



# CONNECT... Summer 2021

A publication of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation



## Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

Warm days and long nights are finally upon us in Alberta. While this usually signals a break, for small and medium organizations, a recent announcement in April by Global Affairs Canada of a 3rd intake of the Small and Medium Organizations for Development Impact funding window, may keep the next few months busy with proposals. We are thrilled with this unexpected announcement, as it represents an extension of the initial funding envelope, and a further commitment to supporting SMOs. The Inter-Council Network, of which ACGC is a member, co-hosted a webinar with Global Affairs in May to reflect upon the lessons learnt from the second call. Another webinar was held June 26th, and recordings and a Q&A can be found on Global Affairs website. We encourage you complete our survey from the ICN to gather feedback on the second intake, the results of which will be analysed and inform future intakes.

ACGC and members continue to be engaged in collective advocacy, including the updating of the Income Tax act which will pave the way for more equitable distribution of resources, decolonization of aid, and the localization of aid and development. Bill S- 222, the Effective and Accountable Charities Act was tabled in the Senate in February by Senator Ratna Omidvar in February, and was studied in Committee on 1 June. This bill proposed to "...amends the Income Tax Act to permit charities to provide their resources to a person who is not a qualified donee, provided that they take reasonable steps to ensure those resources are used exclusively for a charitable purpose." We are pleased to see attention paid to this seemingly small, but onerous clause that has been highlighted by the sector since 2016 and prior, and has hindered Canadian organizations' ability to fulfill a mandate of decolonization and equitable partnerships. We are pleased to see significant engagement of Albertans, including representatives of the local and international charitable sector, as well as Senators and MPs engaged and committed to seeing through the change.

Finally, on 7 June 2021, we were pleased to host a small informal gathering to celebrate 25 years of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. While ACGC as its currently known is only 25 years old, the coalition goes back 48 years, to December 1973, when it was first incorporated as the Alberta Council for International Cooperation. The coalition underwent one further reincarnation in 1983 as the Alberta Council for Global Justice Society, before becoming what we know of it today. We welcomed three former ACGC Executive Directors to the event, including Heather McPherson (2008-2019); Cherie Langlois-Klassen (2003-2006) and John Howard (1983-1985). The three shared fond memories of their time at ACGC, pivotal moments in our sector, as well as a variety of light-hearted and funny memories. Notably, all three former leaders shared how what stands out from their time at ACGC was indeed the comradery, togetherness, and willingness of Alberta organizations to work together towards addressing global issues. While we were still meeting distance online due to Covid-19, the atmosphere of the room was as a family reunion. We closed the meeting by blowing out a candle for ACGC, and inviting all attendees to what we hope to be a much larger, in-person celebration, ACGC's 50th anniversary, in December 2023.



## Contents

- 2 Funding Opportunities
- 3 Canada SDG Award
- 4 Change Your World - Alberta Tour!
- 5 Human Centered Design lab

## Funding Opportunities

With so many new and exciting sector initiatives, it's difficult to keep track. Here are a few to keep your eye on. Be sure to follow ACGC online @ACGCNow, as well as sign up for our bulletins to get alerted to these opportunities:

**Small and Medium Organizations for Development Impact:** [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/smo\\_call-2021-appel\\_pmo.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/smo_call-2021-appel_pmo.aspx?lang=eng)

A fund from Global Affairs Canada to fund SMOs to carry out projects internationally. A 3rd round of funding opened in June.

**Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT):** [www.fit-fit.ca](http://www.fit-fit.ca)

A funding program run by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on behalf of the Inter-Council Network. The 4th intake is now closed, and only 1 more intake is remaining for this program. For those wishing to apply, there are many resources available to help you start your concept note now.

**Spur Change:** <http://www.icn-rcc.ca/spurchase>

A knowledge sharing and capacity building program run by ACGC on behalf of the Inter-Council Network. Explore the comprehensive resource database, try the new online results-based management course, and sign up for updates to see when learning opportunities will be provided in Alberta.

**Equality Fund:** <https://equalityfund.ca/grantmaking/our-grantmaking-programs/where-we-fund/>

Powered by an initial \$300 million CAD contribution from the Government of Canada, the Equality Fund is building the largest self-sustaining fund for gender equality in the world.

**Fund for Gender Equality:** <https://communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/national-efforts-to-advance-gender-equality/>

Funding gender equality initiatives through community foundations across Canada. The first intake finished, watch for future intakes with local community foundations.

**ACTIF :** <https://equitas.org/where-we-work/internationally-act-together-for-inclusion-fund/call-for-proposals/>

ACTIF welcomes proposals for projects from Canadian civil society organizations in partnership with organizations in the Global South that aim to advance the human rights of LGBTQ2I persons.

**SDG Unit Funding:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/sustainable-development-goals.html>

Currently, the unit is dispersing funding from applications submitted in the fall of 2019. No current timeline to new funding announcement, but do watch closely, as this fund will be dispersing funds until 2030.

**Government of Alberta:** <https://www.alberta.ca/community-initiatives-program.aspx>

The following grant programs are available through the government of Alberta. Don't miss the fall intake, for projects starting in Spring 2022. **Community Initiatives Program CIP - Grants:**

- Project-Based
- Operating
- Major Cultural and Sport Events

**Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant:** <https://www.alberta.ca/multiculturalism-indigenous-and-inclusion-grant-program.aspx>

The Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant (MIIG) Program supports initiatives and projects that build intercultural awareness, and understanding.

**Note,** ACGC has a subscription to GrantStation. To access the database, contact [membership@acgc.ca](mailto:membership@acgc.ca)



Fund for Innovation  
and Transformation

Fonds pour l'innovation  
et la transformation

## Fund for Innovation and Transformation

FIT is happy to be able to announce our latest round of funding recipients. Thirteen amazing innovations were selected for Intake 3 and they join the 18 other FIT-funded SMOs currently testing innovative solutions to advance gender equality in the Global South! Each organization has been awarded between \$150,000 - \$250,000 to test their ideas in twelve different countries across Africa and Latin America.

Examples of the innovations that will be tested include:

- Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response led by Canadian Humanitarian [Alberta];
- Creating Safe Spaces for Learning: My Body, My Health, and My Future [M3 virtual platform led by Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology [CAWST] [Alberta]
- Mobile legal clinics for women in Honduras led by Sombrilla International Development Society [Alberta]; and
- Improving maternal, newborn and child health outcomes by using innovative and community-centric approaches led by OGOW Health [Alberta], among others.

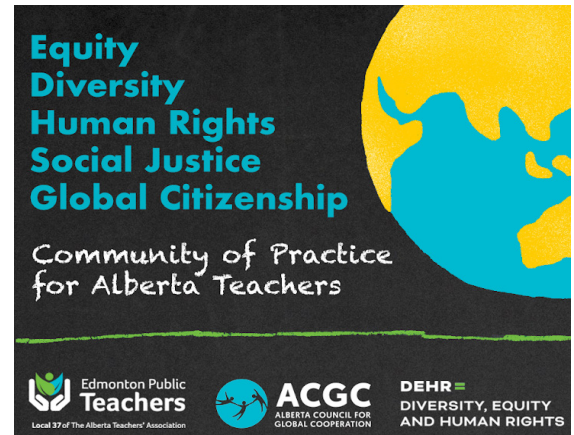
Each idea will be tested over 6-15 months, giving organizations an opportunity to gather evidence, adapt and improve.

Congrats to all the recipients!

## Community of Practice for Alberta Teachers

In May 2021, ACGC hosted its last Community of Practice meeting for Alberta educators, in collaboration with the The Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee of the Edmonton Public Teachers local of the Alberta Teachers' Association. These meetings were facilitated by GCE expert and former ACGC Board Member, Bill Howe. The group met monthly to discuss global citizenship issues in and outside of the classroom. Guest speakers explored topics such as reconciliation, human rights, and facilitating brave and difficult conversations. The final meeting focused on incorporating themes of Pride Month and Indigenous History Month into the classroom. ACGC sends a big thank you to all the educators who participated!

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



## Canada SDG Award

ACGC is excited to launch a new national bilingual program under the Together|Ensemble initiative recognizing the contributions of young people across Canada towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The primary goals of the Canada SDG Youth Awards are to build the participation of all youth in sustainability activities in their communities, to increase the awareness of the SDGs by Canadians, especially youth, and to promote cross-sectoral and multigenerational efforts towards Agenda 2030.

A national, bilingual youth advisory committee is currently being convened to drive the campaign and ensure activities best reflect the unique interests and perspectives of young people from diverse communities and lived experiences. This committee will meet over the coming months to direct the initiative from awards criteria development, selection and celebration.

To learn more about the Canada SDG Youth Awards, visit: <https://togetherensemble.ca/sdg-youth-awards-les-prix-odd-jeunesse/>

## The Sustainable Development Goals Hub

The SDG Hub has extended its partnership with Canada Service Corps into 2021-2022 and has welcomed a 4th cohort of young people working towards the SDGs through community service! 16 selected youth attended a kick-off weekend orientation at the beginning of June and have started developing ideas for their projects. Throughout the year, this skill-development and mentorship program will provide these youth with opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue on local and global issues, collaborate with peers, and tackle issues they are passionate about. We cannot wait to see how they will contribute to their communities!

To learn more about the SDG Hub, visit: <https://acgc.ca/get-involved/thehub/>



THE | HUB



## May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Menstrual Hygiene Day

ACGC is proud to support organizations who work daily to engage Albertans in the important conversations around the work being done in the province and around the world to achieve menstrual equity. On May 28th, Menstrual Hygiene Day, we a story series on [together.acgc.ca](https://together.acgc.ca) which highlights the efforts of seven organizations. In collaboration with a local craftsperson, Lola Dee Jewelry, we created and sent 50 Menstrual Hygiene bracelets to influencers throughout May and shared directions on how people can create their own. During this time, we also took the opportunity to create connections between organizations and individuals we worked with, and promoted spaces to build capacity such as the Equal Futures Network Menstrual Hygiene Day Incubator on May 14th. It was very encouraging to see broad participation within the campaign on social media. We look forward to continuing to work together towards a world without period poverty and stigma

Read the stories at: [together.acgc.ca](https://together.acgc.ca)

## Change Your World - Alberta Tour!

ACGC is excited to be hosting its 2021 Change Your World: Youth Leadership Program in August, 2021! In the past form of this program, youth traveled internationally to visit international development projects run collaboratively by ACGC's partner organizations. This year, with limits on international travel, we are taking a new approach.

ACGC will host 10 youth for a 9 day program in August, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. Through the hands-on program, youth will explore a range of topics as they relate to international cooperation, including gender equality, LGBTQ2S+ rights, and anti-oppression. Each day of the program will feature visits to organizations in Calgary working locally and globally, and engaging in dialogue and hands-on learning, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of their role in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. As global citizens, they will feel more prepared to foster positive change—at home and around the globe.

To learn more, visit: <https://acgc.ca/get-involved/youth-opportunities/change-your-world-youth-leadership-program/>





# Capacity Building

## Human Centered Design lab

ACGC just concluded a successful Human Centered Design lab approach training aimed at members of the international development sector in Alberta. The focus was on building capacity in developing anti-racist skill sets within the international development sector.

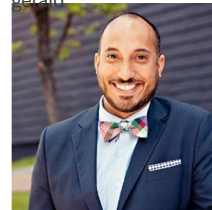
Launched on the 1st of April 2021, these participatory training series sessions were ACGC's response to the expression of interest in an opportunity to take concrete action to resolve racism in the international development sector raised by its members during the ACGC Annual Conference 2020, Unlearning and Relearning, International Development Beyond 2020. The approach involved learning and sharing capacity building, where members of the international development sector in Alberta came together in a design lab to think through, identify problems, and brainstorm the solutions to racism in the international development sector. Participants learnt about, and applied, anti-racism and human-centered design concepts as they worked collectively to identify roots of and solutions to address racism in the international development sector.

The program was successfully facilitated and guided by the amazing thinkers and designers behind the Edmonton-based You Need This Box initiative (pictured below).

To learn more about Anti-Racism Human-Centered Design Lab, visit: <https://acgc.ca/resources-publications/training-capacity-building/anti-racism-human-centered-design-lab/>



Paz (Pachy) Orellana-Fitzgerald



Annand Ollivierre



Tamreen Arif



## Anti-Racism in International Development: A Human-Centered Design Approach

6 Session Design Lab  
1 April - 10 June 2021



ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Lasha Aytenfisu, Catherine Kloczkowski, and Karsen Mitchell whose terms with ACGC are soon coming to an end.

## New Staff


ACGC has welcomed the following staff!





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

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

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

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

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

 [Alberta Council for Global Cooperation](https://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.

**E: [info@acgc.ca](mailto:info@acgc.ca)**

**P: 780.988.0200**

**#205, 10816A 82 Ave,  
Edmonton AB T6E 2B3**

## ACGC Current Membership

Alberta Teachers' Association • Bow Valley College, International Education • Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies • Business and Professional Women Alberta (BPW Alberta) • Calgary Board of Education • Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief • Canadian Peacemakers • Canadian Volunteers United in Action Society (CANAVUA) • 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 (ICE) • Islamic Relief Canada • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • Marda Loop Justice Film Festival • Mennonite Central Committee Alberta • 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 • Pukhtoon Cultural and Nationalist Council (PCNC) • Rainbow of Hope for Children • ReadWorld Foundation • SCERDO - Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization • SihleSizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community 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 • Light Up The World • Human Development Foundation of North America, Canada • Hopethiopia

This project was funded with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada.

