



## ACGC Board Welcomes Leah Ettarh as Executive Director

The Board of Directors for the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is pleased to announce Leah Ettarh as the Executive Director for the Council. Leah brings with her 17 years of International and Canadian experience, working in both the International Development and Education sectors. Six of these years have been with ACGC as the Public Engagement Specialist and later as the Program Manager. With a Masters Degree in International Humanitarian Action, as well as a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies, Leah brings a wealth of experience to the organization and is well suited to lead the council towards achieving its mission to "Mobilize Albertans to become global citizens engaged in sustainable development".

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am thrilled to officially welcome Leah to this role. As Interim Executive Director, Leah led the organization through a critical time as we grew both our programs and staff. She has brought tremendous leadership to the role; her passion for building community and using systems change to create a more peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world for all is evident. She truly embodies the values of ACGC, and we are confident that with her leadership, the organization will continue to thrive."

- Danielle Gibbie, Chair

Join us as we warmly welcome Leah to this role.

## Message from the New Executive Director

"As the new Executive Director of ACGC, I look forward to connecting with members to understand your concerns, and to fight for the issues that matter to you and your partners, in our efforts to end poverty, reduce inequality, and fight climate change. It has been an honour to serve the members for the past 6 years, and I look forward to continuing this service in this new role. Do not hesitate to reach out to me at [leah.ettarh@acgc.ca](mailto:leah.ettarh@acgc.ca)."



**INSIDE:**  
**Sector Advocacy Keeps International Cooperation Central to Canada's COVID-19 Response.**

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## COVID-19 RESOURCES

### ACGC Launches COVID-19 Resource Page

With the rapid development of Covid-19 in Alberta, ACGC launched a Covid-19 web page on our ACGC website, to help the sector keep track of rapidly changing information. Please visit our page to find up-to-date resources, as well as information on our sector's response.

[Visit ACGC's COVID-19 resource page](#)



Rubi, Program Manager



Nikos, Learning Content Designer



Sebastian, Global Citizenship National Program Coordinator

### New Staff at ACGC

### Coming soon:

### Together Story Series on Albertans Working to Address COVID at home and abroad

ACGC is currently working with member organizations to showcase their timely and responsive work in communities around the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. Members have pivoted to address community needs in activities ranging from fundraising and donations of medical and WASH supplies and equipment and addressing food security; capacity building in communities including training/education on WASH, hygiene, social distancing and advocacy and public engagement/education around issues related to Covid-19 such as health, access to services, protection of human rights. The story series will be published on ACGC's social media pages and the Together Website: [together.acgc.ca](http://together.acgc.ca)



## TOGETHER ALBERTA

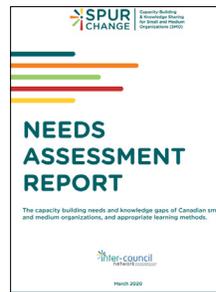
### Spur Change SMO Report

Spur Change is thrilled to launch the first small and medium organization [SMO] report about the capacity building and knowledge sharing needs of Canadian SMOs working in international cooperation. It addresses essential questions: What are SMO's ambitions? What are key priority areas for learning and capacity building for their organization to achieve its ambitions? What are their preferred learning methods? What is their level of knowledge and understanding of the Feminist International Assistance Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals? The report is based on 252 responses collected from over 150 SMOs across Canada and provides insights into the strengths of SMOs and how they can achieve their ambitions.

[Read SMO Report Executive Summary](#)

[Read Full SMO Report](#)

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



### Spur Change in Alberta:

- 44** people participated in activities
- 28** Albertan SMOs and educators participated in the National Conference
- 32** Albertan SMOs participated in online and in-person workshops

## Sector Advocacy Keeps International Cooperation Central to Canada's COVID-19 Response

On April 14, the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) [presented a letter to the Honourable Minister Karina Gould](#), Minister of International Development, to reinforce the importance of International Cooperation being an integral part of Canada's COVID-19 response. Representing over 350 organizations, we commended the Government of Canada's global engagement, and urged the government to maintain a gender lens and its commitment to the Feminist International Assistance Policy in its response, increase financial and technical support to the most vulnerable countries, and continue to fund and allow for flexible programming to Small and Medium Organizations, to allow them to be responsive to the needs of vulnerable people arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This letter followed [a joint response](#) put together by the ICN, with the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP), the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH), and Climate Action Network (CAN-Rac). On 3 April 2020, the coalitions presented an open letter to Minister Gould, calling for international cooperation to be a part of Canada's COVID-19 response. The sector letter received an impressive 236 organizational signatures.

In the letter, we applaud the Government of Canada's commitment to global engagement and cooperation to address the pandemic, including the allocation of \$159.5M through Canada's International Assistance Envelope. The open letter proposes further measures to help Canada's fight against the global pandemic through an increase of Canadian aid, and the fast-tracking of funding renewals for multi-year international programs, among other proposals.

## Government of Alberta Funding Postponed

Due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the Government of Alberta has cancelled Community Initiatives Program (CIP) grant applications for the various grant streams received for the January 15, 2020 intake, and have postponed further intakes until further notice. Further to that, the Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion grant has also been cancelled and will resume in September. Money allocated to these streams have been diverted to community organizations responding to Covid-19 within Alberta.

These changes come on the heels of the cancellation of the CIP International Development program, to which [ACGC responded to in October](#). While the current situation is unprecedented, we are deeply concerned about the long-term impact these changes will have on civil-society's ability to respond to pressing needs, especially issues such as racism, and gender-based violence that are rising due to COVID-19. ACGC continues to keep in close contact with department staff and the Ministry to monitor changes and advocate for the reinstatement of these funding programs as soon as possible.

For more information, read the notice on the [CIP website](#).



*Townhall with the Minister of International Development, the Honorable Karina Gould*

[Read Minister Gould's response to our sector letter :](#)  
<https://acgc.ca/?download=8182>

[Listen to the follow up town hall sessions which took place on May 12<sup>th</sup>:](#)  
<https://bit.ly/30KYMzP>

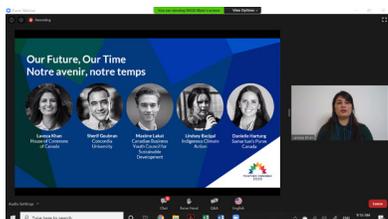
## Amanda Ncube from Sihle-Sizwe Foundation represents ACGC at a Youth Forum at the Senate of Canada

This year, the global community marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Through the Inter-Council Network (ICN) a youth delegation representing the eight provincial councils and regions at a Youth Forum at the Senate of Canada, in Ottawa, on March 9-10. The forum was held in lieu of the CSW64 Beijing+25 Conference in New York, which was cancelled due to Covid-19.

ACGC was represented by Amanda Ncube, a graduate of the Community Support Worker Program at Norquest College, and a long time volunteer for ACGC member organization, Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation. We look forward to collaborating with Amanda to engage youth and Albertans on issues of gender equality and intersectionality. [View Amanda's Together Alberta blog post.](#)



Amanda Ncube (fourth from the left) at a Youth Forum in Ottawa



## Together | Ensemble

The Together | Ensemble national conference was a continuation of the Together Symposium series, which originated in Alberta and was hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation in 2017 and 2018. Taking place online May 20-22, The conference benchmarked national progress toward achieving the agenda, mobilized knowledge from the private sector, academia, government, and civil society, and promoted collaboration in service of the UN's ambitious Decade of Action.

ACGC contributed to making Together | Ensemble a success with Danielle Hartung, Senior Projects Communications Specialist with Samaritan's Purse Canada speaking on a panel in a session called "Our Future, Our Time." Ivan Touko, a 2020 ACGC Top 30 Under 30 did an excellent job as the Master of Ceremonies for the virtual conference.

You can revisit Together | Ensemble by reading a [recap from Future of Good](#), viewing [Recordings on youtube](#), and accessing [presenter resources](#).

## Spark Now Youth Publication

In May, the first edition of ACGC's new youth publication, Spark Now was published. It serves as a source for young adults to find out about opportunities to learn, share, and act on development in Alberta and abroad. We'll be sharing these newsletters monthly both through email and social media, and encourage youth to subscribe and follow us on social media for more to come. If you have an opportunity or story of change you'd like to share, let Brett, ACGC's Public Engagement Program Coordinator know by emailing him at [brett.mcmillan@acgc.ca](mailto:brett.mcmillan@acgc.ca).

Subscribe to Spark Now: <http://acgc.ca/subscriptions>



## ACGC's Sustainable Development Goals Hub

The Alberta SDG Hub has continued to engage youth in advancing sustainability in the province, while investing in their skills and capacity. In total, 28 young people took part in the first year of the program, contributing 1,480 hours of volunteer service to sustainability initiatives across the province on issues ranging from education to addressing [women's addiction issues](#). Participants have found various aspects of the hub informative and invaluable experiences.

In Spring 2020, the SDG Youth Hub recruited a new cohort of 11 young people. The program will continue to invest in skills and opportunities for them to connect and act on sustainable development.

If you or your organization are interested in participating in the 2020 hub as a mentor, or hosting a youth volunteer, please contact Brett, ACGC's Public Engagement Program Coordinator on [brett.mcmillan@acgc.ca](mailto:brett.mcmillan@acgc.ca).



*The second cohort of ACGC's SDG Hub, gathered during their introductory training weekend in November 2019*



*InSight Igloo inside the Calgary Library*

*Credit: Sam Brooks*

## InSight 360 Video Cylinder Launch

ACGC was pleased to launch a new public engagement initiative, InSight, during International Development Week on February 4th at the Calgary Central Library. InSight showcases powerful, 360° films exploring sustainable development topics with a special focus on issues of gender equality.

According to technology provider, Igloo Vision, the InSight Project is the world's first initiative of its kind, touring with a 360° video system to schools and libraries as an educational platform. Throughout January to March, 2,573 youth and adults visited the installation. Audiences were able to engage in more in-depth conversations and workshops exploring the topics presented, and often viewed multiple videos, seeing intersections between the various topics. This depth of engagement from teachers and youth was highly valuable, and ACGC's team is eager for a second deployment to come.

Unfortunately, screenings came to a premature close as COVID-19 disrupted the final week when schools across Alberta closed indefinitely. The project is a collaborative initiative between ACGC, the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation and the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and will go on to tour across the prairies. The Igloo Vision cylinder will return to Alberta in April 2021

### Quick InSight Facts:

**5** deployments at:

- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Red Deer
- Lethbridge

**29** days

**56** virtual reality workshops organized

**2 573** youth and adults engaged

## International Development Week

During February 2nd to 8th, 2020, ACGC organized a successful International Development Week (IDW) which brought Albertans together to reflect on efforts made by Albertans and Canadians to Go for the Goals locally and internationally. Over 20 IDW events were held by ACGC and members.

## ACGC's Contributions to International Development Week

**126 757** people reached online

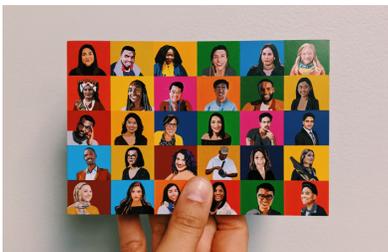
**1 567** people attended ACGC IDW events

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Top 30 Under 30 Campaign

The ACGC Top 30 Under 30 campaign highlights extraordinary youth who are chosen for their contributions to our global community and their connection to Alberta. This year marked the 9th year of Top 30 Under 30. The 2020 campaign consisted of online engagement featuring the work and profiles of the youth through a new website, the Top 30 celebration, keynote speaker event and a postcard campaign featuring the youth and their messages around global development. The celebration was followed by two keynote addresses on Promoting Gender Equality Through Sport by Friba Rezayee, one of Afghanistan's first female Olympians, and Nikita Kalonji, Fast and Female ambassador.



A screenshot of the Top 30 Under 30 website: 2020 alumni page. ([top30under30.acgc.ca](http://top30under30.acgc.ca))



The cover of the 2020 Top 30 Under 30 postcard booklet.



2020 Cohort of Top 30 Under 30 Recipients

## New ACGC Members

ACGC is pleased to welcome new members to the council for the 2020-2021 year:



[Humanity Auxilium](http://HumanityAuxilium)

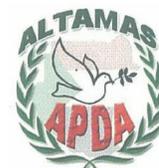


NEW IDEAS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

[Alinea International](http://AlineaInternational)



[Covenant International](http://CovenantInternational)



[Altamas for Peace and Development](http://AltamasforPeaceandDevelopment)



[Business Professional Women Alberta](http://BusinessProfessionalWomenAlberta)

We look forward to collaborating and networking with our new members in the coming year. Please check out the websites and social media of these new members and make them feel welcome.

# ACGC in Action



Members with Hon. Mike Lake and Stuart Hickox (ONE Canada Director)



Vien Truong delivering keynote address on sustainability at University of Alberta IDW event.



Caroline Saunders, British Consul-General providing remarks at InSight Launch in Calgary



Left: Friba Rezayee, Olympian  
Right: Nikita Kalonji, Fast & Female



Top 30 Ivan Touko (left) and ACGC staff member Lasha Aytenfis on the GAC livestream.



Left to right: Tom Marshall-Potter - Igloo Vision, Caroline Saunders - British Consul-General, Vaughn Lantz - Global Affairs Canada, Leah Ettarh - ACGC



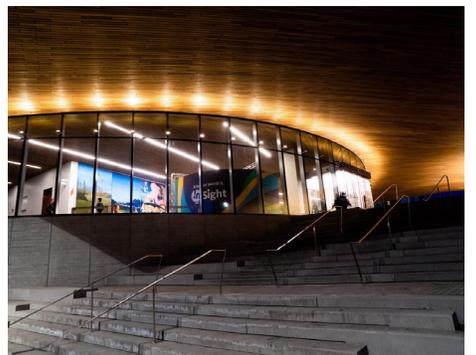
Bow Valley College International Ed. staff hosting partners from Kenya Technical Training Institute.



NorQuest College International Projects Officer (second left) Felipe Civita Ferreira in Ethiopia with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and global influencers.



Change for Children (ACGC member) Executive Director Lorena Swift with Top 30 Joud Nour Eddin, Change for Children volunteer.



InSight Project Outside Calgary Library  
Credit: Sam Brooks



[www.acgc.ca](http://www.acgc.ca)

 [facebook.com/acgcnow](https://facebook.com/acgcnow)

 [@acgcnow](https://twitter.com/acgcnow)

 [youtube.com/acgcnow](https://youtube.com/acgcnow)

 [@acgc\\_now](https://instagram.com/acgc_now)

 [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 network of organizations and individuals, located in Alberta, working locally and globally to advance sustainable development and global citizenship. We envision that all people can fulfill their potential and prosper, become engaged citizens in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and thrive in a healthy, sustainable world.

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## ACGC Current Membership

Alberta Teacher's Association • Alinea International • Altamas for Peace and Development • Bow Valley College, International Education • Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies • Burman University Center for Peace and Justice • Business and Professional Women Alberta • Calgary Board of Education • Canadian Center for Ethnomusicology (CCE) • Canadian Humanitarian • Canadian Peacemakers International • Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan • CAUSE Canada • Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology • Change for Children Association • Covenant International • 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 • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Light Up the World Foundation • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • Marda Loop Justice Film Festival • Mennonite Central Committee • Micah Center, The King's University • Nafasi Opportunity Society • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight Universal • PlanNET Limited • Rainbow of Hope for Children • Samaritan's Purse Canada • Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation • Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization • Sombrilla International Development Society • Teach Peace Development • Trebi Kuma Ollennu Foundation for Community Development • United Nations Association in Canada - Calgary Branch • United Nations Association in Canada - Edmonton Branch • University of Calgary International

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