



ACGC

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

PEOPLE POWER CHANGE

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

VISION

All people can fulfill their potential and prosper, become engaged citizens in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and thrive in a healthy, sustainable world.

MISSION

Mobilize Albertans to become global citizens engaged in sustainable development. We do this by building the capacity of network organizations, representing members' interests with government and others, and increasing the awareness, knowledge, and connections of Albertans in global issues and sustainable development.

VALUES

Respect, Inclusiveness, Equality, Empowerment, Human Rights, Collaboration, Accountability, Transparency, Sustainability, Mutual Learning

Message From The Board Chair

"As I reflect on the past year, I'm filled with a deep sense of optimism for the future of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation [ACGC]. While this year has been one of meaningful progress, it also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. With the launch of our new strategic plan, we have reaffirmed who we are, clarified where we are going, and set an ambitious vision for the years ahead.

The world is changing rapidly. The challenges we face, from climate change and global health to food security, conflict, and growing inequality, do not stop at borders. They remind us that our world is only as strong as its most vulnerable communities. When one part of the world faces instability, its impacts are felt everywhere. Likewise, when communities are healthier, more resilient, and more prosperous, we all benefit. International cooperation is not simply about supporting others; it is about building a stronger, safer, and more sustainable future for everyone, including here in Alberta.

Our new strategic direction embraces this reality. It challenges us to strengthen Alberta's international cooperation sector, deepen partnerships, elevate diverse voices, inspire the next generation of global citizens, and advocate for a more just and sustainable world. It recognizes that meaningful change happens when organizations, communities, governments, educators, businesses, and individuals come together around a shared purpose.

One of ACGC's greatest strengths is that it is led by its community. Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who generously contribute their time, expertise, and passion to steward the organization and help shape its future. Good governance is about more than oversight. It's about leadership, vision, and creating the conditions for lasting impact. It's been a privilege to serve alongside such thoughtful and dedicated individuals, and I hope others who share a passion for global cooperation will consider joining us. The strength of our organization depends on people who are willing to step forward, bring new perspectives, and help guide the next chapter of ACGC's journey.

Alberta is often recognized for its entrepreneurial spirit, natural resources, and innovation. These are important parts of our identity, but they are not the whole story. Alberta is also home to a vibrant community of organizations, educators, researchers, businesses, youth, Indigenous leaders, newcomers, and engaged citizens who understand that our province has an important role to play in shaping a better world. Through international cooperation, Albertans are contributing ideas, partnerships, and solutions that create meaningful impact far beyond our borders while strengthening our own communities in return.

Looking ahead, I see an ACGC that continues to serve as the trusted hub for Alberta's international cooperation community, bringing people together, building capacity, amplifying voices, and championing global citizenship. I see an organization that is recognized not only within Alberta, but across Canada, as a leader in advancing international cooperation and fostering meaningful partnerships. Most importantly, I see an ACGC that helps redefine what Alberta is known for: a province whose greatest contribution to the world is measured not only by what it produces, but by how it collaborates, leads, and stands in solidarity with communities around the globe.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our members, partners, volunteers, staff, and fellow directors. Your passion, generosity, and belief in our shared mission continue to strengthen ACGC and expand our collective impact.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we are building a future where Alberta is recognized not only as a place of innovation and opportunity, but also as a province that embraces its responsibility and opportunity to contribute to a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world."



Aditya Chaudhuri
Board Chair

Message From The Executive Director

"As we reflect on 2025–2026, we do so from a moment marked by profound change and uncertainty globally, across Canada, and within the international cooperation sector. Shifting social, economic, and political conditions, growing polarization, and increasingly visible anti-rights narratives created a challenging environment for organizations committed to gender equality, inclusion, human rights, and global solidarity. Within this context, ACGC entered the final year of two long-standing programs while facing uncertainty about future funding and the next chapter of our work.



Sandra Muchekeza
Executive Director

Against this backdrop, my focus as Executive Director was to ensure that ACGC continued to demonstrate clear value and relevance to our members, while stewarding the organization with care, confidence, and resilience. Securing renewed funding so that we could continue supporting our members and advancing public engagement in global citizenship remained our highest priority. I am pleased to share that ACGC was successful in securing a new five-year \$4.1 million contribution from Global Affairs Canada for Engage: Global Citizens, Global Impact, a program that will run from 2026 to 2031.

The year also marked the successful completion of two major initiatives: Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship and the Spur Change program. After seven years of implementation, both programs concluded with impact we can be proud of. Inspiring Action reached more than 3.8 million people through direct and indirect engagement activities, while Spur Change supported 730 organizations, including 504 unique small and medium-sized organizations. These results speak to the strength of our partnerships, the dedication of our team, and the continued importance of public engagement and capacity strengthening across Canada. This year, we were once again inspired by the leadership and creativity of young people through the Top 30 Under 30 program, which highlighted emerging leaders who are already shaping more just and sustainable communities. Our youth programming also created meaningful opportunities for young adults aged 18 to 24 to connect with organizations across the sector and learn more about sustainable development efforts in Alberta and around the world.

We continued to convene, connect, and support the sector through events, learning opportunities, and training workshops designed to support leadership development and organizational capacity. International Development Week remained one of our busiest and most energizing periods of the year, with engagement activities delivered in partnership with several ACGC members. We also deepened our advocacy efforts during the federal election, helping to mobilize members and the public to raise their voices in support of Canada's international assistance portfolio.

Looking ahead, our vision is for ACGC to be the go-to place for networking, knowledge, resources, and learning for Alberta's international cooperation sector. With the launch of the Engage program and a new 2026–2031 strategic framework in place, we are entering a new chapter with renewed energy and purpose. In this critical time of change, I hope ACGC members will remain engaged, connected, and committed to building a stronger network, one that stands together in solidarity and continues advancing global cooperation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to ACGC members, Board, and staff for their dedication, collaboration, and unwavering belief in our shared work. Together, we continue to contribute to a more just, equitable, and sustainable world for all."

Engaging Alberta

This year, ACGC continued to build support for international cooperation across Alberta. Through public engagement activities, ACGC supported Alberta-led efforts towards a more just and equal world.

International Development Week (IDW), celebrated each year on the first full week of February, is ACGC's largest annual public engagement campaign. This year's theme, Prosperity through Partnership, reminded us of the power of collaboration and teamwork for driving meaningful change. For IDW 2026, ACGC partnered with six community members to reach diverse communities across Alberta. ACGC also created new partnerships with the Red Deer and Yellowhead libraries and continued collaboration with the Edmonton public library to promote [this year's IDW reading list](#)—an important resource to build on the momentum from IDW and keep the public engaged and learning throughout the rest of the year.

Outside of IDW, ACGC attended and held additional events throughout the year to mobilize Albertans as global changemakers. By attending events such as the University of Alberta's Go Abroad Fair, the Just One World Fair Trade Market in Edmonton, and the launch of Dear Futures YEG, a project from Apathy is Boring's RISE program, ACGC further encouraged more Albertans to get involved in global issues.

IDW Member Partnerships

- **University of Alberta International** and ACGC brought together students and the public to engage with the SDGs through two events: a fireside chat on accessibility exploring the intersection of inclusive design and international development—looking at what truly accessible engagement can look like; a screening and panel discussion of the 2020 documentary *Stop Filming Us*, a powerful film exploring the struggle of young artists and filmmakers in Goma [DRC] as they reclaim their narrative from Western portrayals.
- Alongside **Salud Mental Ecuador** [Mental Health Ecuador], ACGC co-hosted a workshop series on mental health first-aid and how to build communities that are not only effective but also compassionate, resilient, and human-centred.
- Global Connections: Local Voices for a Sustainable Future was held with **Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council** and brought together youth, newcomers, and families to explore Canada's role in the SDGs through cultural storytelling and interactive learning stations focused on climate action and quality education.
- Aligning with SDG 5: Gender Equality, **Learn Peace Canada** and ACGC held two workshops: the first being a deep dive into how women leadership drives meaningful transformation and the second, also in collaboration with **Expand Hope**, highlighted the intersection of education and peacebuilding in communities impacted by conflict.
- Bringing together IDW and Black History Month, ACGC partnered with **Canadian Women in Action** to encourage Black women entrepreneurs across Alberta to explore how to engage and reach African markets.



Young Leaders Driving Change

Young leaders across Alberta continue to drive change and envision a bold, sustainable future for all. This past year, ACGC continued to celebrate and amplify the work done by these leaders, recognizing the invaluable contributions and passion young people bring to their local and global communities.

This year marked the 15th anniversary of ACGC's [Top 30 Under 30](#) award campaign. Celebrated annually during International Development Week in early February, 30 outstanding young people, nominated by their community and selected by a committee of peers, are recognized for their commendable work in making a more just, fair, and sustainable world. Across 15 years, 450 young changemakers have received the award and have gone on to continue inspiring change here in Alberta and around the world.

The theme for 2026, 'Harnessing the Power of Connection to Create Lasting Change,' reflected a fundamental truth: sustainable change cannot be achieved alone. By centering solidarity and the experiences and voices of those most impacted by global issues, this year's honourees demonstrated that meaningful change is driven by people, deep partnerships, and a commitment to collective action. [Meet the 2026 award recipients here.](#)

Top 30 Under 30 Celebration



The 2026 Top 30 Under 30 recipients at this year's award ceremony. Thank you to the Honourable Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State [International Development], Heather McPherson M.P. Edmonton Strathcona, and City of Edmonton Councillor Aaron Paquette for celebrating this year's award recipients with us.

Watch: 2026 Top 30 Under 30:
Harnessing the Power of Connection



Watch: 15 Years of Leadership:
Reflections from Top 30 Under 30 Alumni



DEDICATION DELIVERS **IMPACT.**
IMPACT EARNS **RECOGNITION.**
RECOGNITION FUELS **SUCCESS.**

2026
15
YEARS **TOP30**
UNDER30



Story of Change: Synchronicities

En un contexto global donde la salud mental continúa siendo estigmatizada y frecuentemente relegada, el surgimiento de liderazgos juveniles comprometidos con su visibilización resulta fundamental. La trayectoria de Alejandro Bejarano ilustra cómo oportunidades, reconocimiento institucional y experiencias formativas generan un impacto significativo tanto a nivel personal como en el desarrollo internacional. Su participación en iniciativas de ACGC refleja un proceso de crecimiento marcado por “sincronicidades”: momentos clave que fortalecieron su propósito.



Su motivación nace de un compromiso profundo con el empoderamiento juvenil, la equidad de género y la integración de la salud mental como prioridad global. La nominación al Top 30 Under 30 no solo representó un reconocimiento individual, sino también una plataforma para visibilizar un tema frecuentemente ignorado.

La participación en Confluence 2025 constituyó un cambio importante. Donde en un momento personal desafiante, integrarse a un grupo de líderes le permitió acceder a espacios de reflexión, aprendizaje y acompañamiento. Lo que inicialmente parecía fuera de su alcance se convirtió en una experiencia transformadora que reafirmó su capacidad de contribuir al desarrollo internacional este intercambio fortaleció su resiliencia y su compromiso con el cambio social.

Este proceso alcanzó un nuevo nivel durante la Semana Internacional del Desarrollo 2026, donde lideró el webinar Mental Health in Motion, iniciativa que promovió la integración de la salud mental en el desarrollo internacional mediante enfoques como Mental Health First Aid, amplificó las voces de las comunidades beneficiarias por su proyecto original y fomentó prácticas organizacionales más inclusivas.

Este impacto trasciende lo individual, extendiéndose a la creación de redes y colaboraciones duraderas, donde esas conexiones han fortalecido y posicionado la salud mental como un eje relevante dentro del desarrollo internacional.

Asimismo, estas experiencias transformaron su confianza y liderazgo. Más allá del reconocimiento, encontró espacios para aprender, conectar y compartir con otros líderes, comprendiendo que el liderazgo también se construye desde la vulnerabilidad y la colaboración. Este cambio resulta especialmente relevante en el sector, donde el agotamiento, el aislamiento y la falta de reconocimiento son frecuentes, y donde muchas veces se prioriza el bienestar de otros sobre el propio.

Las sincronicidades de Alejandro, demuestran que programas como los que ACGC ofrece generen oportunidades estratégicas que pueden potenciar y transformar el liderazgo juvenil la estructura de estos programas está intencionada y diseñada para promover la equidad de género, inclusión y visibilidad en áreas críticas como la salud mental creando entornos donde se busquen cambios significativos a través de la participación activa y colaboración generando un compromiso en desarrollo internacional más inclusivo y consciente.

Read this story in English at the following link or via the QR code: <https://together.acgc.ca/the-stories/post/synchronicities-salud-mental-health-ecuador>.



Building Capacity and Community

Alberta remains an active contributor to Canada's international cooperation sector. Organizations across the province have a global impact, reducing inequality and creating a more just world. Throughout the year, ACGC continued to strengthen and amplify the vital work of Alberta-based organizations through capacity-building and networking opportunities, building a more well-equipped and connected community of international cooperation practitioners.

This year's main event was the ACGC Conference: The Future We Want: Alberta's Role in International Cooperation in a Rapidly Changing World. Held in Calgary on September 12, 2025, participants examined how to ensure peace-building and sustainable development work continued moving forward with integrity and the integral roles decolonization, feminism, and equity, play therein.

Engagements continued in the fall with ACGC's Confluence: a high-level retreat designed for senior leaders working in the international cooperation sector. Leaders from across Alberta gathered in Banff to address key issues facing the sector, engage in strategic discussions, and co-develop solutions to address an increasingly complex global landscape. Participants shared insights and learnt new approaches to leadership and towards advancing gender equality and inclusion.

Throughout the rest of the year, ACGC offered relevant workshops and additional opportunities to connect. From an interactive workshop on developing poignant and ethical stories of change, a cross-sector dialogue in Calgary on Canada's role in a shifting development landscape, a bilingual [English-French] training on feminist and community-led data collection: there were plenty of opportunities for organizations to learn together. For International Women's Day, ACGC held a breakfast in Calgary inviting community members to celebrate the achievements of women worldwide and explore what work is still on the horizon. Alongside the Centre for Race and Culture, the council organized its first ever Black History Month dialogue centering Black leadership in pursuit of the SDGs.

Conference Highlights



Watch: Listen to ACGC Member TED Talks from Lindsey Machona from Expand Hope, Rebecca Moon from the Centre for Global Education, and Kevin Melanson from The Brenda Stafford Foundation, showcase some of the diverse and innovative work being done by Albertan leaders in the international cooperation sector.



Patricia Peña, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister – International Assistance Partnerships and Programming from Global Affairs Canada, in a fireside chat with Karen Joe, CAWST, discussing GAC's changing structure and upcoming priorities.

Story of Change: One Event at a Time

The Brenda Strafford Foundation [BSF] joined ACGC's membership in 2025 after testing the waters at ACGC's 2024 Annual Conference. "We went in cautiously, looking to learn more before becoming a member... and that conference was definitely enough to get us interested," says Kevin Melanson, BSF's Vice President of International Health and Social Impact.

The Brenda Strafford Foundation has been involved in international projects for over 40 years. It also runs continuing care facilities in Alberta, supports survivors of domestic violence in Calgary, and drives research and innovation. Kevin, who has been part of the international cooperation sector for over 15 years, monitors BSF's social impact and leads their international programs. This includes medical care and health systems strengthening in Haiti, Jamaica, and the Eastern Caribbean.

Since BSF's first foray into ACGC's programs, they have attended several more events over the 2025-2026 membership year, from various networking events to the Confluence Leadership Retreat to presenting at the 2025 Annual Conference. "It's been an opportunity to connect with people both on a personal and organizational level," which can be challenging otherwise. The international cooperation sector in Alberta "can feel like a small group of people... so being able to connect with them is really appreciated," and Kevin notes that feeling part of a community is a benefit in and of itself.

Beyond feeling like part of a community, the year brought about some practical benefits as well. At ACGC's 2025 Annual Conference, BSF met Alinea International's Project Director, Heather McIntosh, and discovered they both had health-related projects in the Caribbean. As a result, Kevin toured Alinea's projects earlier in the year. Though BSF and Alinea's projects don't directly overlap, both are related to health and implemented in the same region, allowing for significant knowledge and resource sharing and the potential for collaboration down the road.

At the same conference, BSF also connected with Karen Joe, CAWST's Knowledge and Research Advisor and an ACGC Board member. Eight months later, Karen would sit on a panel, moderated by Kevin, at BSF's annual CLIQ Innovation Partnership Summit in Calgary, where panelists discussed global innovation across different income settings.

Overall, being a part of ACGC's network has served as a reminder of the complexity of international development and the importance of intentionality with regard to gender equity and stakeholder engagement. The local network is key: "It's always great to hear about different approaches because even if they might be undertaken in a different setting geographically or culturally, there are a lot of common themes that appear when doing this work and working across countries," says Kevin.

Kevin believes that "the nature of international work is that it's founded on this idea of international solidarity and acting as a global citizen." That is, we are not responsible just to our immediate community, but to our global community as well, and safe to say, many ACGC members would agree with that sentiment.



Fostering the Changemakers of Tomorrow

Encouraging future generations of Albertans to be active global citizens ensures a more sustainable future for young people in Alberta and around the world. Over the last year, ACGC and community partners came together to promote global citizenship education by supporting teachers and getting youth across the province involved in taking global action.

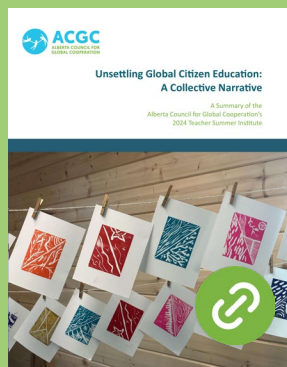
In May 2025, ACGC's Global Connect brought together 11 young Albertans to tour the province and learn more about how Albertans are leading sustainable development efforts around the world and at home. This year, Global Connect visited 12 organizations and leaders, broadening the scope of perspectives and enriching the experience for this year's cohorts. ACGC further empowered young Albertans through events tied to COP 30 in Brazil, International Day of Women and Girls in Science, International Women's Day, and Black History Month. These events encouraged participation from diverse and underrepresented future changemakers from across the province.

Towards the same goal, ACGC found opportunities to mentor prospective youth interested in international cooperation. This year, the council welcomed a practicum student from University of Alberta's Department of Human Ecology who supported ACGC's communications during IDW and Black History Month, as well as contributed to data analyses on the Top 30 Under 30 award. ACGC will continue seeking opportunities to provide young professionals work experience and to serve as a stepping stone into fulfilling careers in international cooperation.

For teachers, ACGC continued to work alongside global citizenship education leaders to deliver impactful programming. With the Centre for Global Education, ACGC delivered an engaging Global Classroom Series which explored emerging approaches and strengthened teachers' confidence in facilitating discussions on gender equality, sustainability, peacebuilding, and related global-local issues. Council staff attended a number of teachers' conventions across Alberta to distribute resources and also partnered with the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada to engage teachers in an online workshop.

Youth Engagement & GCE Highlights

In fall 2025, ACGC published Unsettling Global Citizenship Education. Built by participants from the 2024 Teacher Summer Institute, the publication is a resource for teachers to reflect and question what global citizenship education can, and should, be.



Creating Black Youth Excellence was co-hosted with Uбора Women's Initiative during Black History Month. Attended by the Honorable Salma Lakhani, the event centered on fostering and inspiring future young Black leaders in international cooperation and other sectors.



Watch: Global Connect 2025 Playlist and get to know the youth from this year's cohort, hear their takeaways, and what ideas are inspiring them to action.



MOST TRAUMA

HAS BEEN PASSED ALONG DIFFERENT FORMS OF INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA HAS BEEN PASSED ALONG TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US.

ACTIVATED BY TRIGGERS 

SIT COMFORTABLY IN A QUIET PRIVATE SPOT FOR 3-4 MIN

WHAT DO YOU SEE AROUND + BEHIND YOU?

WHAT SOUNDS DO YOU HEAR?

WHAT SMELLS FILL THE AIR?

WHAT CAN YOU FEEL PHYSICALLY? EMOTIONALLY?



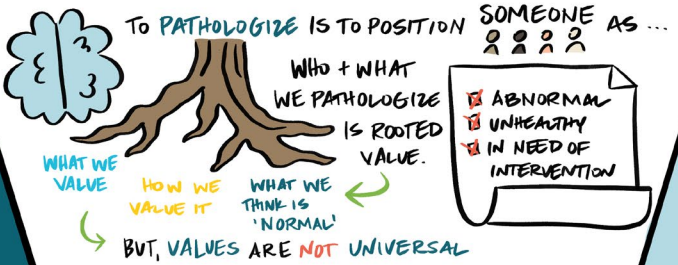
FEEL

CALL TO ACTION #1

CALL TO ACTION #1 IT STARTS AT HOME

HOME IS WHERE THE LAND KNOWS & LOVES ME. WE ALL HAVE A ROOTEDNESS WITH THE LAND.

CALL TO ACTION #3 BE ANTI-PATHOLOGIZING



THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE PERSON



THE PROBLEM IS



DIFFERENT WAYS OF NAMING 'PROBLEMS' = DIFFERENT ACTIONS + 'SOLUTIONS'



YOU'RE INVITED TENSION

TENSION IS A VITAL LIFE FORCE. WE NEED IT TO LEARN.

CONFLICT INVITES LEARNING ABOUT WHAT WE NEED + CARE ABOUT

IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

LOOK TO CONFLICT FOR WHAT IT OFFERS



THE MORE TIME WE MUST SPEND
EXPLORING FEELINGS + NEEDS
NEGOTIATING CONSENT

RANGE OF CONSENT

- ENDURING
- TOLERATING
- WILLING
- WANTING

SOMETIMES I SAY 'YES!', & IT MEANS YES!
AND
SOMETIMES I SAY 'YES!', & IT MEANS OKAY.

WE ARE CONNECTED TO A GLOBAL COMMUNITY THAT TRANSCENDS TIME.

EMBRACE

WE MUST LEARN TO LOVE OUR PLANET & THOSE WE SHARE IT WITH

PLANETARY ENTANGLEMENT

VALUE = ENHANCING LIVES ALL LIVES ALL RELATIONS HUMAN & NON-HUMAN

CALL TO ACTION #5

PURPOSE WE ARE HERE TO UNSETTLE

ALL EDUCATION IS A KIND OF VIOLENCE TO THE BRAIN. IF YOU'RE NOT DISRUPTING SOMETHING, YOU'RE NOT LEARNING.

THERE IS A COMMONALITY AMONGST US.

FOCUS ON: PROCESS NOT OUTPUT
EXPLORATION NOT SOLUTION

CULTURE OF FEAR IS REAL
NOBODY CAN WITHSTAND SOCIAL + POLITICAL PRESSURES ALONE

DESIRES FOR THE FUTURE

IMAGINATION IS CENTRAL TO OUR GLOBAL CO-EXISTENCE

IMAGINE THE WORLD 7 GENERATIONS DOWN THE ROAD

KNOWLEDGE IS A GROUP PROJECT. DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO: I KNOW IT ALL I DO IT ALL
JUST START

UNSETTLING GLOBAL CITIZEN EDUCATION A COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE

2024 TEACHER SUMMER INSTITUTE

LEARN MORE



Story of Change: Global Power of Youth

ACGC's various programs often uncover the exceptional work of passionate and driven individuals striving to make a social impact and achieve a more sustainable world. Gazi Nouman, a recipient of ACGC's Top 30 Under 30 award, grew up and finished his university studies in Sudan, graduating as a civil engineer. His passion, however, was water: "Water is one of the most important elements on our planet. So it was very important for me to understand the reason why a country has a lot of water resources but still lacks access to clean water... I realized with time that accessibility to water is different from one place to another".



In attempting to balance between this drive to understand and address the water challenges his home country faces, and his technical expertise, Gazi soon realized that limited opportunities existed for youth to engage with these climate problems directly. "When I graduated from the university, I remember it was very hard for any young people...to engage the water market there, and I felt like it's all ruled and governed by seniors, and there is some kind of a generational gap between those. So when those seniors retire, no one will fill their places. So we have a lot of wisdom and knowledge that is wasted. It's not even documented. It's not transmitted between different generations." This realization led Gazi to begin amplifying youth voices about key development issues, such as access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in water-scarce regions. After working with the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) in Canada and completing a Master of Science in Water, Sanitation, and Health Engineering from the University of Leeds, Gazi continues to advocate for youth representation in global water governance processes, participating in key world events such as the 11th World Water Forum in Saudi Arabia and serving on the International Advisory Committee for the Dushanbe Water Process-where he has made a significant impact on youth and world leaders' approach to water crises.

Recognizing his passion and drive for sustainable development and youth advocacy, CAWST (ACGC's long-time member organization) nominated Gazi for the Top 30 Under 30 Award in 2024. "... when I engaged with ACGC during the Top 30 [it] helped me a lot...engaging with the young people way beyond what I imagined. Some of the Top 30s were talking about education in a manner that I hadn't imagined; some of them were talking about discrimination in a way that I hadn't thought of before. So the way that the event was designed, I got the chance to hear from others, and it was amazing... it helped me a lot."

Since then, Gazi continues to collaborate with fellow Top 30 award recipients on global SDG-related projects and participate in various ACGC programs. This participation has included joining ACGC's World Water Day program with schools, where he had a creative and significant influence on over 500 Canadian youth about the importance of clean water and maintaining a healthy planet. Gazi also joined ACGC's Confluence event in Banff; here, Gazi engaged with organizations and individuals involved in various areas of development work to connect, exchange ideas, and explore ways for personal and professional growth while working for social impact: "... at the end of the day we are just human beings we deserve to treat ourselves as a human being so I think I learn I honestly like participating in the conference was a mind changing experience... I started to...reflect...on what I have, being grateful for what I have and also I started to spend more time with myself inside my mind to understand what I'm actually trying to achieve who am I in this life."

Collaborating for a Stronger Sector

ACGC works on a national level to provide more opportunities for Albertans, Alberta-based organizations and their global partners. By being active contributors to the Inter-Council Network (ICN) and networks such as Cooperation Canada, the council continuously advocates in support of Alberta's international cooperation sector.

During International Development Week 2026 (IDW), the council participated in the ICN's [Looking Back. Looking Ahead](#) campaign. This campaign reflected on the collective efforts of the councils during IDW since 2019 and also encouraged hope and further action for the years to come.

The final projects funded by the [Fund for Innovation and Transformation](#) (FIT), a program of the ICN encouraging testing innovative solutions to advance gender equality and empower women and girls worldwide, concluded this year. From 2019-2026, FIT funded 60+ innovative solutions led by SMOs in 37 countries with 80,000+ direct participants. On the following page, learn more about some of the Alberta-led innovations that were funded through FIT. This year also marked the end of [Spur Change](#), a national capacity-building and knowledge sharing program administered by ACGC on behalf of the ICN. In the program's final year, training on data collection, resource mobilization, and fundraising were made available to Albertan small and medium organizations (SMOs) in English and French. Additionally, the program united SMO leaders from across the country in Banff for a strategic retreat, charting pathways for future collaboration between the ICN and SMOs nationwide. Since 2019, Spur Change reached 66 Alberta-based SMOs and engaged 700+ participants across the province.

In February 2026, the ICN launched a new joint-initiative. [Canada LIFTs](#), funded by Global Affairs Canada, has been created to support Canadian non-profits and charities working in solidarity with local and international partners with access to flexible funding with practical resources, peer connection, and relevant learning opportunities. ACGC has actively advocated for renewed investment and is excited to see continued support for Alberta-based organizations and their vital contributions around the world.

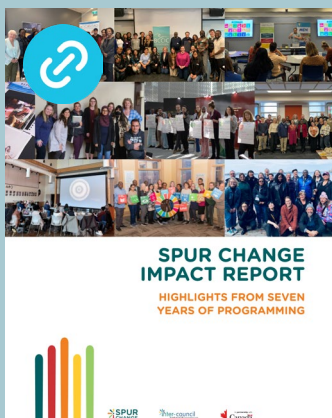
Inter-Council Network Highlights



500+ Canadian SMOs supported

150+ Workshops & Learning Opportunities

450+ Resources Created



As the first of its kind capacity-building program for SMOs in Canada, learn more about Spur Change's achievements in the Impact Report released in March 2026.



Watch: Rehma Khan, Top 30 Under 30 recipient from 2023, represented ACGC in the ICN campaign and shared current challenges facing Alberta and how international cooperation and solidarity are essential moving forward.



CAUSE Canada tested an innovative solution that aimed to address discrimination at the intersection of gender and disability in Sierra Leone. Women with disabilities were at the center of the solution, directly working to transform the negative pattern of exclusion they endure into a positive one, by directly implementing sustainable changes in their communities. [Learn more.](#)

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) and Pure Water for the World Honduras tested an interactive learning platform to increase knowledge, shift attitudes and change behaviours around menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) in Trojes, Honduras. The virtual platform put information directly in the hands of key community members. [Learn more.](#)

Change for Children tested a training program and digital resource database for teachers in remote Indigenous communities of Nicaragua. The offline, technology-enabled, linguistically and culturally-appropriate MOOC [massive open online course] was tested to determine its impact on teacher capacity, classroom resources, quality of instruction and gender equality. [Learn more.](#)

Embrace International Foundation tested a new approach to self-directed e-learning through the use of Mobile Learning Labs. The project aimed to empower and improve the lives of students in rural Uganda, especially girls and those living with disabilities, by promoting skills development and improving enrolment rates. [Learn more.](#)

Norquest College in collaboration with Operation Eyesight India and the Rotary Eye & ENT Hospital, tested an innovative solution to recruit, train, and equip eight local female community health workers to provide eye health services in a majority women-staffed Mobile Vision Centre travelling across Jammu and Kashmir, India. [Learn more.](#)

Real Humanitarian, and its local Guatemalan partner, Asociación SERniña/REALgirl, tested the impact and effectiveness of a holistic, family-centered, gender equity focused violence prevention and response program in Guatemala, as a way of reducing rates of sexual and domestic violence in Guatemala and improving recovery for survivors of violence. [Learn more.](#)

Sombrilla International Development Society tested the concept of a “mobile legal clinic” offering legal and support services to local women facing gender-based violence in Honduras. This innovation sought to empower women and girls in their ability to protect their rights, in particular the right to a life free of violence. [Learn more.](#)

The University of Alberta alongside local partners tested an innovative solution to economically empower women in rural Pakistan. The innovation sought to develop women’s financial and numeracy skills by introducing images and other visual cues and by building on women’s existing oral communication abilities. [Learn more.](#)



Story of Change: The People that Empower Us

It would be impossible to think of the words “inspiring action for global citizenship” without acknowledging the contributions of Beverley “Bev” Carrick to the international cooperation sector. Bev, whose recent resume ranges from founding CAUSE Canada to writing the Spur Change proposal with her husband, Paul, now oversees Embrace International, an endeavour she and Paul took on in retirement. Both Bev and Paul have been directly involved with ACGC, with Bev serving as ACGC’s Chair of the Board of Directors in 2023-2024 and Paul being one of ACGC’s Co-Founders.



“There was this idea that we are stronger together, we can problem-solve together, and we can have a greater voice together,” says Bev of ACGC’s creation. ACGC, along with its sister councils across the country, is now a hub for partnerships, advocacy, and resources for Canadians working in the sector, in addition to running programming for youth, educators, and the general public. “ACGC provides an opportunity to network, get project ideas, and can lead to partnerships,” Bev notes, mentioning that as a result, there is a collaboration in the works, but she can’t reveal what it is just yet.

In 2016, there was the possibility of a pot of money from Global Affairs Canada dedicated just to strengthening SMOs, something Bev had never seen in her 50 years of involvement in the sector. Naturally, it made sense to enlist Bev and Paul to write the program proposal. “SMOs tend to have closer relationships with their donors, can be more innovative, and can get into rural areas more easily, and we had to prove to GAC that they were worth supporting”, says Bev. This program would eventually become Spur Change, implemented by the Inter-Council Network and housed at ACGC, which just completed its incredibly successful seven-year run in March 2026. Bev and Paul are enjoying seeing the fruits of their labour now that the program has come to an end.

At the local level, Bev and Paul handed over the keys to CAUSE Canada several years ago, but not even retirement could keep them away from the sector. “NGO work is problem-solving and creativity,” which motivated the couple to create Embrace International in 2017. Embrace operates in Africa and Central America to empower children with disabilities and has been the recipient of FIT funding twice. “FIT was wonderful. We worked really hard to be creative and enjoyed the opportunity to experiment and be innovative,” Bev says of her experience with the program. Through their FIT funding, Embrace’s Uganda Country Director, Isabella Ajio, had the chance to visit Canada and engage the Canadian public.

Time and time again, Bev has prioritized mentoring leaders, both in Canada and internationally: “It is a real pleasure to do the work we believe in, and it is a lot of fun to see the next generation of NGOs.” Locally, Bev supported Change for Children with their PIPs and design, and now Change for Children is funding some of Embrace’s programs in Guatemala and Uganda. FIT also brought Bev on as a consultant to refine ideas for 10 organizations and leaders, many of whom would end up being funded, including Khalid Hashi. Khalid is the founder and CEO of OGOW Health and has been recognized worldwide for his innovative approach to digital health.

Bev’s work on the ground for ACGC and her own organizations, as well as her work behind the scenes empowering others, has had an immeasurable impact on Canada’s international cooperation sector. The partnerships she forged locally, nationally, and internationally have impacted thousands, and luckily for everyone, she has no plans to leave anytime soon.

Looking Back: Inspiring Action 2019-2026

Over seven years, the Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship program strengthened Alberta's international cooperation sector by moving people and organizations beyond awareness toward meaningful action. Through youth leadership, educator engagement, organizational capacity strengthening, and cross-sector collaboration, the program fostered lasting changes in how Albertans understand and contribute to global issues, gender equality, and the SDGs.

Key Achievements

- **Inspired Albertans to turn awareness into action:** Participants progressed from learning about global issues to taking meaningful action in their communities, with the program fostering greater leadership, advocacy, and engagement on gender equality, poverty reduction, and the SDGs.
- **Supported educators as multipliers of global citizenship education:** By increasing educators' confidence and capacity to integrate global issues, gender equality, and the SDGs into their teaching, the program created lasting ripple effects that continue to reach future generations of students.
- **Embedded gender equality, inclusion, and human rights across programming:** Rather than treating these as standalone topics, the program integrated feminist and rights-based approaches throughout its activities, helping individuals and organizations adopt more inclusive ways of working and decision-making.
- **Expanded Alberta's contribution to national and international collaboration:** Through active participation in pan-Canadian networks and leadership opportunities, the program connected Alberta organizations and youth to national dialogue, strengthened collective advocacy, and amplified shared learning across Canada.
- **Empowered youth as leaders for global change:** Young people developed the confidence, networks, and skills to become advocates, community leaders, and changemakers, with many continuing their engagement long after participating in program activities.
- **Built a stronger and more collaborative international cooperation sector:** Alberta-based organizations increased their knowledge, practical skills, and confidence to deliver more inclusive, innovative, and gender-responsive programming while forming stronger partnerships across the sector.
- **Strengthened relationships that continue beyond the program:** Conferences, leadership summits, networking opportunities, and peer learning created enduring connections among organizations, educators, youth, and community leaders, laying the foundation for ongoing collaboration and collective impact.
- **Demonstrated resilience and innovation in a rapidly changing world:** Despite the challenges of COVID-19, funding pressures, and increasing polarization, the program successfully adapted through virtual and hybrid approaches, expanded accessibility, and continued delivering meaningful opportunities for learning, collaboration, and public engagement.

Inspiring Action

By the Numbers

25,000+ Program Participants

3,830,000+ Reached Online



203

Collaborations with members, partners, schools, and post-secondary institutions



210

Top 30 Under 30s Recipients Highlighted



20

Delegates sent to national and international forums



7

Annual Provincial Conferences



4

Leadership Summits

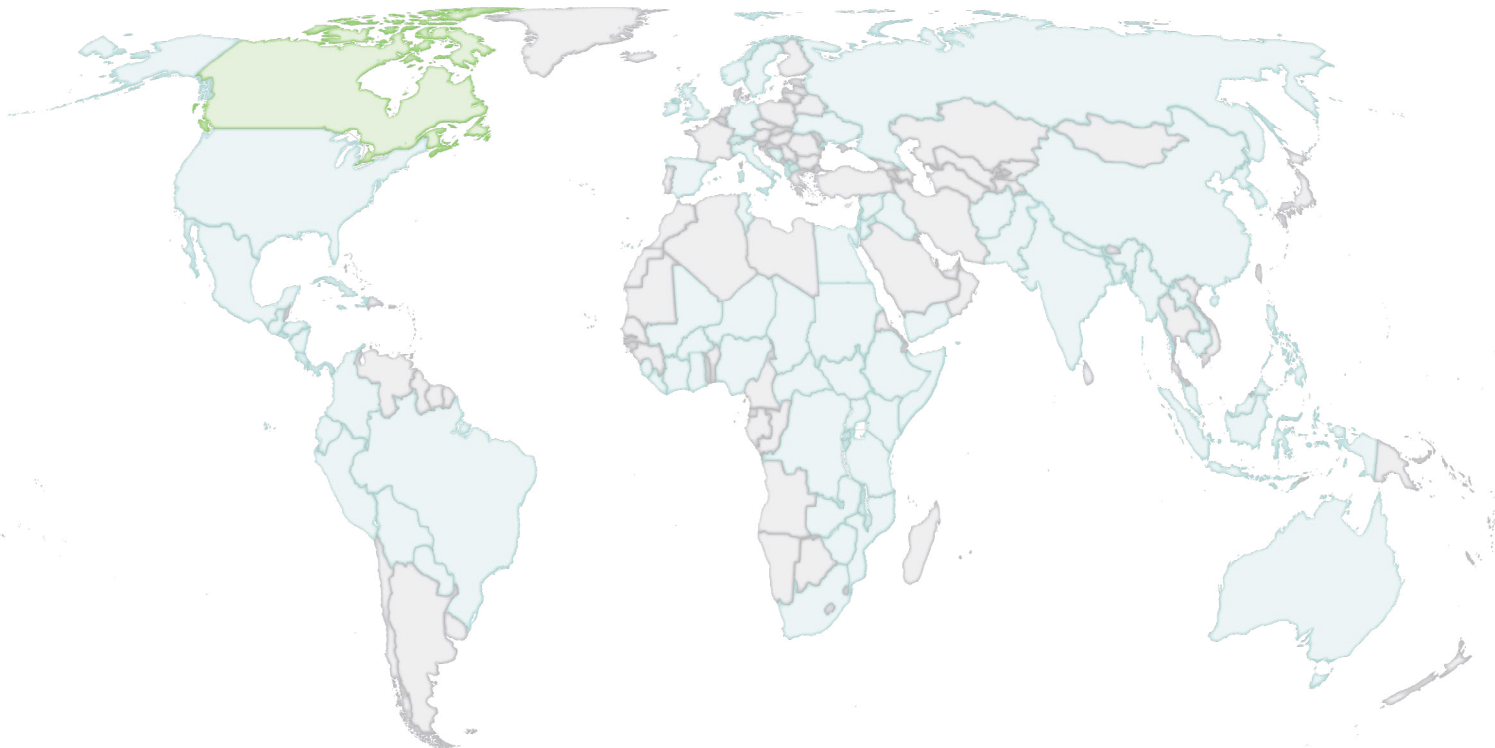


35

Gender-Equality Stories Published

ACGC Members 2025-2026





ACGC Members operate in over 90 countries around the world.

Learn more about our members at the following link or via the QR code: acgc.ca/acgc-members/.



Finances

View our full financial statements at the following link or via the QR code:
acgc.ca/about-us/our-finances-and-policies/.



Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current		
Cash	682,425	489,288
Accounts receivable [Note 3]	40,872	47,267
Guaranteed investment certificate	-	250,000
Prepaid expenses and deposits	484	484
	723,781	787,039
Capital Assets [Note 4]	2,793	777
	726,574	787,816
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	61,783	59,882
Deferred contributions [Note 5]	196,878	344,229
	258,661	404,111
Subsequent events [Note 10]		
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets	2,793	777
Internally restricted [Note 6]	274,732	264,033
Unrestricted	190,388	136,895
	467,913	383,705
	726,574	787,816

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Grant revenue		
Global Affairs Canada: SPUR Change [Note 6]	830,492	877,644
Global Affairs Canada: Inspiring Action	727,192	610,094
Civil Society Fund	-	4,771
Canada Summer Jobs	-	4,569
Interest income	10,376	3,415
Memberships	9,408	12,762
Other income	6,720	-
Donations	20	40
Workshop income	-	1,561
	1,584,208	1,514,856
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits [Note 8]	879,220	815,775
Subcontractors	201,910	183,364
Travel	200,114	197,886
Events	87,180	120,844
Administrative	84,879	73,554
Communications and publications	45,343	32,233
Amortization	1,354	950
	1,500,000	1,424,606
Excess of revenue over expenses	84,208	90,250

Our Funders

ACGC is appreciative of the support of Global Affairs Canada who made our work possible during the year.



Leadership

Executive Committee

Chair

Aditya Chaudhuri

Engineers Without Borders, Calgary Professional Chapter

Vice-Chair

Maria Cristancho

CAUSE Canada

Treasurer

Daniel Zopoula

Bridges of Hope International Network

Secretary

Lindsey Machona-Maenzanise

Expand Hope

Directors

Karen Joe

Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology

Greg Sowak

Norquest International

Lenora Yarkie

Sombrilla International Development Society

Mujahid Ahmed

Islamic Relief Canada

Our Partners

ACGC is a member of [Cooperation Canada](#) and the [Inter-Council Network for Provincial and Regional Councils \(ICN\)](#).

From 2019-2026, ACGC operated the Spur Change program on behalf of the ICN in partnership with the Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation. In the same time frame, ACGC also collaborated with the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, operated by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on behalf of the ICN, promoting knowledge sharing and in support of sustainable, gender-transformative, and innovative international cooperation practices within Alberta.



Accreditations

Fair Trade Workplace: ACGC is proud to be a Fair Trade Workplace certified by Fair Trade Canada. Fair Trade supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, addresses climate change through improved agricultural techniques, and encourages business practices that reduce poverty for producers in the global south. To find out more about fair trade and fair trade workplace certification visit the [Fair Trade Canada](#).

United Nations ECOSOC: As of June 2019, ACGC holds Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC]. Consultative status provides NGOs with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations. Learn more about consultative status with [ECOSOC](#).

Alberta Living Wage Employer: ACGC is a Living Wage Employer in the Province of Alberta. This means we are committed to paying our employees a living wage that allows them to meet their basic needs and participate in their communities. Learn more about the [Alberta Living Wage](#) network.



Commitments

As a member of Cooperation Canada, ACGC adheres to its Code of Ethics, which ACGC has adopted as its own. ACGC is also a signatory of the Leaders' Pledge on Addressing and Preventing Sexual Misconduct, and the Anti-Racism Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector.

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