



Reflections and Farewell from the Executive Director

It has been an absolute delight to have had the opportunity to work with all the ACGC members, partners, and board of directors and staff over the past ten years. It has truly been an incredible journey with some of the absolutely best people; one for which I am deeply grateful.

I started at ACGC in November 2008. At that time ACGC was a small organization facing many challenges. We had no computer network, our financial structures were obsolete, and we had 1.5 staff. The Community Initiative Program had been cut completely from the Government of Alberta budget (somewhat prophetically)—a decision recently replicated in 2019. We saw Canadian support for global development move from human right-based support to emergency-based support.

There were hard times where we struggled to find collective wins. However, more than the challenges, we saw real successes. Through the efforts of our devoted staff members, board of directors, and vocal member organizations, ACGC was able to ensure provincial funding was reinstated in its entirety. Through numerous public engagement initiatives, we were able to increase Albertans' understanding of Canada's role in the world, and through our youth programming and teacher training initiatives, we have better equipped future generations to know what it means to be a global citizen.

I am particularly proud of a few projects and ideas that we were able to develop. Our Top 30 Under 30 Magazine has always inspired me and been a highlight of my year. The Together symposiums we held in Calgary and Edmonton brought together representatives from a number of sectors to deeply engage on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was an incredible privilege to bring together diverse voices like Dr. Alaa Murabit, The Yes Men, Wade Davis, Stephen Lewis, and member partners from around the world. And developing and hosting the Spur Change project to increase capacity for small and medium organizations is a key achievement—one I know will position ACGC as a sector leader in the years to come.

I am excited to undertake the next step in my career as the Member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona, but as much as I look forward to the next chapter in my life, I will deeply miss the work and people I was lucky enough to work with at ACGC. I am excited to see what the future holds for this important organization and I hope that I am able to support the continued efforts to make the world more just and sustainable for everyone.

Heather McPherson, MP

INSIDE:
**The 30th Anniversary
of International
Development Week is
on its way!**

See page 7 for details

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Inspiring Action For Global Citizenship

ACGC Launches ‘Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship Education’

In May 2019, ACGC launched a new program titled **Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship**. This \$2.25 million dollar, four-year program enables ACGC to continue both our public engagement and capacity building work, while adding capacity to new areas of strategic importance.

Specifically, this program provides us with a new focus on building sector capacity towards achieving gender equality in international assistance programming, while engaging cross-sector partners on the Sustainable Development Goals in Alberta. Throughout the summer, ACGC worked to build and plan this new program, while onboarding many new staff members who will carry out this new programming. We are grateful for the continued support of Global Affairs Canada as it continues recognizing the strong role ACGC plays in engaging Albertans and building the capacity of organizations in Alberta towards reducing poverty and addressing inequality worldwide.

Alberta Ends 45-Year Commitment to Alberta Charities

The 2019 Alberta Budget brought a devastating blow to Alberta-based international development organizations when it was released in October 2019, through the elimination of the Community Initiative Program International Development funding window. “The Government of Alberta has been providing financial assistance to developing countries through the International Development program since 1974,” reads the letter sent out by department staff on October 25th. Yet, to realize their commitment to Albertan citizens and to balance the budget, “the International Development grant stream has been discontinued effective immediately.”

“ACGC is deeply disappointed that the Government of Alberta has decided to eliminate the International Development grant stream, which for 45 years supported Alberta charities and service clubs who work with partners around the globe building strong, resilient communities,” stated Leah Ettarh, Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, in a press release that following week.

Leah Ettarh, along with representatives of four ACGC member organizations, met with staff of the Community Initiatives Program in November and outlined our concerns. ACGC will continue to advocate for its members and the sector with the goal of seeing funding for international development work reinstated.

New Faces under Inspiring Action





Roundtable participants post with the SDGs in spring of 2019.

Rountables Across the Province

Together Alberta represents a collaborative effort by Albertans to support global sustainable development work done by Albertans and Alberta-based organizations in Canada. Through Together Alberta, we share a diverse collection of stories to educate and inspire new audiences to learn, share, and take action for a more sustainable and just future.

During the spring and summer months of 2019, ACGC hosted the Together Alberta Roundtables which convened members of government, educators, civil society, and businesses from across the province to discuss the Global Goals and share insights on their contributions to the goals. A report was created and the research concluded the following [\[read the report\]](#) on the [Together Alberta website](#).

The Together Alberta Roundtables found that:

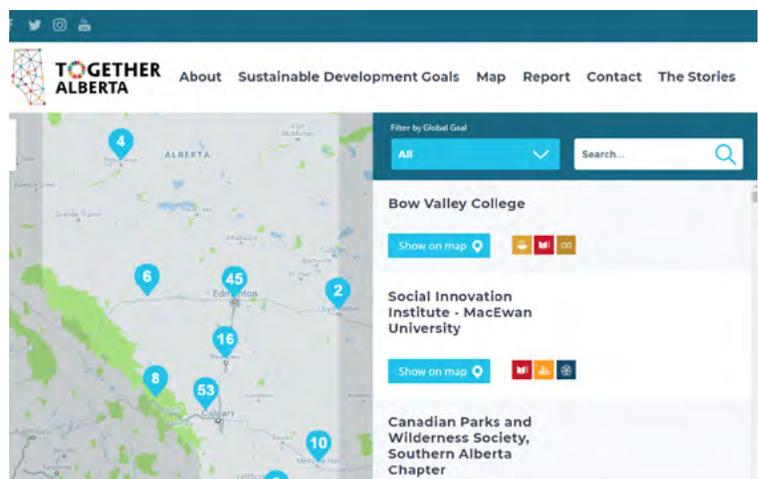
1. More public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals is needed.
2. Alberta-based Organizations are addressing the SDGs.
3. Albertans must shift their individual and organizational practices in order to achieve SDGs.
4. The needs of rural communities must be specifically addressed within the 2030 Agenda National Strategy.
5. Governments must embed the SDGs in policies and practices at all levels.

Map Launch

At ACGC's Annual General Meeting in September, ACGC launched an interactive map website allowing Albertans to visually explore the sustainable development work that is being carried out across the province. The website also hosts stories by participating organizations, the Together Alberta promotional video, and the full Together Alberta Roundtable report.

Be sure to contact ACGC if you want your organization on the map!

You can visit the website at together.acgc.ca.



Annual General Meeting

ACGC held its Annual General Meeting at the University of Alberta on September 12th with over 30 representatives of member organizations in attendance. This meeting highlighted the year of transition that ACGC has been under, between transitioning to a new GAC funded program, starting the Spur Change program, and most notably, the leave-of-absence of ACGC Executive Director, Heather McPherson. ACGC honoured Heather with a service award for her many years of service to the sector, and wished her all the best in her political journey ahead.



New Board Members Elected at AGM

ACGC welcomed the re-election of three board members: Jamie Charlebois, University of Calgary, Chris Enns, Bow Valley College, and Ana Hoepfner, CAWST, while thanking Sabreena Braich, Operation Eyesight Universal, who stepped down. Having moved organizations, Danielle Gibbie, the Chair of ACGC's Board of Directors, was also re-elected on a 2 year term.

The [2018-2019 Annual Report](#) is available on our website.



Six new SDG Hub members receive onboarding training together



Zainab speaks at the UN General Assembly

Youth Take the Lead on Advancing SDGs in Alberta through The SDG Hub

In our organization's effort to engage youth in Alberta on the Sustainable Development Goals, ACGC launched a youth-centered program called the 'Alberta SDG Hub', aimed at bringing together young people of ages 18 to 24 to learn about the SDGs as well as supporting them in taking action.

In total, 28 youth and 12 mentors from across Alberta have joined The Hub and have worked together to create projects addressing the SDGs in Alberta. Initiatives range from projects addressing responsible consumption to aiming at protecting migrant communities. Through this program, we were also able to support one youth participant, Zainab Azhar, in attending the United Nations SDG Summit in New York in September.

A video about her experience can be found on our YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/tfyO-jM6MWA>.

This project, funded by Canada Service Corp, wraps up in March 2020. We look forward to sharing with you the successes, challenges and lessons learned from this project in the new year.



Robbie, Youth Program Officer

First Annual Spur Change Conference Connects Educators and SMOs

The Spur Change program (2019-2024) for capacity building and knowledge sharing for Canadian Small and Medium Organizations (SMOs) and educators was officially launched during its first national conference taking place from November 20-22 in Edmonton, AB. The 2-day event allowed 130+ participants from coast-to-coast-to-coast of the country to connect, and share experiences and resources with other SMOs and educators, identify partnership opportunities and learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to integrate them into school communities.

The theme of this first conference was “Inclusive Governance: Meaningful Participation towards Gender Equality” and sustainable development practices were discussed through priority areas such as the integration of community-led monitoring and evaluation into programming, integrating gender equality, inclusive governance and the SDGs in teaching about global issues and tools & resources for prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). As this year’s theme was tied to the 5th area of the Canadian Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) “Inclusive Governance”, compelling exchanges occurred around the importance of “bringing all voices to the table” to ensure gender equality, Indigenous and youth participation, while avoiding tokenism.

The conference took place after a national initial needs assessment was conducted through roundtables and online survey from September to October 2019, and the combined feedback gathered allowed to inform capacity-building priorities to develop Spur Change programming.

What is the Spur Change Program?

The Spur Change program is a 5-year initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada administered by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) on behalf of the Inter-Council Network (ICN). Over the program, the Spur Change team will keep working in collaboration with Canadian SMOs, educators and youth through workshops, webinars, resource sharing, training and annual conferences in order to support and increase effectiveness to deliver sustainable results, to engage school communities on global issues and to inspire young leaders’ action on the SDGs. Through its upcoming Youth Championship Program, Spur Change will provide a multi-generational and peer-to-peer learning exchange and collaboration to increase all participants’ capacities, opportunities, and contribution to public engagement.

For more details on the Spur Change program, the 2019 conference and upcoming events, visit <http://icn-rcc.ca/spurchange/>.



InSight 360 Video Cylinder Soon to Launch

After years of planning, ACGC is pleased to launch a new public engagement initiative: **A Better World is InSight**. The project is a collaborative initiative between ACGC, the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation and the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

InSight, a 360 video cylinder with the capacity to hold over 15 individuals at a time, will tour through Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba while showcasing powerful, 360 films about sustainable development with a special focus on issues of gender equality. In Alberta, ACGC will be touring the cylinder January to March in 2020 and again in April to August in 2021. We are prioritizing bringing the experience to schools through in-school field-trips to thousands of students. Some public showings will be made available. We would love members to engage with this initiative: if you would like to attend a public showing, learn more about the films or host the cylinder, keep tuned for the coming launch of the InSight website in January at insightproject.ca.

The InSight project represents ACGC's work to engage students in Alberta on complex development issues so that they may better empathize with people impacted by these issues and see themselves as potential actors in solving global problems. We are excited to be deploying the cylinder in multiple communities in Alberta between January to March 2020! The official launch of InSight will take place during International Development Week in Calgary. We hope you'll be able to join us, and see how a better world is InSight.

Save the date and join us on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 at 2:00pm at the Calgary Central Library for the National Launch of this new initiative.



A mock-up of the InSight 360 video cylinder, set to launch nationally in February.

A better world is



30TH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

February 2-8, 2020

Canada

GO FOR THE GOALS!



canada.ca/idw

#IDW2020

#GoForTheGoals

#Can2030Agenda

This year marks the 30th anniversary of International Development Week across Canada.

Upcoming: 30th Anniversary of International Development Week 2020

From Feb 2nd to 8th, Canada will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of International Development Week [IDW] with the theme, 'Go for the Goals'. ACGC will be providing many opportunities to get involved, including a fun networking and bowling event, 'Bowl for the Goals' in Edmonton on February 2nd; the annual Top 30 Under 30 event in Calgary on Feb 4th, and two information sessions with Global Affairs Canada in February. We will also be launching our new InSight project, a 360 video dome that will tour across the prairies for two years showcasing powerful stories of sustainable development. As it is the 30th anniversary of IDW, we encourage members to get involved by hosting an event and sharing positive stories from your partners.

Check our [IDW page online](#) for upcoming events and updates or check out [Global Affairs Canada's page](#) for social media assets, events, and information about the week.



International Development week celebrated across Canada

9th Annual Top 30 Under 30

Every year, our selection committee chooses 30 outstanding individuals under the age of 30 from a collection of nominations across Alberta and the world. In October 2019 we opened nominations to all of Alberta and our members and received over 70 outstanding nominations. Throughout November, a selection committee decided on 30 young candidates who were not only active change makers in their community, but also reflected the heart of the Top 30 campaign--that is, to leave no one behind.

On February 2nd, we will be having the official launch of this 2020's Top 30 award winners in Calgary, and we would love to see our members at this special event. This opportunity is built for you--make connections with these young change makers and build your community! If you would like to be involved with the Top 30 event, please contact communications@acgc.ca.

Please mark in your calendars February 4th, 2020 at 5:30-8:00 pm for the official Top 30 Launch event at the Calgary Central Library. More details to come.



2019 Top 30 Alumni Janine and keynote speaker Hoda Katebi



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 [Alberta Council for Global Cooperation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alberta-council-for-global-cooperation)

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

ACGC Connect is published by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation [ACGC] with the financial assistance of Global Affairs Canada. ACGC is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. We are committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and Indigenous cultures.

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ACGC Current Membership

Alberta Teacher's Association • Bow Valley College, International Education • Bridges of Hope • Burman University Centre for Peace and Justice • Calgary Board of Education Global Learning Services • Canadian Center for Ethnomusicology (CCE) • Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief • Canadian Peacemakers International • Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan • CAUSE Canada • Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) • Change for Children Association • Development and Peace, Caritas Canada • Edmonton Public School Board • Engineers Without Borders - Calgary City Chapter • Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning • Global Education Program, University of Alberta International • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) • John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Light Up the World Foundation (LUTW) • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • Mennonite Central Committee Alberta • Micah Center - The King's University • Nafasi Opportunity Society • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight • PlanNET Development Planning & Evaluation • Rainbow for the Future • Rainbow of Hope for Children • Samaritan's Purse - Canada • Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization (SCREDO) • Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community Development Organization • Sombrilla International Development Society • Trebi Kuma Ollenu Foundation for Community Development (TKOFCD) • United Nations Association in Canada - Calgary Branch • United Nations Association in Canada - Edmonton Branch • University of Calgary International

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