

Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

It has been a full year since the first cases of Covid-19 arrived in Alberta. Little did anyone imagine last March that we would continue to find ourselves in this situation one year later. While vaccines have arrived in Alberta, the social and economic impacts of the pandemic will continue for a long time, as will the impacts on organizations who are forced to address increased needs, with decreased revenues. With this in mind, the ACGC Board of Directors voted in February to waive membership fees for the 2021-2022 year, in order to support organizations through the protracted Covid-19 crises. In lieu of fees, organizations are asked to fill a survey about their current operations, which will provide our coalition valuable information about the current composition of our members, and their current realities due to Covid-19. Results from this survey will be shared in late spring, and provide us with information and tools to better advocate and support the international development sector in Alberta.

With Covid-19 preventing in-person gatherings, ACGC staff and member organizations have worked hard over the winter to find creative and innovative ways to continue to engage the public on matters of international cooperation. International Development Week was conducted entirely online, with ACGC and members conducting a total of 35 activities. Furthermore, the Spur Change Program successfully organized and conducted the second national conference, entirely online with 289 participants, double the reach planned for the in person event. While the inability to meet in person comes with many drawbacks, the increased capacity of the general public to navigate and use online meeting spaces, as well as reduced barriers of distance, language, and time zones offered these tools present, are allowing us to think of new ways of program delivery going forward.

Small and medium organizations have proven they are resilient and adaptive throughout Covid-19, and we are pleased that funding for SMOs continues. The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (www.fit-fit.ca) will soon announce the 3rd round of funded organizations, and start the 4th intake of concept notes in Spring 2021. We were also very pleased that on 9th March 2021 during the opening of the Spur Change National Conference, Minister Karina Gould announced funding for 19 more small and medium organizations as part of the Canadian SMO for Impact and Innovation window, with names to be released in the upcoming months. With our counterparts at the Inter-Council Network ACGC will continue our advocacy in order to promote further funding under this stream going forward.

INSIDE:

ACGC launches new leadership program

See page 5 for details

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Sector Mobilization

ACGC continues to ensure the international cooperation sector in Alberta has opportunities to engage in policy and advocacy, in order to continue to foster and enabling environment for collective impact. Recently, ACGC members participated in the following activities:

Alberta Ministerial Roundtable: 15 December 2020

22 Alberta based organizations were invited to participate in a 1.5 hour roundtable discussion with Minister Karina Gould, where participants shared their organization's and partner's experiences navigating the Covid-19 pandemic. We were pleased that the Minister responded favourably to ACGC's request to reschedule this roundtable that was planned in-person in Edmonton and Calgary for March 2020, but cancelled due to Covid-19.

Inter-Council Network Ministerial Roundtable: 25 January 2021

ACGC and Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan participated as the Alberta representatives in a national roundtable with Minister Karina Gould to discuss the many unique and important ways international cooperation organizations engage and educate the public.

Hill Days: Cooperation Canada: 8-12 February 2021

Hill Days is an activity organized each year by Cooperation Canada, as a way for individuals in the international cooperation sector to meet and engage with federal politicians during International Development Week. This year, Hill Days was conducted fully online, allowing for greater participation of Alberta representatives.

If you are interested in engaging in sector advocacy, be in touch with ACGC's Executive Director, Leah Ettarh, at director@acgc.ca



Anti-Racism Framework

In February 2021, ACGC became a signatory to the Anti-Racism Framework. Launched on January 20, the Framework aims to support a collective approach to tackling systemic racism in Canada by strengthening the capacity of the international cooperation sector in promoting anti-racist practices. The Framework, developed by an advisory group convened by Cooperation Canada, outlines key commitments and indicators towards centering racialized communities, advocating for anti-racist change, and implementing anti-racist programming.

As a signatory, ACGC has completed the baseline survey, the results of which will be published in May 2021.

To learn more about the framework and to become a signatory, visit www.cooperation.ca/anti-racism-efforts

Read the Anti-Racism Framework at

<https://cooperation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Antiracism-Framework-3.0-5.pdf>



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

International Development Week Goes Virtual

2021 marked the 31st anniversary of International Development Week (IDW), and also marked the first all-virtual week of events due to Covid-19. ACGC held 7 activities, while members held a total of 29 engagements. In total, 415 people attended ACGC's virtual events, and 237,227 were reached online.

ACGC's signature event was completed in partnership with the University of Alberta International, with 250 guests in attendance. The comedy show featured women comedians from across Canada: headliners Martha Chaves, Hoodo Hersi, and Stephanie Pangowish, and host Celeste Lampa. With the show's theme being SDG 5: Gender Equality, each comedian's entertaining set reflected their unique experiences as Canadian women from diverse backgrounds.

ACGC also supported the Inter-Council Network in creating a new podcast series, *Around the World in SDGs*, which can be found on all major platforms, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and SoundCloud.



Comedian Martha Chaves



Around the World in SDGs a new podcast series by the Inter-Council Network

ACGC's Contributions to International Development Week

237 227 people reached online

415 people attended ACGC IDW events

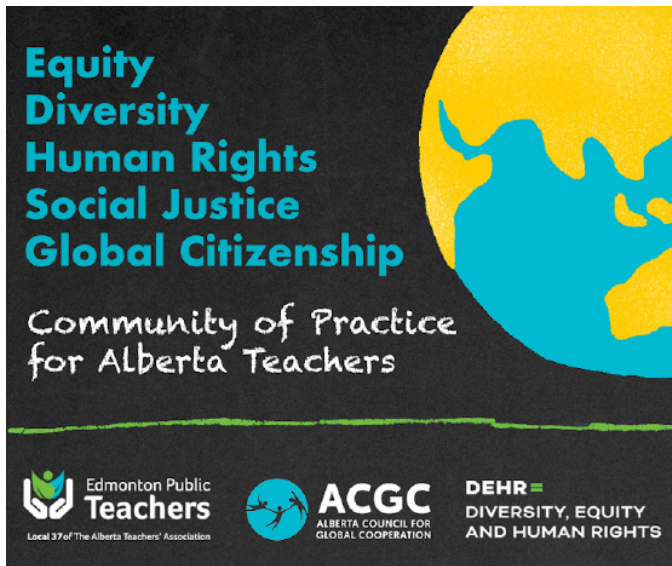


The 2021 Top 30 Under 30 Recipients. Videos, podcasts, images, and stories are available at top30under30.acgc.ca

10th Anniversary of the Top 30 Under 30

With less than 10 years until the deadline for the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, ACGC asked the 2021 Top 30 Under 30, Top 30 Under 30 alumni, and members of the public to share their calls-to-action to achieve the SDGs. ACGC shared the calls-to-action on the Top 30 website and social media, and 8 youth sent letters with their calls-to-action to various government officials and community leaders.

As the 10th anniversary of the Top 30 Under 30 award, the 2021 celebration was especially unique and youth centered. The virtual evening was hosted by two 2020 Top 30 Under 30s: Mackenzie Brown and Ivan Touko, and the majority of the 2021 Top 30 Under 30s participated by sharing summaries of their inspiring work with the 140 guests. Being online, youth from across the globe could participate, and guests heard a singing performance from Top 30 Under 30 Sabuna Gamal.



Global Citizenship Education Community of Practice

ACGC was pleased to launch a new Community of Practice for Alberta educators, facilitated by GCE expert and former ACGC Board Member, Bill Howe. The group meets monthly to meaningfully discuss global citizenship issues, learn from each other, share resources and best practices, and explore new ideas.

To learn more, visit <http://acgc.ca/resources-publications/teacher-resources/global-citizenship-education/>

SDG Hub

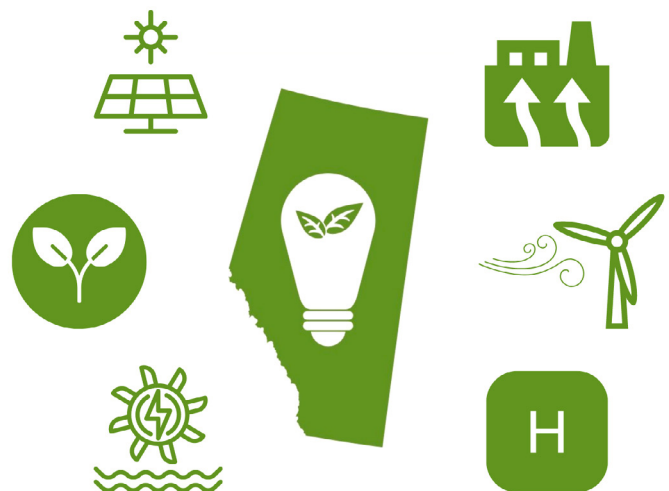
SDG Hub Cohort 3 is wrapping up in March. Since summer 2020, youth have been working to find meaningful ways to serve their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic. From mural projects, to online tutoring, to running virtual conferences, youth have been able to find small and large ways to connect, learn from each other, and serve.

Most recently, one youth, Preet Kang, worked with her mentor Shantel Jordinson to organize a Green Energy Panel series March 6 and 7th. This event was attended by 101 people.

To date, ACGC has engaged 41 youth in the program, and is glad to see the program extended into a 4th cohort in partnership with Canada Service Corps into 2021-2022.

SDG Hub 2020-2021 Cohort:

Assia Rami
 Elaine Tran
 Gbemiro Aegbuyi
 Janine Chew
 Jasmine Cha
 Kristyn Lines
 Nikki Barraza
 Preet Kang
 Seniha Gulluk
 Sydney Whiting



View youth profiles, videos at <https://acgc.ca/get-involved/thehub/>



CONFLUENCE

where leaders in international cooperation meet

Confluence: Where Leaders in International Cooperation Meet

ACGC is thrilled to launch Confluence: Where Leaders in International Cooperation Meet, a new program funded by Global Affairs Canada, aimed at creating an effective community where executive directors or senior leaders working within Alberta's international development sector with partners overseas come together to address opportunities and challenges they face in their work as leaders. This blended online and in-person program has leaders designing their own program to recharge and find inspiration from their peers, guest subject matter experts and the space around them. It also serves as a vehicle for leaders to share and collaborate best practices that build their organizations' and personal capacity. To achieve sustainability, the program is highly interactive and participatory to build a community that fosters longer-term connection and support as the leaders continue to lead and navigate challenges.

Launched March 4th, this pilot is this year open to 10 leaders this year in order to help mitigate against the impacts of Covid-19. In 2022, the program will welcome 30 leaders.

Participants:

Beverly Carrick [Embrace International Foundation]
Danielle Gibbie [Operation Eyesight]
Danielle Skogen [Canadian Humanitarian]
Flora Trebi-Ollennu [Trebi Kuma Ollennu Foundation for Community Development [TKOFCD]
Fozia Alvi [Humanity Auxilium]
Issa Kamara [Sinkunia Community Development Organization]
Lorraine Swift [Change for children]
Millie Adam [Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology [CAWST]]
Peter Schalk [Sombrilla International Development Sector]
Simrit Parmar [NorQuest College].

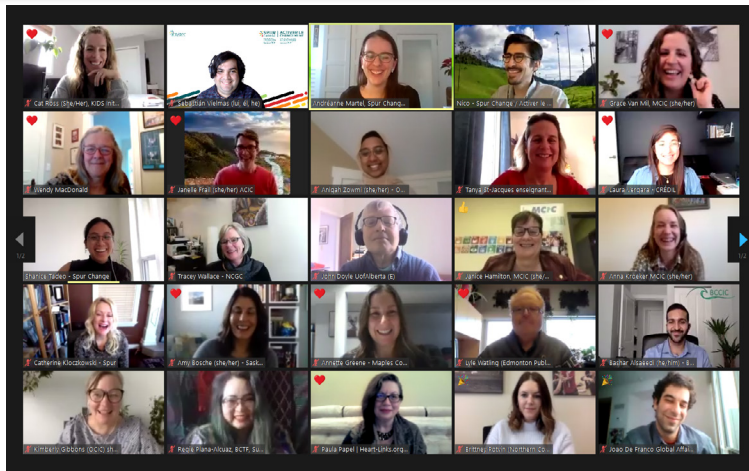


Facilitators:

Jenn Hoffman [Highwatermark Strategy and Communications] and Kathy Arney [KEA Canada]

To learn more about Confluence, go to this link: <https://acgc.ca/resources-publications/training-capacity-building/confluence-where-international-cooperation-leaders-meet/>

Facilitators Jenn Hoffman and Kathy Arney



The Spur Change National Conference went virtual this year.

Spur Change National Conference - One Step Back, Two Steps Forward: Human Dignity Post-COVID

From March 9-11, 2021, Spur Change organized its second annual national conference that convened approximately 100 small and medium organization (SMO) representatives and 40 educators from across the country. This year, the conference was virtual, meaning anyone from anywhere could join.

During the three days, the program consisted of a total of 17 sessions: 4 SMO sessions, 5 educator sessions, and 8 joints sessions, including 4 informal discussion sessions, which provided participants the opportunity to explore new pathways for collaboration, create new connections or have a genuine and open dialogue.

The invited speakers and participants shared resources, tools, practices as well as their experiences on how the pandemic has impacted their work regarding gender equality, global citizenship education, and human dignity. This reflection also fueled discussions on how they have adapted to their new realities and what actions can be taken to build resilience and to continue to strengthen the sector's collective work. Participants truly demonstrated and learned how they move *One Step Back, Two Steps Forward*.

SPUR Change Conference Numbers

- 17 sessions
- 100 small and medium organisations
- 40 educators

Spur launched new Results-Based Management Online Course

3, 2, 1...blast off! In March 2020, Spur Change introduced RBM 101 Practising Results-Based Management: An Introductory Course. Using intergalactic gamification and storytelling, this 3-hour self-paced online course takes you through results-based management concepts, including results chains, logic models, results frameworks, gender equality integration, and more. The course also provides hands-on practices for a learning experience out-of-this-world.

The course was developed in partnership with consulting firm Baastel and e-learning architect firm Octo D, and will be available for the duration of Spur Change's mandate. An intermediate course is underway.

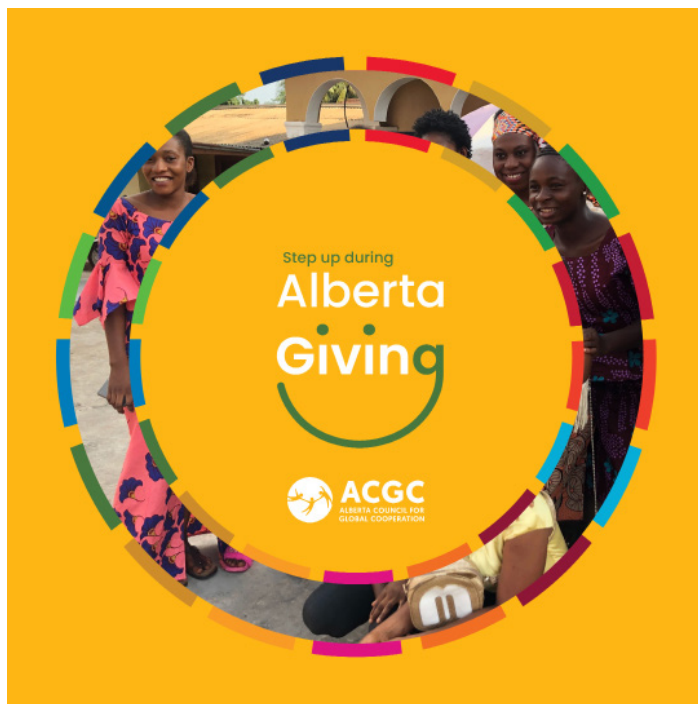
For more information and to take the course, visit https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/rbm101/?mc_cid=bf38bdbbdd&mc_eid=b8e4799ee3



ACGC Waives Membership Fees for 2021-2022

The ACGC Board of Directors voted in February 2021 to waive individual and organizational membership fees for 2021-2022, in order to support members through the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. In lieu of membership fees, returning and new members will be asked to complete a survey, which will provide a snapshot of the makeup of ACGC membership at this time. This information will provide valuable information for ACGC to better understand and advocate for the sector in the months ahead.

This membership survey can be accessed on our Become a Member page: <https://acgc.ca/our-members/become-a-member/>



Alberta Giving

ACGC held its first Giving Tuesday campaign. Titled Alberta Gives, this campaign consisted of a giving page on ACGC's website and social media campaign, highlighting the various ways the public can contribute to addressing the UN Sustainable Development goals through financial contributions to ACGC member organizations. ACGC was pleased to have intern Melissa Bui design and carry out the campaign, which now can be carried out each year. The initiative was supported through the ImpAct Internship program, managed Colleges and Institutes Canada, and funded by the Government of Canada.

Visit the Alberta Giving campaign at www.acgc.ca/alberta-giving/

Learn more about the ImpAct internship Program at www.careerlauncher.ca/impact-internships/

New Staff

ACGC has welcomed the following staff!



ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Brett McMillan and Melissa Bui, whose terms at ACGC have come to an end.



www.acgc.ca

 facebook.com/acgcnnow

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

 youtube.com/acgcnnow

 [@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 • Bow Valley College, International Education • Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies • Business and Professional Women Alberta • Calgary Board of Education • Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief • Canadian Peacemakers International • Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan • CAUSE Canada • Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology • Change for Children Association • Covenant International • Edmonton Public School Board • Embrace International Foundation • Engineers Without Borders, Calgary City Chapter • Global Education Program, University of Alberta • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada 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 • NILECAPD (Nile Care Advocacy for Peace and Development) • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight Universal • Rainbow of Hope for Children • 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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