



ACGC
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

CONNECT... Summer 2022

A publication of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation



**CANADA
SDG YOUTH AWARDS
LES PRIX ODD JEUNESSE
DU CANADA**



Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

As I reflect on the last six months at ACGC, I can say that I am proud by the team of staff that are working every day to serve the sector. It has taken much fortitude, creativity, and significant teamwork to work through the challenges and risks associated with Covid, and yet find ways to continue to serve the sector and engage Canadians on global issues.

I believe it has been the busiest six months in the eight years of my time at ACGC, the results of which you will read about inside this newsletter. From developing and hosting the first Canada SDG Youth Awards as part of the TogetherEnsemble national conference in March, to welcoming 170 sector representatives, educators, and youth from across Canada to Montreal for the 3rd Annual Spur Change conference from 17-19 of May, re-developing and hosting Global Connect, a new 12-day youth experiential learning program touring across Alberta, launching our 5th intake of our SDG Youth Hub, and hosting 20 leaders in Banff, Alberta as part of our Confluence Leadership Program – the staff have worked diligently to provide opportunities for the sector, youth, and educators reconvene a Covid safe manner. As ACGC's motto, we know we are 'Stronger Together', and the staff much be commended for finding ways to bring everyone back together after so many years apart. If you call the office in July and August, and receive no answer, be sure its because our team is taking their much needed summer rest.

Behind the scenes, we continue to support sector efforts and build relationships across government to In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to meet with the new Minister of International Development, Hon. Harjit Sajjan, as part of the Inter-Council Network, and on June 10th speak to a variety of directors across Global Affairs Canada in a presentation of our activities, results, and research into SMOs, as part of the Spur Change program. ACGC was also pleased to host a bilateral visit in Alberta from Stuart Savage, the new Director General of the Engaging Canadians branch of Global Affairs Canada. Many of you also heard from me as I passed along information from Cooperation Canada, where I serve on the board of directors, of concerns pertaining to the wording of the Budget Implementation Act which did not measure up to the spirit of Bill S-216 which presented changes to the 'direction and control' measures imposed on charities by the Income Tax Act. Following significant advocacy efforts, the House of Commons finance committee approved two amendments to the Budget Implementation Act on 31 May. While future guidance from the CRA is yet to be developed, the sector is one step closer to having this contentious legislation changed, allowing organizations that work or wish to work with non-qualified donee in Canada and internationally to decolonize approaches and processes, and allow trust-based, equitable philanthropy and partnership.

As usual, our staff are here to serve you. Our staff are back in the office, and just a phone call away. If you have a concern, idea, or question, do not hesitate to reach out at 780 988 0200 or email me at director@acgc.ca.
Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

INSIDE:

**Save The Date!
ACGC's Annual
Conference**

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International Development Week 2022

The 2022 International Development Week (IDW) was held from February 6-12. IDW events took place across Alberta to engage the public on the international development efforts of Albertan member organizations and to raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ACGC organized eight activities and campaigns for IDW 2022 and supported the ICN and Alberta-based organizations in carrying out further activities, including the Top 30 Under 30 Celebration.

The theme of this year's Top 30 Under 30 campaign was "Partnerships for the Goals," highlighting SDG 17. Learn more about ACGC's activities during 2022 IDW at acgc.ca/idw and meet the 2022 Top 30 Under 30 cohort at top30under30.acgc.ca

ICN Art2030 Zine

The Inter-Council Network (ICN) also launched their 2022 IDW Activity called ART2030. Eight artists and their art were showcased in an e-zine (online zine) launched during the celebrations of IDW.

View the full Art2030 Zine and meet the artists at icn-rcc.ca/en/art2030-en/



Participants of Global Connect 2022

Global Connect 2022

From May 29 to June 9, 2022, with ten young adult participants, ACGC led the youth in exploring the international development sector and themes of sustainability, gender equality, and a range of local/global issues—right here in Alberta! Youth engaged with our member organizations and other projects and initiatives through dialogue and practical hands-on learning. With the support of ACGC staff, participants are now gearing up to implement activities to engage the public in Alberta on some of the lessons learned over the summer months.

Learn more about the program at acgc.ca/global-connect

New Staff & Board Member

ACGC has recently welcomed the following staff and board member:



ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Thomas Coldwell, Donna Ng, Rumbi Zinyemba, Nomazwe Siziba, Zainab Azhar, and Madalyn Nielsen whose terms with ACGC recently ended. We wish them all the best with their upcoming adventures.

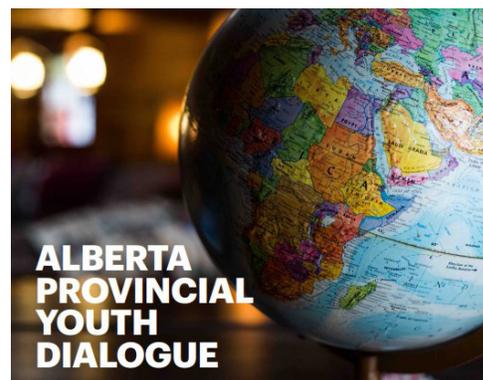
ACGC would also like to send well wishes to Andréanne Martel and Kim Turcotte who will be going on parental leave.

Now Available Online! Alberta Youth Paper on the SDGs

In November 2021, ACGC and the Centre for Global Education partnered to engage students from across Alberta in an online learning series about the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the online series, this youth project asked the question, “How do Alberta youth want to learn about and engage in global issues?” As part of ACGC’s Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship program, this paper provides an in-depth insight into youth engagement for global citizenship, including how educators, community organizations and multi-level government actors can support Alberta youth in their global citizenship education and action.

Read the full report at acgc.ca/albertayouthsdgreport



The SDG Hub - 5th Cohort

The SDG Hub’s fifth cohort is a go with the support of the Canada Service Corps!

The Hub helps young people in Alberta fulfill the mandate of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Hub is a space for young Albertan residents to meet and engage in a meaningful dialogue, collaborate, and take action in their communities on issues they are passionate about.

The youth also have a chance to develop personal and employment-related skills, learn from mentors, and increase their awareness of the benefit of serving their communities.

Learn more at acgc.ca/thehub

SDG Youth Awards

The Canada SDG Youth Awards is a new national youth-led initiative recognizing the contributions of young people across what is currently Canada towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The awards aim to highlight the many ways young people aged 30 and below are taking action and encourage continued progress towards the SDGs. ACGC was proud to launch these awards with our national partners and with a grant from Employment and Social Development Canada.

Award finalists were showcased in an online campaign held on March 2nd, during the Together|Ensemble conference to amplify the achievements of young people towards the SDGs. The award initiative will be featured in Canada’s first Annual Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Learn more and meet the Canada SDG Youth Awardees at togetherensemble.ca/sdgyouthawards



ACGC UPDATES

Confluence Leadership Retreat

ACGC hosted “Confluence, Where Leaders in International Cooperation Meet” in June 2022 in Banff.

Confluence is an in-person program designed by leaders, for leaders. Participants in Confluence brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and information, which was drawn upon by expert facilitators to co-create a rich learning experience.

Through this highly interactive and participatory program, Confluence participants were able to engage, recharge, and find inspiration from peers, from guest subject matter experts, and from the space around them. Additionally, participants left Confluence with knowledge of best practices for building on personal and organizational capacity to foster long-term connection and support.



Participants of 2022 Confluence



Attendees of the ACGC Annual Gathering

ACGC Annual Gathering Recap

ACGC’s annual gathering held in March 2022 brought together the international cooperation sector in Alberta. It was an opportunity for the sector to engage, network, and reflect on its active role in working to achieve gender equality and the SDGs. Under the theme “Adapting to New Realities,” participants reflected on the urgent need to reshape the sector and adopt best practices to ensure greater equity and inclusion.

Attendees participated in unpacking the [VIDEA](#) decolonization toolkit with guidance from members of the VIDEA staff. This session promoted the understanding that, while decolonization is an ongoing process, recognizing one’s own role is the first step to decolonization.

Additional takeaways by the participants from the gathering where that they were able to utilize the information shared by [DIGNA](#) to inform how to develop or address gaps during review of their respective organizational, Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse [PSEA] policies .

Save The Date! ACGC's 2022 Annual Conference

ACGC's 2022 Annual Conference will be held from September 16-18, 2022 in Edmonton, AB, Canada, with the location to be announced at a later date. The conference will be hybrid [in-person and live stream].

The theme of this year's conference will be "Building Innovative Bridges to Inclusive Societies." Coming out of a global pandemic, the world and the international development sector are in a recovery period. The conference will focus on sharing innovative approaches that work to engage all communities in times of uncertainty. Participants can expect to capitalize on new and existing partnerships to identify synergies across member and partner organizations and their work.

Be among the first to get new announcements about this event! Subscribe at acgc.ca/subscribe or follow us online at @ACGCNow

A promotional graphic for the ACGC Annual Conference. The background is a blurred image of people at a conference. The text is overlaid in white and green. A vertical white line separates the main title on the left from the date and location on the right.

**ACGC ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**Building Innovative Bridges to
Inclusive Societies**

**SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 16-18**

Edmonton, AB | Location TBA
Hybrid format (in-person and live stream)

**Be among the first to get new announcements about this event!
Subscribe at acgc.ca/subscribe or follow us online at @ACGCNow**

Fund for Innovation and Transformation Update: Intake 5 Recipients

Ten innovations have been awarded funding as part of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation's (FIT) 5th intake. Since the program launched in 2019, it has awarded \$11 Million to over 50 projects. Made possible through Global Affairs Canada, funding supports the testing of innovative solutions to challenges in the Global South that aim to advance gender equality.

Intake five will see a minimum of 10 SMOs test several solutions that empower girls and women, with projects in communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some of the projects being tested include using permaculture gardens to reducing the stigma around menstrual health; the prioritization of local Indigenous knowledge and gender equality to address conservation and climate change; and improving financial literacy and numeracy. All innovations can be found at fit-fit.ca/about-us/fit-funding-decisions/



The following Alberta-based organizations are some of the new recipients of funding from FIT's 5th intake:

CAUSE Canada. Sierra Leone. \$174,089

Wi Lead by Sabi (We Lead by Example). CAUSE Canada is testing an innovative solution that aims to address discrimination at the intersection of gender and disability.

Change for Children. Nicaragua. \$175,000

Local Knowledge: Global Goals. Improving the sustainable management of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve is essential to the survival of Indigenous peoples in the face of climate change.

Girls of Tomorrow (GOT) Foundation. Uganda. \$159,792

Combatting Menstrual Stigma Through Female-Centred Permaculture Gardens. This innovative solution will test a Female-Centered Permaculture Garden as a unique and effective way of combatting menstrual stigma and increasing female empowerment.



SMO Report: What have SMOs learned from COVID?

In the last two years, Canadian small- and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) have had to significantly adapt to the changing context of the unfolding pandemic. While some organizations struggled to shift in this fast-paced changing reality, others thrived and exhibited impressive flexibility, adopting innovative solutions leading to permanent changes in the way they work. Responses from organizations have been diverse, creative, and deeply reflective as many SMOs harnessed this period of global disruption to take a step back and truly consider their role in global development.

This report presents research that was conducted by a research team from the University of Guelph in collaboration with the Spur Change program from February - March 2022. Learn more at icn-rcc.ca/reports

Inter-Council Network

Rethinking Public Engagement: Research

The Inter-Council Network (ICN), which ACGC is a part of, hosted this two-part webinar series intended to explore alternative practices for a more decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist approaches to public engagement

This series, carried out March 2022, was based on the current research project by the ICN which explores decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist approaches to public engagement. The first session was a reflection by participants engaged in a research project examining decolonial approaches in public engagement while the second session was a learning session focusing on practical tools and strategies.

Learn more and watch the session recording at icn-rcc.ca/en/rethinking-public-engagement



Peace Beyond the Absence of War: Annual Spur Conference in Montreal



Spur Change, in partnership with l'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), invited SMOs, educators, and youth from coast-to-coast to its Annual National Conference "Peace: Beyond the absence of war," which took place from May 17 to 19, 2022 at the Bonaventure Hotel, in downtown Montreal.

During this 3-day conference, over a hundred SMOs, teachers, and youth joined together to consider related questions, explore solutions and share possible courses of action to build a peaceful world. Learn more at icn-rcc.ca/national-conference

ICN's 2022 Youth Champions

The 2022 youth champions have participated in a series of webinars facilitated by ICN staff members or YCP alumni. Each week, youths exchanged, learned, and built knowledge on different topics including public engagement principles, SDGs, communications and M&E (monitoring and evaluation), climate justice, and Results Based Management (RBM).

Since the conference theme was "Peace: beyond the absence of war," the youth have shared their thoughts on their hopes for the future. Read what they think peace could look like if we all continue to work together at icn-rcc.ca/youth-champions-2022





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To keep informed of all upcoming ACGC events, as well as the events and activities of our members, subscribe to the monthly [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 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 (CAWST) • Change for Children Association • Covenant International • Development and Peace - Caritas Canada • Edmonton Public School Board • Embrace International Foundation • Engineers Without Borders - Calgary City Chapter • Expand Hope Foundation • Global Education Program, University of Alberta • Hopethiopia • Human Development Foundation of North America, Canada • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) • Islamic Relief Canada • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Light Up The World • Literacy Without Borders • 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 • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight Universal • Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council • Rainbow of Hope for Children • ReadWorld Foundation • SCERDO - Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization • SihleSizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community Development Organization • Somali-Canadian Women and Children Association • Sombrilla International Development Society • Teach Peace Development • Trebi Kuma Ollenu Foundation for Community Development • Ubuntu - Mobilizing Central Alberta • United Nations Association in Canada - Calgary Branch • United Nations Association in Canada - Edmonton Branch • University of Calgary International

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