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation is coordinating research to assess 42 voluntary national reviews presented in 2017 with a view to drawing out

best practice across governments, relaying this information to organizations and networks around the world, and using the findings to lobby the Canadian government to be the gold standard on Agenda 2030 implementation. Building bridges between domestic and internationally focused CSOs and others is an important role that national, provincial and regional councils have taken up to build support for the 2030 Agenda. Together 2017 and the National Conversation mentioned above are just two examples of these efforts that are being carried out across Canada. Finally, Canadian CSOs implement projects that specifically target the SDGs. For example, the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation is partnering with Plan Canada as part of their national Youth for Gender Equality Initiative, which has a particular focus on SDG 5 on gender equality. The initiative will engage youth from across Canada to convene and discuss how to spearhead progress towards SDG 5 both

57 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. 2017. “Welcome to BC2030.” British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at: <https://bc2030.ca/>
 58 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. 2017. “BC2030 Election Toolkit.” British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at: <https://bccic.ca/toolkit/>
 59 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. 2017. “NEW! BCCIC ‘Where Canada Stands’ report for HLPF 2017.” British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://bccic.ca/hlpf2017/>



Julie Murray captures conversations at Together 2017.

at home and abroad. Over the next three years, a Canada-wide team of partner organizations will work with youth leaders to facilitate dialogues, formulate recommendations, and provide platforms for youth advocacy, including direct engagement with policy makers. The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation funds international projects of its member agencies and community organizations as part of the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program.⁶¹ Each year the council contributes \$1.2 million in funding to between 40 to 65 projects in over 30 countries. Since fiscal year 2016-2017, the council has tracked the SDGs to which projects contribute. The Centre for Affordable Water & Sanitation Technology has been promoting a multi-sectoral approach to health that recognizes the critical role of clean water and sanitation in promoting positive health outcomes. The organization supports simple and affordable technological solutions to improve water quality and builds capacity by

training individuals and organizations on water and sanitation around the world. Going forward, CSOs will continue to contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a variety of ways. They will convene representatives from multiple sectors to raise awareness, create synergies, promote collaboration and develop ways to further implementation. They will advocate for SDG implementation by governments in Canada and abroad, monitor progress, and connect with international networks to share lessons learned and learn from others.

Heather McPherson, Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, noted that civil society groups are able and eager to promote the SDGs, engage Canadians, and work with government and the private sector to mainstream the SDGs. However, they need resources and support to achieve results and impact.



Key Finding

- CSOs in Canada are supporting the 2030 Agenda by raising awareness and developing educational tools, advocating for robust implementation in Canada, reporting on SDG progress, supporting research, building bridges between domestic and international CSOs, and implementing projects that target the SDGs.

60 Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability. 2018. “Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability.” Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://cnca-rcrce.ca/>
 61 Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. 2018. “International Projects.” Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://mcic.ca/projects/>



Blackfoot Elder, Kelly Good Eagle speaks with Mark Ainelski, a Together 2017 advisory committee member.

Speaker Spotlight:

Brian Calliou, Program Director, Indigenous Leadership, at the Banff Center for Arts and Creativity stated that Indigenous Peoples want to be more involved. Communities are not anti-development. They want sustainable development.

Terry Sloan, Director of Southwest Native Cultures, noted that Canada could be a country that achieves the SDGs. It is possible to envision a sustainable future for everyone everywhere when the SDGs are put into practice.

Indigenous Peoples

The 2030 Agenda affirms that way of life for Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples have been living sustainably for thousands of years. Their wisdom has been sought by the United Nations, including in terms of soliciting advice on how to be more sustainable in agriculture techniques and culture. Indigenous Peoples contributed to the development of the 2030 Agenda with their priorities set out in a position paper⁶² in the lead up to the adoption of the agenda. In the paper, Indigenous Peoples called for a “human rights-based and culturally-sensitive approach that emphasizes universality, participation and accountability and which is based on respect for and inclusion of [Indigenous Peoples’] world views, perspectives and experiences in the SDGs.”

Canada is doing well on Indigenous law embedded in the constitution, with Indigenous Peoples having their unique rights. Indigenous Peoples want to be treated equally but at the same time they want their differences recognized. Actions supporting the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are a positive step forward. Nevertheless, Indigenous Peoples are still at the lowest level of the socio-economic ladder in Canada. A lot of the provincial schools are unsuccessful in supporting Indigenous students to get high school diplomas and begin post-secondary education. Going forward, inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada and abroad will be critical to leaving no one behind.

The Bison Reintroduction to Banff National Park

The Stoney Nakoda First Nation includes 3 bands who are signatories to Treaty 7 in 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing between First Nations and the British Crown. The Banff area has been a site of contestation between the government and First Nations. For First Nations Peoples, the Banff area is sacred, used for camping, hunting, gathering, and spiritual and physical healing. In 1932, the Stoney Nakoda First Nation successfully protected their hunting rights in Banff National Park having been previously prohibited from hunting or fishing.

In 2015 a Buffalo Treaty⁶³ was signed by 10 tribes in Canada and the United States with the aim of returning buffalo, a keystone species, to Banff area landscapes. In 2017, Bison were reintroduced at Elk Island National Park. Sixteen head of buffalo, 10 of which were calving, were successful reintroduced. To mark the reintroduction, the Stoney Nakoda First Nation held a ceremony⁶⁴ to welcome back the bison. Such ceremonies are important as they recognize the role of Indigenous Peoples.



John Snow from Stoney Nakoda, Wesley First Nation leads opening prayer at Together 2017.



Key Findings

- The 2030 Agenda affirms the sustainable way of life of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world supported the development of the 2030 Agenda.
- Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada and abroad is critical for learning from Indigenous wisdom and ensuring that no one is left behind.

62 Indigenous Peoples Major Group. 2014. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group’s vision and priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals. New York: United Nations. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3447SD2015%20Position%20Paper_Indigenous%20Peoples%20MG_v1_March%202014.pdf

63 CBC. 2015. “Historic treaty signed among 10 First Nations and tribes in Banff.” CBC News August 14, 2015. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/historic-treaty-signed-among-10-first-nations-and-tribes-in-banff-1.3190715>

64 Derworiz, C. 2017. “Stoney Nakoda hold special ceremony to welcome bison back to Banff.” Calgary Herald, August 4, 2016. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/stoney-nakoda-hold-special-ceremony-to-welcome-bison-back-to-banff>

65 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. “SDG Awards 2017.” Global Compact Network Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.globalcompact.ca/sdg-awards-2017/>



Mel Wilson from M.J. Wilson and Associates Inc. shares insight on the visioning behind Together 2017.

Private Sector

Movement towards responsible business is gaining ground in Canada and abroad. In this context, the SDGs serve as an important frame. The SDGs add value for companies by encouraging them to move out of silos. They can be used as a tool for companies to examine what could negatively and positively impact business.

The United Nations Global Compact Network promotes responsible business and engagement by the private sector in the United Nations. In Canada, the national network includes around 150 companies such as Agrium Inc., PwC and Enbridge as well as universities, CSOs and Global Affairs Canada. As a member of the network, PwC reports on its progress supporting the SDGs. Its UN Global Compact: Communication on Progress 2016⁶⁵, highlights how the company is contributing to the SDGs through a “refreshed” Code of Conduct that recognizes the global values of the 2030 Agenda, including integrity, making a difference, care, working together, and reimagining the possible. The company is also committed to environmental stewardship, contributing to the SDGs through its every day work, community investment, and efforts to support diversity and inclusion.

The Global Compact Network Canada has been raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda through offline and online initiatives targeting the Canadian business community. The network conducts an annual survey where companies are asked to rank the 17 SDGs in terms of their perceived importance. Respondents to the 2017 survey⁶⁶ identified SDG 13 on climate action as

the top priority issue in Canada and the world. SDG 5 on gender equality was identified as the top SDG relevant to existing initiatives within organizations to integrate the SDGs. SDG 13 and SDG 5 tied as the most important issue identified for organizations. The survey also revealed that 66% of the 146 organizations that responded to the survey had attempted to evaluate existing business strategies to assess risks and opportunities related to achieving the SDGs, with 22% having completed this assessment. More than 50% of respondents noted that their organization is aligning their business strategies with relevant SDGs. Just over 50% of respondents also noted efforts to improve existing tools and resources to more accurately measure and track impact and progress on the implementation of the SDGs.

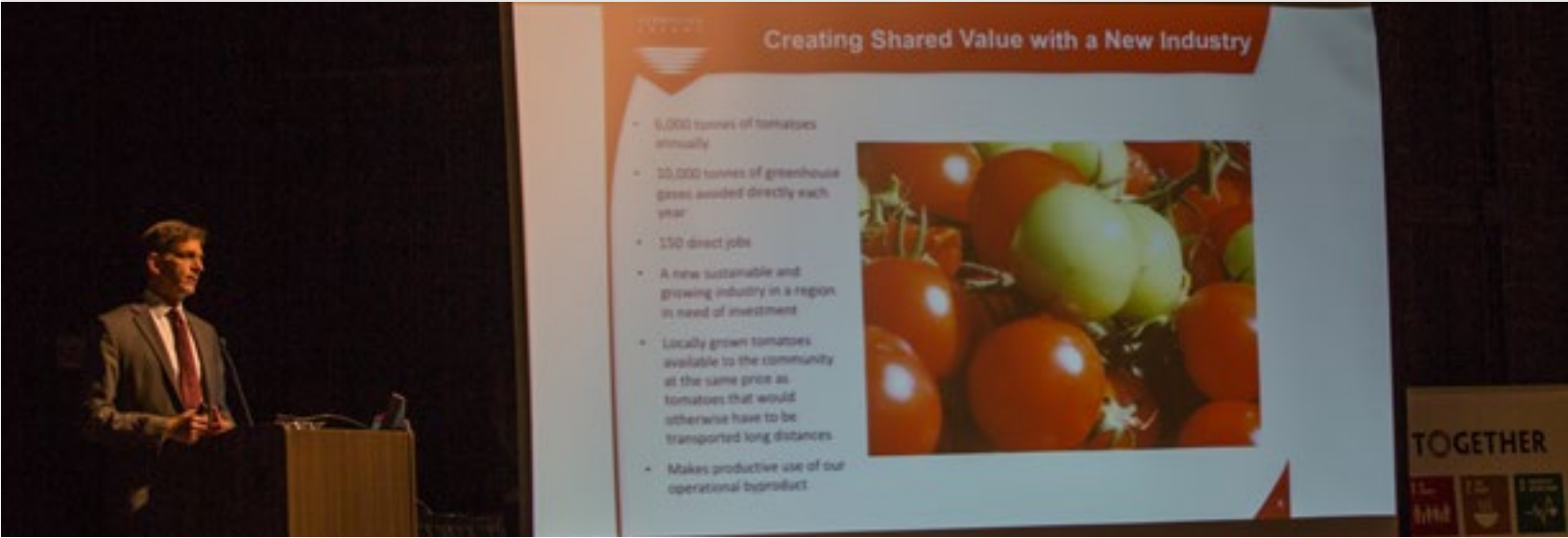
In addition, the Global Compact Network Canada recognizes the outstanding efforts of Canadian organizations to support the SDGs through its annual SDG Awards⁶⁷. The SDG Awards aim to encourage all Canadian organizations to embed the SDGs into their work and highlight progress made by the private and public sectors towards solving environmental, social and economic challenges.

Though some companies are taking progressive action on the 2030 Agenda, there is still a need for many to see the SDGs as embodying business and life. Moreover, a lot of sustainability in businesses is voluntary. An important question is if governments are going to implement a mechanism for reporting by businesses.

Supporting the SDGs: An energy company that produces tomatoes

Vermilion Energy is an energy company that operates in North America, Europe and Australia. The company has been part of the energy industry in France for more than 20 years. Working with local government and agricultural entrepreneurs in southern France, Vermilion developed a model to use its geothermally heated water – produced as part of its oil operations – to warm tomato-producing greenhouses at no cost. By making productive use of Vermilion’s operational by-product, the model produces 6,000 tonnes of tomatoes annually, avoids 10,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases each

year and has created 150 jobs. The company is now also supporting an eco-neighbourhood of around 450 homes in La Teste, France making use of the same heating system used for the greenhouses. It is developing a project to similarly heat pepper-growing greenhouses in the Netherlands. Through this approach, Vermilion is contributing to SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action and 17 on partnership for the goals.



Tony Marino, CEO of Vermilion Energy participates in “Getting to 2030” visual showcase.



Key Finding

- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs serve as an important frame for responsible business in Canada and abroad. Though some companies are taking progressive action on the 2030 Agenda, there is still a need for many to see the SDGs as embodying business and life.

65 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. “SDG Awards 2017.” Global Compact Network Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.globalcompact.ca/sdg-awards-2017/>
66 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. “Sustainable Development Goals and Canada.” Global Compact Network Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.globalcompact.ca/sustainable-development-goals/>
67 Global Compact Network Canada. 2017. “SDG Awards 2017.” Global Compact Network Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.globalcompact.ca/sdg-awards-2017/>



Nina Delling introduces panelist for *Shaping Smarter and More Sustainable Cities* session.

Academia and Experts

Academics and experts in Canada contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a variety of capacities. Tertiary educational institutions have a long history of training future leaders and teaching on sustainable development. The first International Development Studies program was established in 1974 in Canada. Since then, the field of study has grown to include over 20 universities and colleges. Certificate programs in global citizenship and sustainability are growing. Simon Fraser University⁷¹ recently launched a certificate program on sustainability that uses the lens of the SDGs. In addition, issues of sustainable development have become increasingly integrated across disciplines featured in business schools, economics, engineering and sociology for example. Increasingly, sustainable development is becoming a core competency for students.

Academic and research institutions also have a unique, neutral position to bring community together. These institutions serve as neutral platforms where stakeholders from across sectors can talk freely and explore ideas. Together 2017 was held at the University of Calgary and Ontario’s Humber College held the 2017 Global Citizens Forum – two examples of many in which academic institutions convene stakeholders across sectors. Academic and research institutions work on global challenges. In 2018, the University of Waterloo⁷² will launch the national chapter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network⁷³ in Canada, contributing research on the 2030 Agenda. As noted above, John McArthur and Krista Rasmussen’s 2017 report²⁰ report published by the Brookings Institute provides a useful starting point for SDG

Speaker Spotlight:

Savera Hayat-Dade, Director of the Programs and International Development Unit at the University of Calgary emphasized the important role that universities play in working with students as they journey through life. They help students develop capacities to lead and meet the call of the 2030 Agenda for transformative change.

Contributing to sustainable development: the University of Calgary’s award winning efforts

The University of Calgary has been recognized for its ongoing efforts to contribute to sustainable development, including through internationalization. In 2016, the university won two awards,⁶⁸ including the Canada China Educational Excellence Award for its efforts to deliver research and educational partnerships, faculty and student exchanges, and other collaborations. It also won the Canadian Bureau of International Education’s Excellence Award that showcases leadership in international education. Owing to its efforts to become a

global intellectual hub through four strategic pillars – diversity, cross-cultural competencies, partnerships and international development – the University of Calgary was named the 2017 Institutional Award Winner for Global Learning, Research and Engagement⁶⁹ by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. Finally, the university was also won the Global Compact Network Canada’s SDG Award⁷⁰ for its efforts to help achieve eight of the 17 SDGs.



Representatives from University of Calgary International share information about SDG initiatives on campus.

implementation in Canada through its assessment of the current status of the SDGs and where efforts to accelerate progress are needed. Academics and experts also build projects and partnerships abroad. Bow Valley College⁷⁴ in Calgary, for example, is supporting technical and vocation education and training programs in East Africa and other locations with the support of the Canadian government. The college also serves as one of two Canadian centres for technical and vocational education and training, and is part of a network of global centres that

share knowledge and advocate for technical and vocational education and training. The College of the Rockies is working with the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and local communities in Kenya to implement a project⁷⁵ that seeks to build human capacity and knowledge to meet community healthcare needs. A partnership between Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the University of Calgary, and the Canadian Pediatric Society trains community health workers and strengthens healthcare systems to support better maternal and child health outcomes.

68 University of Calgary International. 2016. "UCalgary wins another excellence award for internationalization." University of Calgary. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/uci/news/ucalgary-wins-another-excellence-award-internationalization>
69 University of Calgary. 2017. "University of Calgary named 2017 Institutional Award Winner for Global Learning, Research, and Engagement." University of Calgary. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/utoday/issue/2017-11-14/university-calgary-named-2017-institutional-award-winner-global-learning-research>
70 Allford, J. 2017. "UCalgary wins prestigious national sustainability award." University of Calgary. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/utoday/issue/2017-10-05/ucalgary-wins-prestigious-national-sustainability-award>

71 Simon Fraser University. n.d. "Sustainable Development Program." Simon Fraser University. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.sfu.ca/susdevprogram.html>
University of Waterloo. n.d. "Home." University of Waterloo. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://uwaterloo.ca/>
72 Sustainable Development Solutions Network. n.d. "Sustainable Development Solutions Network." Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://unsdsn.org/>
73 Bow Valley College. 2018. "Bow Valley College." Bow Valley College. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://bowvalleycollege.ca/>



Speaker Spotlight:

According to **Kimberly Manalili**, PhD Candidate at the University of Calgary, university partnerships leverage research and academic expertise, mutual learning and capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Academic and research institutions also collaborate with practitioners in a variety of ways. The Canadian Council for International Co-operation and Canadian Association for the Study of International Development’s Next Generation⁷⁶ project seeks to examine how academics and civil society practitioners are collaborating in Canada. The project has found that most collaborations are ad hoc, short term or targeted though more formal collaborations do exist. CSOs see academics as an important partner in their advocacy efforts. Academics and practitioners face cultural and institutional barriers to collaboration, such as poor communication and an inability to overcome divergent priorities, biases and approaches. Successful collaboration is influenced by the quality of the relationship between academic institutions and CSOs. Going forward, there is a need to create access points for exchanges between academics and practitioners and address key challenges, including funding for collaboration, incentives for academics to

collaborate given their other responsibilities such as teaching and student supervision, and developing approaches that work within the more limited timeframes practitioners usually have for research partnerships. To support further collaboration, the Next Generation project has developed a database⁷⁷ of academics, experts and practitioners working on issues related to international development and humanitarian assistance to support better information sharing across sectors on who is doing what, where. In addition, a 2016 report⁷⁸ on opportunities for collective impact in Ontario to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda found that there are opportunities for greater collaboration between CSOs and academic institutions through the expansion of experiential learning programs, international and local partnerships, internationalization of student learning experiences and the increasing attention to global issues in tertiary education.



Key Finding

- Universities, colleges and research institutions support implementation of the 2030 agenda. They provide evidence on the SDGs, convene stakeholders from across sectors, collaborate with practitioners, carry out development projects, teach sustainable development as a core competency and train future leaders.

75 College of the Rockies. 2018. "MAISHA." College of the Rockies. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/MAISHA/>
76 Canadian Council for International Co-operation. 2012. "Next Generation | CCIC-CASID Program." Canadian Council for International Co-operation. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at http://www.ccic.ca/what_we_do/next_generation_e.php
77 Canadian Council for International Co-operation and Canadian Association for the Study of International Development. 2017. "NEXT GENERATION." Canadian Council for International Co-operation and Canadian Association for the Study of International Development. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <https://nextgendatabase.ca/en>
78 Kindornay, S. 2016. Setting the stage for collective impact. Toronto: Ontario Council for International Cooperation. http://www.ocic.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OCICSettingtheStageMCUReport_Nov2016.pdf



Speaker Spotlight:

Stressing the need to mobilize the private sector to support SDG implementation, **Anar Mamdani**, Counsellor for Development at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, recognized the ongoing, critical role of official development assistance in supporting the poorest countries and those experiencing conflict.

Financing the SDGs

Though estimates vary,⁷⁹ the cost of implementing the SDGs will be in the trillions of dollars. The Business and Sustainable Development Commission⁸⁰ estimates that companies can unlock US \$12 trillion dollars in market value by supporting the SDGs. The SDGs represent a major opportunity for business and there is a need to better mobilize the private sector, including social enterprises, in this regard. In this context, blended finance is one way to promote investment that blends concessional and market finance to reduce investment risks in developing countries. Canada has an opportunity to contribute to financing the SDGs globally. Canada’s development finance institution⁸¹ has an initial capitalization of \$300 million to support private sector

investment in developing countries. Recognizing the critical role of women and girls in the economy, the development finance institution has been mandated to have a particular focus women and youth-led businesses as well as clean growth. In terms of financing the domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda, an option presented at Together 2017 was to establish provincial banks that could finance sustainable development projects, alongside financing provided by governments. Mobilization of the private sector in Canada will also require regulatory changes that promote social enterprises and other alternative business models that explicitly support sustainable development.

79 Schmidt-Traub, G. 2015. Investment Needs to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network. <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/151112-SDG-Financing-Needs.pdf>
80 Business & Sustainable Development Commission. 2017. "Release: Sustainable Business Can Unlock at Least US\$ 12 Trillion in New Market Value, and Repair Economic System." Business & Sustainable Development Commission. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at <http://businesscommission.org/news/release-sustainable-business-can-unlock-at-least-us-12-trillion-in-new-market-value-and-repair-economic-system>
81 Government of Canada. 2017. "Canada's Development Finance Institution." Government of Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/multilateral-multilateraux/dfi-ffd.aspx?lang=eng
82 Urban Matters. 2015. 2015 Annual Report Year End. British Columbia: Urban Matters. <http://www.urbanmatters.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2015-Annual-Report-YEnd.pdf>

Supporting sustainable development through Urban Matters

Urban Matters⁸² is a community contribution company in British Columbia. The company returns 60% of its profits to the community to support innovation. In Canada, there are few jurisdictions that allow for community contribution companies. Most local government are wary of risks associated with this

business model. Efforts are needed to bring local governments and the private sector on board with alternative business models that support the SDGs. Urban Matters seeks to address this challenge and also assists in starting new businesses.



Delegates participate in Reimagining Collaboration session

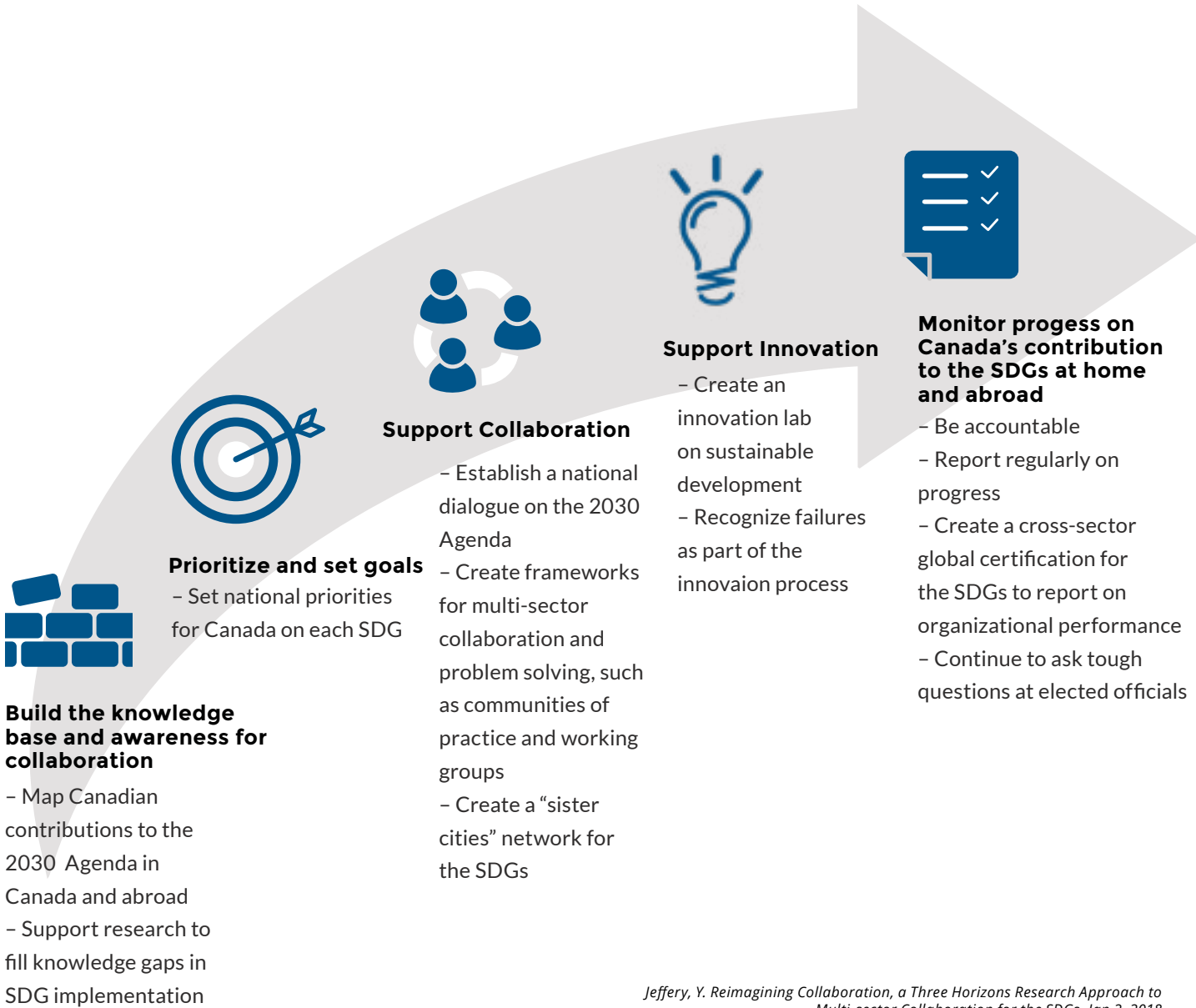


Key Finding

- Canada can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad through the strategic use of its development finance institution, the creation of provincial banks and through regulatory changes that promote social enterprises and other alternative business models that promote sustainable development.

81 Government of Canada. 2017. "Canada's Development Finance Institution." Government of Canada. Accessed 20 January 2018. Available at http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/multilateral-multilateraux/dfi-ifd.aspx?lang=eng
82 Urban Matters. 2015. 2015 Annual Report Year End. British Columbia: Urban Matters. <http://www.urbanmatters.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2015-Annual-Report-YEnd.pdf>

Accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda



Jeffery, Y. Reimagining Collaboration, a Three Horizons Research Approach to Multi-sector Collaboration for the SDGs. Jan 2, 2018



Delegates participate in Reimagining Collaboration session

Indigenous wisdom for the world

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs mean that Indigenous Peoples need to be multilingual and multicultural. This is because of the prophecy that Indigenous Peoples will one day share their culture with others around the world, and teach the importance of living in harmony with Mother Nature. Two teachings of many were shared at Together 2017.

— **Technology is not wisdom.** It must be guarded with wisdom to conserve the planet, listen to the teaching of elders and

work with communities not only in Canada but globally.

— **How busy our planet has become.** Our cities are like beehives. Industry and infrastructure are structured close together, almost like beehives in nature. When we look to nature for survival and philosophy, we see that beehives are busy but live in harmony. Bees respect each other’s space and honour each other’s occupation. Their existence helps us to understand how to live in harmony with the planet.

Where we are now

In many respects, Canada is still at the initial stages of SDG implementation. Awareness raising is ongoing with greater efforts needed. National and sub-national priorities are yet to be selected and broadly aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Partnerships are emerging but formal mechanisms to promote multi-sector collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships are not established. Financial mechanisms for implementation at home and abroad are also needed. In this context, lack of leadership, particularly by the federal government, awareness, accountability and resources serve as the main barriers to adopting the 2030 Agenda in Canada and moving the SDGs forward. Overcoming differences between sectors will also be key to ensuring an inclusive, participatory and collaborative approach to implementation.

Moving forward together

There is a need to nurture the spirit of collaboration that currently exists for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with Together 2017 and similar gatherings essential to keep conversations – especially difficult conversations – going. Participants at Together 2017 identified a range of initiatives to accelerate implementation in Canada. Technology and financial support are critical tools to support and make possible acceleration of 2030 Agenda implementation. The role of post-secondary education can also serve as a catalyst. Campuses have the potential to operate as learning labs, develop curriculum for the 2030 Agenda, and mentor future leaders. The landscape for accelerating implementation in Canada is positive. The current federal government and many sub-national governments are responsive and open to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Reconciliation is a core priority for all ministries, which can help support stronger relationships with Indigenous Peoples and efforts to reach the people furthest behind first.



Key Findings

- The landscape for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada is positive. The current federal government and many sub-national governments are responsive and open to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Stakeholders across sectors are keen to collaborate.
- Canada can accelerate implementation by building the knowledge base and awareness of the 2030 Agenda for collaboration, setting and prioritizing national goals, providing strategic support for multi-sector collaboration and ensuring accountability through monitoring and reporting.

Speaker Spotlight:

John Snow, Independent Technical Resource Advisor to the First Nations in Canada and the United States, has a vision for the SDGs in Canada. His vision is for Indigenous Peoples to share their wisdom and prophecies to help people live in harmony with nature.

A shared vision for a sustainable future in Canada and the world

Participants at Together 2017 want to see a world in which all people everywhere know about the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and take action. In their vision, citizens, civil society, companies and governments are always asking how they can push further to implement the 2030 Agenda in short order. The SDGs are no longer goals that suggest a finish line but the modus operandi for how countries are run. The SDGs are embedded in all organizations with accountability standards in place for data and reporting enabling aggregation of results. Operating models blur the lines between sectors, with more social enterprise and whole of society approaches.

Collaboration across sectors is the standard, not the promise. An ecosystem of collaboration exists where multi-sector partnerships are the norm, with the economic and financial systems in place to support them. More than knowing and contributing to the 2030 Agenda, all people everywhere own it, recognizing sustainability as a core competency and ensuring the no one is left behind. Everyone, everywhere is included and has voice, living in and contributing to a better world for people and planet. The 2030 Agenda remains alive long after 2030, becoming the beacon for the way people collaborate in society and across societies.

