

# Attendee Package

# TRAILBLAZING

new paths to inclusive development

ACGC Annual Conference 2022

September 16 – 17, 2022



UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA



ACGC

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR  
GLOBAL COOPERATION



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# AGENDA

## Day 1: Friday, September 16, 2022

| TIME                | AGENDA   |
|---------------------|--|
| 10 AM   (12 PM EST) | <b>Innovative Financing for International Development</b><br><i>Online Only, Zoom Webinar Details:</i><br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119574613">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119574613</a><br><i>Meeting ID: 882 2109 5523</i><br><i>Passcode: 643184</i> |
| 2 PM – 5 PM         | <b>Trailblazing in Action: Innovation Fair</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Atrium</i>   |
| 4:45 – 5:30 PM      | <b>Opening Reception</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Atrium</i>   |
| 5:30 – 7 PM         | <b>Keynote with Alix Peterson Zwane (CEO, Global Innovation Fund)</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Room 150</i>  |

## Day 2: Saturday, September 17, 2022

| TIME             | AGENDA   |
|------------------|--|
| 9:30 AM – 10 AM  | <b>Welcome and Registration</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Room 134</i>  |
| 10 AM – 11:30 AM | <b>Voice and Inclusion in Social Innovation Panel</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Room 134</i>  |
| 11:30 AM – 1 PM  | <b>Lunch</b><br><i>*Non-members welcome to attend the ACGC Annual General Meeting</i><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Room 134</i>              |
| 1 PM – 2 PM      | <b>Indigenous Led Innovations: A Keynote by Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine</b><br>(The Ārramāt project)<br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Room 134</i> |
| 2:15 PM – 3 PM   | <b>Marimba in the Afternoon with Sihle Sizwe Youth</b><br><i>Telus International Centre, University of Alberta, Atrium</i>   |

For session descriptions, speaker bios, and location details, please see the following pages.

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# Location Details

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Where can I find information about the conference?

You can visit our website at [acgc.ca/annual-conference](https://acgc.ca/annual-conference)

### Are any other sessions other than the Innovative Finance for International Development panel accessible virtually?

The Innovative Finance for International Development panel is the only session that will be offered virtually. If you are an *ACGC Member Organization* looking to vote virtually in the Annual General Meeting, refer to the previous page.

### Do I need a Zoom account to access the Innovative Finance for International Development Session?

No, but If you want to create a free account, you can do so at <https://zoom.us/signup>

### Do I need to download Zoom to access the Innovative Finance for International Development Session?

Yes. Please download the app for your desktop or smartphone for free at <https://zoom.us/download>. Already have zoom? Ensure you have the latest version by visiting the same link.

### Tech Issues

If you have any tech questions or difficulties before or during the conference, please reach out to the Main Contact listed on the previous page.

### Recording of Sessions

Please note that a few of our sessions will be recorded. **Recorded sessions are indicated in the package under the session titles.** We will stop the recording before any Q&A sessions to protect the privacy of our attendees. ACGC will be making the session recordings available only to conference attendees, and to members of the public upon request.

### Connect with us online!

Tag us at **@ACGCnow** and hashtag **#acgctrailblazing** when you post your pictures, thoughts, and experiences from the conference.

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# Session Details



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
**10 AM MST | 12 PM EST**

## **Innovative Financing for International Development: Panel**

**Friday, September 16 | 10am Mountain / 12pm Eastern**

**Zoom Webinar:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119574613>

Meeting ID: 882 2109 5523

Passcode: 643184

The term “innovative financing for development” has emerged in recent years to describe new ways funding organizations are channeling resources towards development, beyond traditional grant contributions. The term refers to “financial structures and mechanisms that mobilize, govern, or distribute funds beyond traditional donor-country ODA”. Innovative financing relies on creating new types of partnerships with new and diverse actors and is intended to narrow the gap between current resources available and the resources needed to achieve sustainable development (GAC Guidance).

This panel discussion will focus on funding organizations and the approaches to innovative financing that they are taking. Panelists will speak about how funders are collaborating with communities to leverage locally driven solutions, the diverse and non-traditional funding and investment mechanisms they are using, and the types of partnerships they are creating to mobilize resources. The discussion will end by examining how Albertan organizations can position themselves to align with innovative funding streams.

### **Moderator**

**Christina MacIsaac** | *Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)*



Christina MacIsaac brings a wealth of experience to her role as the Director of Innovation for the Fund for Innovation and Transformation. A national innovation initiative of the Inter-Council Network (ICN) in support of Small and Medium Organizations (SMOs), the program launched in 2019. Before FIT, Christina worked in community investment with a global insurance company and engaged extensively with the charitable sector across Canada on issues ranging from psychological health and well-being to social responsibility and sustainability. A past participant of Canada World Youth, Christina is thrilled to engage with the international development sector on this exciting initiative with her enthusiastic team.

## Speakers

**Jessica Villanueva** | *Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)*



Jessica Villanueva is the Senior Director of Technical Areas of Practice at MEDA. Jessica has more than 20 years of management experience with emphasis on agri-food market systems and financial inclusion programs and gender smart, environmentally and socially responsible impact investment projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Her experience includes designing and structuring blended finance transactions that utilize different asset classes and technical assistance approaches to achieve inclusive development outcomes, and providing management, financing, and technical assistance to rural and urban financial institutions, and projects with an emphasis on microfinance, rural finance, and agribusiness. Before MEDA,

Jessica was working for WWF Peru as Conservation Finance Director. In this position, she was supporting green finance in the Amazon region. Prior to joining WWF, she worked in responsAbility, structuring investment opportunities in agribusiness, with positive social and environmental impacts. Before joining responsAbility, she worked in the Inter-American Development Bank, leading and supporting project teams in designing loan and technical cooperation projects to finance rural businesses in Latin America. She is a native Spanish speaker with fluency in written and spoken English.

**Serge Levert-Chiasson** | *Sarona Asset Management*



Serge is the managing partner of Sarona Asset Management, an impact fund manager focused on emerging markets. His responsibilities include Sarona's strategy and operations, including finance, legal, compliance, and the impact mandate. Prior to joining Sarona in 2009, Serge was vice president of MEDA Investments, an underwriter and loan officer at Export Development Canada, a business analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, and founding chair of Agro Capital Management, a Ukrainian agricultural equipment leasing company. Today, he serves on several private equity funds' advisory committees and corporate boards and was the founding chair of the Canada Forum for Impact Investment and Development. Serge holds an MSc in

Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics, an International MBA from the Schulich School of Business, and is a CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Charterholder.

**Susan Spronk** | *School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa*



Susan Spronk teaches at the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa. Her research focuses on the impact of neoliberalism on the transformation of the state, social policy, and the rise of anti-privatization movements in Latin America and South Africa and development alternatives. She is a co-founder of the Blended Finance Project, a coalition of concerned civil society organizations, unions, and academics who wish to provide Canadians with a more complete picture of blended finance in Canadian Official Development Aid. Her most recent book in English and Spanish is *Public Water and Covid-19: Dark Clouds and Silver Linings* (with David A. McDonald and Daniel Chavez).

**Cam Do** | *Global Affairs Canada*



Cam Do is the new Director General at Global Affairs Canada leading the Innovative and Climate Finance bureau and was the former Executive Director for the Climate Finance team since 2019. As Executive Director, she was responsible for leading and delivering on Canada's \$5.3 billion climate finance commitment. She has lived in various countries working at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, including a three-year posting to Tanzania as an economist/financial management specialist with CIDA, and as a principal macroeconomist at the African Development Bank, responsible for negotiating loans and grants to fragile states. She has also worked at the International Development Research Centre, where she led a multidisciplinary team creating innovative programming approaches with a solid integration of gender equality principles and measurement. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Alberta and an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in development studies.



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
**2 PM – 5 PM**

## **Trailblazing in Action: Innovation Fair**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Atrium**

At this fair, local and international not-for-profits will model ways that Albertans and their partners are experimenting, designing, and testing social innovations both locally and globally. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with organizations as they navigate through a range of facilitated “innovation stations.”

The Innovation Fair is open to both conference registrants and the general public (those not registered for the full conference). Whether you are attending the full conference or not, come say hi and enjoy the ‘Innovation Stations.’

The following organizations/projects will be participating in the fair:

- ACT Alberta
- Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
- Canadian Humanitarian
- Canadian Peacemakers International
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- Engineers Without Borders
- Expand Hope
- The Green Room
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA)
- Operation Eyesight Universal
- Sombrilla International Development Society
- Trebi Kuma Ollennu Foundation for Community Development
- Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

**ACGC** ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

## **Trailblazing In Action: Innovation Fair**

September 16, 2022 | 2 - 5 PM

*Meet Alberta organizations designing innovative solutions to global and local challenges*

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

# **TRAILBLAZING**

new paths to inclusive development

In partnership with **Canada**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
**5 PM – 7 PM**

## **Keynote and Evening Reception**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Atrium / Room 150**

ACGC is pleased to welcome Alix Peterson Zwane, the CEO of the Global Innovation Fund, to Edmonton. In this keynote address, Alix will reflect on the outsized role that innovation can play in improving lives and livelihoods when embraced by governments and aid agencies, the importance of embracing innovative financing in tackling major development challenges, and the importance of working with local entrepreneurs to design, test, and scale innovations with the potential to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.

**Alix Peterson Zwane** | *Global Innovation Fund*



Alix is Chief Executive Officer of the Global Innovation Fund (GIF), a hybrid investment vehicle that accelerates evidence-based innovation through early-stage debt and equity investing, as well as grant-making. GIF is backed by leading bilateral aid agencies, corporates, and foundations and contributes to filling the pioneer gap between development assistance and development finance. Alix has 20 years of experience advancing the agenda of evidence-based aid and international development as an investor, a social entrepreneur, and an innovator. She was the first employee and Executive Director at Evidence Action, a non-profit that develops service delivery models to scale evidence-based programs. Under Alix's leadership, Evidence

Action catalyzed school-based deworming for hundreds of millions of children around the world, and safe drinking water for millions of people in four countries. Alix has also advocated for evidence-based philanthropy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Google.org where she set strategy, made investments to support new public service models that work for the poor, and developed models for outcome-based grant-making.

She was a member of the faculty of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department at the University of California, Berkeley, and has published in *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and elsewhere. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University and is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and a Non-Resident Fellow of the Center for Global Development. Born and raised in Colorado, she divides her time between Washington, D.C., and London.

Learn more at [www.globalinnovation.fund](http://www.globalinnovation.fund)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**10 AM – 11:30 AM**

## **Voice and Inclusion in Social Innovation Panel**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Room 134**

Innovation in international development has meant moving away from “business as usual” approaches and seeking new ways to partner and collaborate with communities facing challenges. This presents an opportunity to address issues of inclusion, anti-racism, and equity in international development programming.

This panel is intended to reflect on strategies used by organizations to be inclusive and to center communities, particularly women, girls, and the most vulnerable, in the design and testing of social innovations, and how these impact outcomes and sustainability. We have the privilege of hearing from partners of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) Funded ACGC Member organizations from around the world speaking about their experiences collaborating with Albertan organizations to design and test sustainable development approaches. This panel will be followed by a World Café facilitated discussion and reflection on inclusion and voice in social innovation.

### **Speakers**

**Maria Inestroza** | *Pure Water for the World, Honduras*



Maria Regina Inestroza has 15-year experience in water supply, hygiene promotion (including menstrual hygiene management), and sanitation in the rural areas of Honduras. She has been serving as the Country Director of Pure Water for the World since 2007, and she has managed water, hygiene, and sanitation programs in communities, schools, and health centers in remote regions, including humanitarian response: WASH in emergencies. Prior to PWW, Maria had a successful career as an Environment Engineer, where she performed several environmental impact studies and coordinated Environment Education Programs for a National Park on the North Coast of Honduras.

**Dr. Troy Cunningham** | *Operation Eyesight*



Dr. Troy Cunningham is the Country Director - India for Operation Eyesight Universal and oversees the work in South Asia including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He is from a medical and public health background with 25 years of experience in clinical care, program planning, proposal development, research, and policy development. He has held senior leadership positions in the past and has been instrumental in shaping the direction of various health programs, contributing significantly to the achievement of prioritized objectives. He has over a decade of experience of working with over 15 State and National governments in India health program design and policy. He has experience working with both international and national non-governmental organizations.

**Edda Muller** | *Change for Children*



Edda María Muller Narvárez is a Miskito indigenous woman from the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. She was born in the indigenous community of La Tranquera, in the municipality of Waspam along the Coco River, which forms the border between Nicaragua and Honduras. At the age of 13, Edda moved to the city of Bilwi (on Nicaragua's North Caribbean Coast), in order to continue high school, since there were no secondary schools in her home community. At the end of high school, Edda continued her studies to become a Primary School teacher and from there earned a scholarship to attend URACCAN University, which is a bilingual indigenous university on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast. There, Edda earned an Education degree with a specialization

in gender equality. Currently, she works on Change for Children's FIT-funded Local Knowledge: Global Goals project, with Miskito indigenous peoples in north central Nicaragua. She also worked on the previous FIT-funded Change for Children Project entitled Technology for Quality and Equality in the indigenous communities of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Joseph Bangura** | *CAUSE Canada*



I am Joseph Alunsine Bangura, born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1960 in Port Loko in northern Sierra Leone to a Muslim family. I am a Catholic and married to a Muslim woman and am blessed with four children.

I attended the Catholic primary school in Port Loko and the Catholic secondary school (Kolenten Secondary School) in Kambia also in northern Sierra Leone. I studied Applied Geophysics in the former Soviet Union and Groundwater and Foundation Engineering at Tuebingen University in Germany.

I started work as Geohydrologist at the EU-sponsored Rural Water Supply Project in Port Loko, Kambia, and Koinadugu Districts in 1987 and within five years rose through the ranks – Assistant Engineer, Site Manager, and Manager.

Since 2014, I am currently the Country Director at CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership. I started working with CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership in 2004 as Programme Engineer and rose to the ranks of Programmes Manager- UNICEF Programmes-, Regional Manager, and later Country Director.

CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone implements projects mainly in the education, health, disabilities, and emerging issues sectors. Over 30 years the organization has implemented projects in over six districts in Sierra Leone.

Over the years, CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership has become a household name in many communities in the country with cordial relationships with community, chiefdom, and district stakeholders. These relationships, which are built on mutual trust and respect, have been our key attributes in the success of our projects/programs in the country.

I am very proud to work in CAUSE Canada for all these years in servicing vulnerable children and women as a way of alleviating poverty in rural Sierra Leone.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**11:30 AM – 1 PM**

## **Lunch**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Room 134**

Conference participants are invited to grab their lunch, engage with ACGC staff, and browse the innovation stations, or take part in ACGC Annual General Meeting taking place alongside the conference.

## **ACGC Annual General Meeting**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Room 134**

ACGC members and the public are welcome to join as we reflect on the year and conduct our annual general meeting. Meet the outgoing and incoming board members, and hear about our collective impact.

Voting is reserved for organizational members of ACGC in good standing, who have paid their annual fee and are committed to our Code of Ethics. Individual members and the public are welcome to listen in!



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**1 PM – 2 PM**

## **Indigenous-Led Innovation: A Keynote by Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Room 134**

For centuries, Indigenous peoples around the world have been leading the way in social innovations that are based on deep knowledge and understanding of the land, environment, and how communities organize and work together. In this keynote, we have the privilege of hearing from indigenous women whose social innovations are making an enormous impact on their communities. This discussion will focus on the space indigenous women have carved out to innovate, the barriers they have worked to overcome, and the incredible impact of their contributions on our communities.

**Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine** | The Ārramāt project | [www.aramatproject.org](http://www.aramatproject.org)



Mariam is a Tuareg woman, Welt Tamasheq, from the lacustrine area of Goundam in the Tin Buktu region, which means, in Tamasheq, “de Buktu” (name of a woman) or Timbuktu in English. She was saturated with the culture of her people and raised within it.

Mariam, during her childhood, was forced into exile because of the Malian conflict in the '90s, which influenced her choice of career and her life path. She chose to study medicine in Algeria to answer to the needs of the women of her people, entering into a field in which only a few girls dare and can engage. During her internships in Algeria, Mali, and Switzerland, Mariam was awakened to the significant health inequalities between and within countries. She realized that she was not yet ready to practice medicine in a

humanitarian context, such as Mali. Unfortunately, Mariam found herself in exile again, as the conflict in her native territory flared up once more.

Mariam immigrated to Canada as a qualified worker, but paradoxically none of her knowledge and skills previously acquired were recognized or valued. Mariam, who grew up surrounded by her activist sisters for the rights of Indigenous peoples, started to invest her time in better understanding their rights and, more importantly, on how to better elevate their voices in spaces where decisions affecting them are taken. She became a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which is an organ of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations whose mandate is to advise states, UN organizations, universities, and other actors on Indigenous issues related to health, the environment, education, culture, human rights, economic and social development and other emerging themes, such as Indigenous women. She is honored to have been chair of this forum for two consecutive mandates.

Mariam came away from this experience humbled. It has allowed her not only to hear, listen and meet different Indigenous peoples, including on their territories, but also to develop skills in diplomacy and working with various actors. Mariam has studied educational sciences at the University of Ottawa and is very interested in educative systems.

Mariam is one of the Co-Principal Investigators of the Ārramāt Project. She feels privileged to have recently become part of a team of researchers focused on a theme that she has always been passionate about: the role and importance of traditional Indigenous knowledge in achieving a state of health and well-being for all, which means Ārramāt in Tamasheq. She recently joined the University of Ottawa as adjunct professor and associate researcher. She is currently a board member of various indigenous institutions in her Region of the Sahel, in Canada and in other sociocultural regions of Indigenous Peoples.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**2:15 PM – 3 PM**

## **Marimba in the Afternoon with Sihle Sizwe Youth**

**Telus International Centre, University of Alberta: Atrium**



Join ACGC for a magical afternoon of traditional Zimbabwean music performed by 12 youth who are part of the Sihle Sizwe Foundation, an ACGC member organization.

Sihle Sizwe continues to find innovative ways to keep Zimbabwean culture and identity alive within Edmonton by working with enthusiastic youth who have become part of the musical youth ensemble. The objective of this group is to learn, develop, and explore musical genres that combine diverse percussive rhythms with the Zimbabwean Marimba tradition in a new and exciting way. The

development of music is youth-driven and the process is mentored by Paul Mpofu, who recently joined Sihle Sizwe from Zimbabwe. Performances become opportunities for the youth to express their understanding of the music and share it with audiences in Edmonton. The youth ensemble presents their music to fundraise for charities in communities and also participate in local festivals.

Read more at [www.sihlesizwe.com](http://www.sihlesizwe.com)