



Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

50 years. Half a century. 5 decades. Semicentennial.

2023 is a very special year. On December 7, 2023, our network will become a quinquagenarian! While age may just be a number, it is important to recognize and celebrate this milestone through reflecting on the contributions Albertans have made to build a world where, as our vision statement states, "All people can fulfill their potential and prosper, become engaged citizens in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and thrive in a healthy, sustainable world."

The difficulties of the past few years, coupled with increasing global instability, means our collective vision is now more important than ever. Using the milestone of our anniversary, ACGC will be providing organizations and the public opportunities to learn about the legacy of collective action in international solidarity throughout the upcoming year. It is the stories of your impact - your organization, your community, your supporters, and your international partners - that need to be heard. While the provincial government eliminated funding of international cooperation, which inspired the founding of the ACGC network in 1973, the provincial government support provided since that time to the emergencies in Lebanon and Ukraine demonstrates that Albertans support global solidarity and action. The strong history of Albertan care and partnership being marked in this 50 year anniversary is an opportunity for us all to share our impact story, honour the legacy of Albertans past and present taking action together to end poverty and injustice around the world, and to motivate future generations to do the same.

Here's to 50 years of action and 50 years of international solidarity! Join us as we reflect, encourage each other, celebrate, and take action, to ensure 50 years more!

INSIDE:

ACGC's 50th Anniversary

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50 ACGC

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

December 7th 2023 marks ACGC's 50th Anniversary as a network supporting international cooperation. Throughout the year, together with our members, we will look back at our history, celebrate our impact as a collective, working together to advance human rights and equality around the globe.

50 Years of Action

While 2023 marks ACGC's 50th year since initial founding, the organization itself went through various changes and periods of . The network in its current legal form was founded in 1996, but the history and work of those behind the organization spans back to 1973. According to the Alberta Societies registries,

Alberta Council for Global Cooperation - 1996/06/07

Alberta Council for Global Justice Society 1981/10/29

Alberta Council for International Cooperation - 1973



2001



2002



2008

One name appearing on Alberta Societies registries includes the following name of an organization founded just three months after the current active registration and struck later - Alberta Council for Community Development Partnerships - 1996/09/11. We hope through archival research and crowd sourcing our history from you, we will find whether this was another name for our network, or rather, another organization. Do you know more about this name? Let us know!

From the Archives

On top of increasing public awareness, we will also find opportunities to celebrate together as a network, and spend time documenting ACGC's history through archival research and document collection. The following article was provided by the Alberta Provincial Archives and tells the story of our founder Doreen Orman and the motivation behind the formation of the Alberta Council for International Cooperation in 1973.

Do you have any records or photos of past ACGC activities?
Please email info@acgc.ca

Unsung Calgarian gets her day in sun

There is in this town a woman who has given 45 diligent years of volunteer work, who helped change the face of Calgary, and who recently won an important federal award.

Sad to say, most Calgarians probably have never heard her name. She is Doreen Orman, a slender, dark-haired woman with glasses, who speaks almost shyly about the ongoing work which last week earned her a Person's Award from the Governor-General.

Her friends describe her as a quiet, determined, supportive person who believes in developing the leadership qualities in every woman. Through the YWCA, Orman has been quietly and determinedly empowering women (at home and abroad) since the 1950s.

"The YW's philosophy is to identify problems and set up pilot projects," she said in her tidy Kensington home, "and the programs are then carried on by other organizations."

In the early 1960s, for instance, "Many of us saw that mothers with young children - particularly in the suburbs - were really feeling trapped." Orman helped create the "Y Neighbors" program, which eventually evolved into the independent "Take-ABreak" organization.

A WOMAN'S VIEW

Penney
Kome

Freelance writer



Orman's other initiatives included establishing a nursery at the YW so that new mothers could go to swim or gym alone; co-op housing for young unwed mothers who chose to keep their babies; and a transition program (the Ninaki Club) for native women leaving their reserves to live in the city.

In the mid-1970s, as president of the Calgary YWCA, she worked with the rest of the board to oversee the planning and construction of the new YWCA building. And she spearheaded the fund-raising drive that raised \$4 million for the project.

Four million dollars!
"The whole community got involved with that," she recalled.

From the local YW, it was a short step to the executive committee of the national YW - and then a giant step

into international affairs when she became a committee chairperson with the World YWCA.

A World Council meeting in Ghana changed her life. "I met Joyce Seroki, a YW member from South Africa," she said. "Joyce had been detained in prison without charges, and only a worldwide campaign by the Y led to her release.

"Hearing her story and other women's stories face-to-face was what really gave me the incentive to get working on the apartheid issue."

She was so fired up that she rounded up friends and started the Alberta Council for International Co-operation. The ACIC persuaded the Alberta government to match local donations, raising funds both for aid overseas and for local education.

"I found Albertans were not aware at all about apartheid," she mused.

She worked with learning centres around the province to create workshops and programs that went into the schools.

Now that she's a senior citizen, Orman is active with the Calgary Support Services for Seniors, which provides regular telephone checks and transportation for elders who might otherwise become isolated.

But most of her time is spent organizing (with co-chair Norma Farquharson) the quadrennial national gathering of the Women's Inter-Church Council, which will be held in Calgary next June.

Some 350 church women are expected to register for Toward Healing a Broken World, featuring workshop leaders from across Canada and the U.S.

Doreen Orman exemplifies the sort of woman for whom the Person's Awards were created: dynamic, dedicated, altruistic, hugely effective and largely unseen.

Her achievements have been partly disguised by her commitment to the group process. Unfortunately, such is the case for most women.

During the interview, Orman excitedly showed me a new poster from Status of Women Canada, celebrating Women's History Month. It cites dozens and dozens of women who have shaped Canada from earliest times: aboriginal, Viking, immigrant, refugee, native-born.

And for most of them, the poster is the first time anybody ever honored their accomplishments, or published their names.



ACGC ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION
 DISCUSSION and MEET AND GREET
CLIMATE CHANGE: EXPERIENCE FROM CAMBODIA

WANNDDET DIM
2023 TOP 30 UNDER 30 AWARDEE
WASH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (WASH SDO) AND CAWST PARTNER
 Date: 6 February 2023
 Time: 4:30-6:00 PM MDT
 Location: ACGC Office, 10816a 82 Avenue, Edmonton

International Development Week 2023

The 2023 International Development Week (IDW) was held from February 5-11. IDW events took place across Alberta to engage the public on the international development efforts and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including 10 events organized by ACGC and several member organizations. Wanndet Dim, one of this year's international Top 30 Under 30s was able to join us in Alberta for the week and share about his work with local partner CAWST and international organization WASH SDO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Learn more about ACGC's 2023 IDW activities at <https://acgc.ca/idw>



2023 Top 30 Under 30 Logo. Artwork by Aravani Art Project

Top 30 Under 30

ACGC's 2023 cohort of Top 30 Under 30 comprises 30 outstanding young people nominated by their community for their work in making the world a more just, fair, and sustainable place for all. This year's cohort included two international Top 30s partnered with ACGC member organizations CAWST and Sombrilla.

The theme of this year's Top 30 campaign and celebration was 'Reduced Inequalities', aligned to SDG 10. For the campaign art, we partnered with Aravani Art project, a trans and cis women-led art collective based in Karnataka, India that works to advocate and create spaces for alternative voices through art.

View the 2023 Top 30 profiles and artwork at <https://top30under30.acgc.ca>



2023 Top 30 Under 30 Celebration

New Staff

ACGC has recently welcomed the following staff:



Wajed El-Halabi
 Global Citizenship Education Specialist



Yara Medrano
 Project and Executive Assistant



Donna Ng
 Communications Lead

ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Leslie Obol, whose term with ACGC recently ended. We wish them all the best with their upcoming adventures.



THE | HUB

SDG Hub Wraps up

After four years of youth engagement, relationship-building, and community service, the SDG Hub comes to an end this month. From Spring 2019 to Spring 2023, 51 youth in Alberta over five cohorts participated in meaningful dialogue, developed personal and employment-related skills, and took action in their communities on issues they are passionate about.



Members of the 5th cohort of the SDG Hub

The final cohort of ten youth spent the last five months working diligently on their projects, ranging from school leadership and fundraising to designing resources for organizations in their community. In February 2023, youth attended various International Development Week events. Fatima Ghias presented her project at Islamic Relief Canada’s Lunch and Learn event, while Viviana Costante and Harveen Saini volunteered at the Top 30 under 30 Celebration Event in Calgary. Also that week, youth attended a webinar by one of this year’s Top 30 Under 30, Wanndet Dim, on climate change and resiliency in Cambodia and another webinar by 2022 Top 30 Under 30 Trent Daley, on advocacy and activism. Another webinar is expected to help wrap up the final cohort.

A huge thank you goes to the mentors who volunteered their time to guide youth over the last four years. While the end is bittersweet, many youth and mentors have continued their engagement with ACGC since leaving the Hub and will always be a part of the ACGC network.

SDG Youth Awards

The Canada SDG Youth Awards is a national youth-led initiative recognizing the contributions of young people across what is currently Canada towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Started at ACGC in 2021-2022, ACGC partnered with ReImagine17 to lead and carry out the initiative in its second year, with the aim of equipping the organization to lead and direct the awards into the future.

The five winning youth-led initiatives for 2023 include:

- [The OATHE Project](#)
- [Regenesis Cycle York](#)
- [Music for Every Child](#)
- [Jamie’s Jar Full of Stars](#)
- [Fair Books](#)

Click on each name to watch a video showcasing the initiative, or visit the [Canada SDG Youth Awards youtube playlist](#).

About Re17: ReImagine 17 is a youth-led organization working to engage youth from across Canada in advocacy surrounding social, environmental and economic challenges, social justice, and the reimagining of our collective future. Learn more about ReImagine17 at <https://www.reimagine17.ca/>



The Canada SDG Youth Awards theme

CSW67 Alberta Delegates Go to New York

The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), also known as CSW67, commenced March 6, 2023 in New York under the theme: “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” The annual meeting is the largest global United Nations event on gender equality, bringing together activists, advocates, experts and governments from around the world.

Alberta had representation at CSW67! Priscilla Ojumu was selected to be part of the ICN Youth Delegation, along with 6 other youth from across the country representing the other member councils. She is a fourth-year Bachelor of Arts student majoring in Psychology and minoring in Sociology at the University of Alberta. Among the many ways Ojumu is active in her communities, she was also a member of the ACGC SDG Hub and is currently a Spur Change Youth Champion.

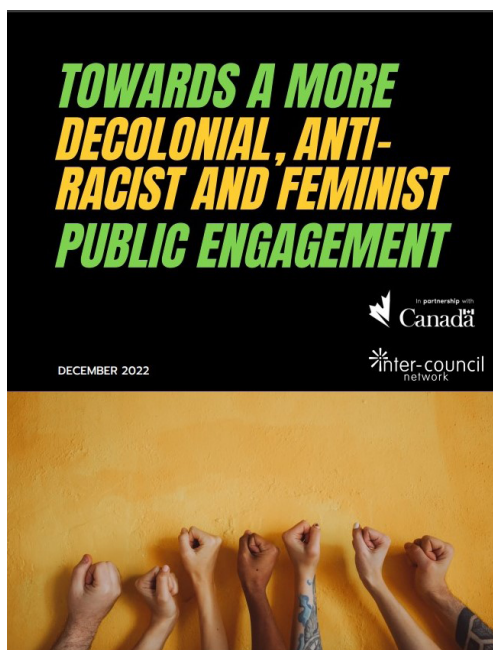
ACGC selected Lindsey Machona as another delegate for the session. Machona is the Executive Director of ExpandHope, an Edmonton-based charity founded and supported by The Schmidt Investment Group that works to build schools and improve education in developing countries.

“Democracy cannot thrive without gender equality. When women have equal access to political participation and decision-making, societies become more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous.” ~Lindsey Machona

COMMISSION *on the* STATUS OF WOMEN



Priscilla Ojumu (left) and Lindsey Machona (right) at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women



ICN Training Day in Calgary

Following on the release of its research report, “Towards a more decolonial, anti-racist and feminist public engagement”, the Inter Council Network (ICN) organized a series of training opportunities across the country in conjunction with its provincial and regional councils to share the highlights of the research and encourage broader debate and discussion of the findings.

In Alberta, ACGC organized a one-day training in Calgary for those persons interested in learning more about tools and approaches to more effectively engage the public on sensitive issues such as decolonialism, anti-racism and feminism. ACGC’s member, CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology), was the host for the training where a diverse group of international development practitioners shared their experiences and challenges from a variety of country contexts in which they work. Critical to the discussions at times was to acknowledge that definitions and methods needed to be culturally and contextually specific to the audience, whether in Canada or another country. When asked what they found most useful about the training, one participant commented, “The group work where we rotated sharing perspectives, especially regarding the barriers, red flags, etc. when it comes to public engagement with various types of communities”. ACGC hopes to continue to offer more informative training events this year.

Read the report at <https://icn-rcc.ca/en/research/>

SPUR Change - Youth Champions Program

The 2023 Cohort for the Youth Champions Program has commenced! Fifteen youth community leaders from Canada and the world have started the nine-month program where they will collaborate with peers and mentors to showcase their experience and passion for the SDGs in public engagement activities.

Alberta is represented by three women leaders: Harveen Saini, Pere Kennedy and Priscilla Ojomu. The University of Alberta is also taking part in the program by mentoring Saini and André Diasivi Flam, who is based in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



The 2023 Youth Champions

Since the beginning of the program, the youth have participated in content workshops on the SDGs, climate justice, intersectionality and anti-oppression, gender equality and feminism. Now, with their Canadian partner SMOs, they are taking part in workshops designed to enhance the tools and competencies they already have in public engagement. The workshops on Global Citizenship Education, communications and monitoring & evaluation, finances, and results-based management will equip them to collaboratively plan and implement one to three public engagement activities to raise awareness of Canadian youth on the SDGs. Follow along to see what they will do!

For more information, visit <https://icn-rcc.ca/en/youth>

SPUR Change - RBM and Gender Equity

In February, the Spur Change hosted the conversation series Let's Chat: RBM & Gender Equity. Featuring speakers from small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs), the informal conversation series was centered on peer-to-peer learning and exploring processes, tools, and best practices for incorporating gender and intersectionality into one's results-based management framework—all in the context of international cooperation.

The first speaker of the series was Danielle Skogen, Program Development Director for Canadian Humanitarian and the Co-founder of SERniña Guatemala. In her presentation, Danielle shared the challenges, key learnings, and opportunities that exist for everyone to improve RBM practices in the Global South and, as a result, have more ethical and impactful international programs.



LET'S CHAT

The Challenges, Lessons, and Opportunities that exist when measuring change in the field of gender inequality and gender-based violence

FEBRUARY 7
3pm ET | 12 noon PT



Danielle Skogen
Canadian Humanitarian
(she/her)

Fund for Innovation and Transformation Update: Impact Stories

For their 5th intake, Fund for Innovation and Transformation's (FIT) awarded funding to 12 SMOs to test several innovative solutions that empower girls and women, with projects in communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Among them are the following Alberta-based organizations. Click on the links below to watch an introduction video on their projects.

[CAUSE Canada - Wi Lead by Sabi \[We Lead by Example\], Sierra Leone](#)

Solution: Appointing women with disabilities are appointed as champions in their communities to support other schoolgirls with disabilities and their families and to address discrimination at the intersection of gender and disability

[Change for Children - Local Knowledge: Global Goals, Nicaragua](#)

Solution: Connecting with Bosawas Biosphere Reserve to conservation efforts worldwide, fostering traditional indigenous knowledge and nature-based solutions, and strengthening indigenous governance with a focus on gender equality to improve the sustainable management of Bosawas

[Girls of Tomorrow \[GOT\] Foundation - Combatting Menstrual Stigma Through Female-Centred Permaculture Gardens, Uganda](#)

Solution: Establishing Female-Centered Permaculture Gardens where all plants are picked specifically for female health and experiences to combat menstrual stigma and increase female empowerment.

Since the program launched in 2019, FIT 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. <https://icn-ccc.ca/en/fit/>

CAUSE CANADA
Eradicating Child Marriage in Sierra Leone

Context
In Sierra Leone, gender inequality and poverty contribute to high rates of child marriage. In rural communities, where poverty is most prevalent, girls often are married before turning 18, with the majority being increased maternal mortality, since many girls have children before their bodies are ready. CAUSE Canada conducted a baseline study in November 2019, which identified the drivers behind child marriage. They found that girls' families benefit from child marriage through the reduction of family expenses, receiving bride price, benefiting from their son-in-law's help on the farm, and improving their status as a respectable family whose daughter did not get pregnant out of wedlock. The study also revealed a potential context where women are primarily valued for their domestic and childbearing abilities.

The Innovative Solution
Supported by FIT, CAUSE Canada and CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership tested an innovative approach that targets the demand side of child marriage. This involved educating men seeking child brides about the negative consequences of child marriage for their families, communities, and countries. The solution included training community leaders, empowering advocates, organizing community events against child marriage, and collecting data on the number of prevented marriages vs. marriages that took place despite the intervention.

Advancing Gender Equality
CAUSE Canada aimed to create a shift in how girls were treated by empowering the rights of girls and adolescents to personal decision makers on a personal, relational and societal level. Advancing gender equality was achieved through 51 trained community leaders as advocates against child marriage, empowering child advocates to organize events to the homes of men seeking child brides to discuss the negative outcomes of child marriage, and to the homes of girls' families to identify other ways

COUNTRY	AMOUNT
Sierra Leone	1024,849

TESTING PERIOD
24 months
Ended January 2022

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE (G2)

THEME: GENDER EQUALITY

Click [here](#) to view report

CAUSE Canada's project on eradicating child marriages in Sierra Leone, as well as Change for Tomorrow's project on the creating a remote digital database of resources and training program for teachers to improve educational outcomes, were both previously funded by FIT. Click on the images above to review project details, results and lessons learned.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN
Technology and Training for Quality and Equality in Remote Indigenous Communities

Context
In the remote Bosawas region of Nicaragua, home to the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples, teachers and students face a severe lack of educational resources and opportunities. Many teachers have no formal pedagogical training, and schools lack basic supplies and appropriate resources to help students learn.

The Innovative Solution
Supported by FIT, Change for Children tested a solution to improve educational outcomes in the region through the creation of a remote digital database of resources and a training program for teachers. The project provided mobile learning kits, which included OERs, a Bosawas Area Community Hub for Education and Learning, laptops and a solar power system to support technology use for Indigenous communities in the Bosawas region.

Advancing Gender Equality
Change for Children tested this solution with over 100 women teachers, and included training around gender equality and sexual and reproductive health as part of the training program. As a result, teachers have become more empowered to address gender dynamics in the classroom and advocate for gender equality issues at the community level.

Testing Framework
The innovation was tested in four of the largest Indigenous community schools in the BOSAWAS region. Baseline data was collected in one phase before the introduction of the new technology by the Community Facilitators. The first, during a field visit of the project staff in the second month one, and the second after the stakeholder planning workshop.

COUNTRY	AMOUNT
Nicaragua	250,000

TESTING PERIOD
12 months
Ended July 2021

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

GENDER RESPONSIVE (G2)

THEME: EDUCATION

Click [here](#) to view report

Global Connect 2023

ACGC is thrilled to open applications for the next iteration of Global Connect. From May 22 to June 1, we will explore international cooperation together with youth participants 18 to 24 years of age through themes of sustainability, gender equality, and a range of local/global issues—right here in Alberta! For more information, visit <https://acgc.ca/get-involved/global-connect/>.

Building Equity: Resource Mobilization for Impact Training

Spur Change's newest national training program aims to build small and medium-sized organization capacity and confidence to develop a diversified, ethical, and equity-centred fundraising and resource mobilization strategy. Learn more by visiting <https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/building-equity-resource-mobilization-for-impact/>

Coming Up



www.acgc.ca

 facebook.com/acgcnw

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 youtube.com/acgcnw

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

 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 Immigrant Women and Children Centre • 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 Volunteers United in Action Society • 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 • FOCAS Canada (Foundation for Oromian Culture, Education, and Arts Services) • Expand Hope Foundation • Global Education Program, University of Alberta • Hopethiopia • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange • Islamic Relief Canada • Junior Global Citizen Club • Keiskamma Canada Foundation • Light Up The World • Literacy Without Borders • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace • 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 • Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council • Rainbow of Hope for Children • Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community Development Organization • Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization • 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 • University of Calgary International

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Canada 