

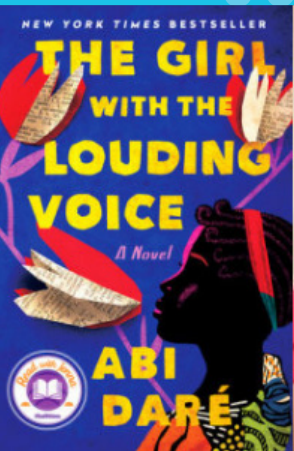


**ACGC**  
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR  
GLOBAL COOPERATION

# CONNECT...

A publication of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

Fall 2020



## Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

As of the time of writing on 15 October 2020, 1,089,047 people worldwide have died of Covid-19. We must first take a moment to reflect, and acknowledge our collective sadness for the many individuals who have lost their lives, who will lose their lives, and the families and communities impacted. The ripple effects of the virus on our economies and social systems continue to grow, and the significant social progress made over the previous decades is at risk of being reversed.

We continue to work within our coalition to lobby the Federal Government to increase aid and #EndCovidEverywhere. A special online day of action took place on 1 September 2020, when ACGC joined other Cooperation Canada members (formerly CCIC) to call on Canada to commit at least 1% of its total Covid-19 response – or \$2 billion in new and additional funds – to a global response that tackles the spread of the virus and its secondary impacts on the poorest countries. These efforts are paying off. On September 29th, the Federal Government announced an additional \$400 million to build resilience and to address short-term international humanitarian and development needs.

Unfortunately, the trend in Alberta towards government support for international efforts is not as positive. Over the summer, we analysed decades of data from the Government of Alberta and published a new report: **The Alberta International Development Program: An Analysis of Data from 1974-2019.** We worked to better understand the program's history and scope, as well as the impact that it had across the globe. The high-level findings are included in this newsletter, while the full report is available on our website. ACGC will be sharing this report with key government and sector stakeholders in an effort to increase awareness of this important fund and to find ways to reinstate it.

But while we are still in the midst of uncertainty, we find hope in the daily acts of solidarity, stories of resilience, and the incredible commitment of people all over the world to breaking down barriers and working together to end the crises for all. We are extremely moved by the actions of ACGC members in addressing the impacts of Covid-19 in Alberta and globally, which ten organizations shared through blogs, videos, podcasts, and images on ACGC's Together Alberta blog at [together.acgc.ca/the-stories](https://together.acgc.ca/the-stories).

The financial impacts of Covid-19 on government budgets will be felt for decades to come, but ACGC is committed to raising our voice and advocating that Canada not only maintain, but increase its official development assistance. As organizations for global social justice, we have the responsibility to harness this moment, centre the voices of the most vulnerable, and expedite the transformational community changes we have been fighting for.

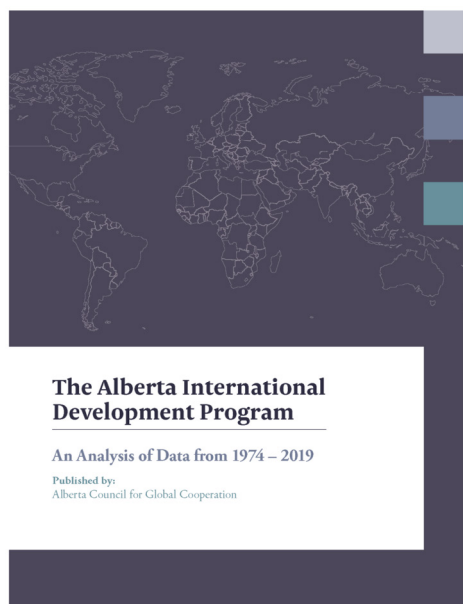
## INSIDE:

**ACGC releases report on the Alberta International Development Program**

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Read and download the report at  
[www.acgc.ca/resources-publications/  
acgc-reports/](http://www.acgc.ca/resources-publications/acgc-reports/)

## ACGC releases report on the Alberta International Development Program

ACGC is pleased to release the results of a year-long analysis of the **Alberta International Development Program** that was funded by the Government of Alberta for 45 years.

### Key Findings:

Over 45 years (1974-2019), the Alberta Government funded 6,892 international assistance projects in at least 85 countries at a total expenditure of \$117,356,825, while further mobilizing \$519,541,030 in private donations towards these projects from Albertans.

In the last decade of the program (2009-2019), the Alberta Government funded 709 projects: 38% focused on education, 18% on health, and 15% on basic social services. Across all project types, 10% addressed issues of gender equality and the rights of women and girls. The regions receiving the largest share of projects and funding in the last decade included Eastern Africa (27%), Southern Asia (20%), and Central America (15%).

Between 2009-2019, funding was provided to 218 unique Alberta organizations located in 44 communities across the province. While the Canadian federal government is the primary source of government funding for international development projects, only 7 organizations of the 218 that qualified for funding from the Alberta government were successful in obtaining federal funding in the same period.

With this evidence, it can be concluded that Alberta's international development program was an invaluable mechanism to bolster the many efforts of Albertans working to reduce poverty, address inequality, and support sustainable development in communities worldwide.

## CCIC is now Cooperation Canada

On October 1st, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation became Cooperation Canada – complete with a new logo, look and feel, and website.

"Beyond the aesthetic changes, the Cooperation Canada brand represents one part in the constant evolution of our work to build a better, fairer, and more sustainable world. As humankind faces once-in-a-generation challenges in responding to the profound impacts of the global COVID pandemic and worsening climate crisis, our society is awakening to the critical need to defend human rights, end systemic racism and realize equality for all. Cooperation Canada aims to continue to transform as the world does and we hope that you see this forward-looking approach reflected in our new brand." - Cooperation Canada

Visit the new website site at <https://cooperation.ca/>





## 10 Youth join the SDG Hub

In the summer of 2020, ten youth from across Alberta joined the third cohort of the Sustainable Development Goal Hub. Participants in The Hub contribute to volunteering initiatives in their local communities, focused on achieving the SDGs. This cohort took part in two virtual meetings with development practitioners, networking and learning from their experiences to amplify their Hub Projects. Five mentors with professional development experience will help these participants to increase the impact of their participation.

### Participants:

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

### Mentors:

Ashley Anderson, Operation Eyesight Universal; Nicole Farn, Change for Children Association, Farheen Akhbar, Engineers Without Borders Calgary Chapter; Shantel Jordison, Alinea International

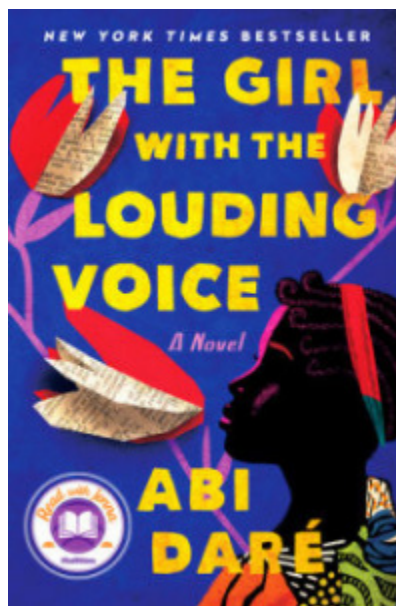
Learn more about the hub at [www.acgc.ca/thehub](http://www.acgc.ca/thehub)

## Supporting Alberta Teachers

ACGC maintains a strong commitment to supporting global citizenship education in Alberta through providing professional development opportunities for Alberta teachers.

During the long period when schools were closed, from March - June 2020, ACGC responded by providing an opportunity for community building, discussion, and learning about gender equality through hosting an educator reading circle. ACGC provided 24 teachers with a copy of the newly released novel 'The Girl with the Louding Voice', and held regular discussions with teachers in three different small cohorts. At the end of June, just as schools closed for the summer, we were able to discuss the novel with the author, Abi Daré, who joined us on zoom from her home in London, U.K.

*Abi Daré, author of The Girl With the Louding Voice*







*Angela Bruce Raeburn, Keynote Speaker:  
"Race and Privilege in International Development"*

## **Annual Conference: Unlearning and Relearning: International Development Beyond 2020**

From September 23rd to 25th, ACGC successfully held its first virtual annual conference entitled Unlearning and Relearning: International Development Beyond 2020. 138 participants from Alberta, Canada, and around the world participated in 3 days of keynote addresses, panel discussions, research analysis and networking via Zoom. Participants explored topics of racism, inequality and privilege in the international development sector; women and girls and their experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent government and civil society responses around the world, and finally issues of funding and funding gaps for international development in Alberta. The conference engaged ACGC members, youth across Alberta and speakers from the US and across Canada.

A highlight was the keynote address by Angela Bruce Raeburn, an author and speaker, and currently regional advocacy director for Africa at the Global Health Advocacy Incubator. Angela spoke about her experiences of racism in the international development sector, and addressed what individuals and organizations in the sector can do to examine structural racism and representation in their work at home and abroad.

ACGC member organizations participated on a panel addressing the experiences of women and girls around the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. At the panel, they showed a video prepared in collaboration with women from project countries around the globe, where organizations have been responding to Covid-19 and the societal needs that have arisen from the pandemic. Watch the video on ACGC's Youtube page at [youtube.com/acgcnow](https://youtube.com/acgcnow)

*Video from the Impact of Covid-19 and Response on Women and Girls Around the World panel at the ACGC Annual Conference.*

*Access all the conference materials and recordings on our website at <https://acgc.ca/annual-conference-2020/>*



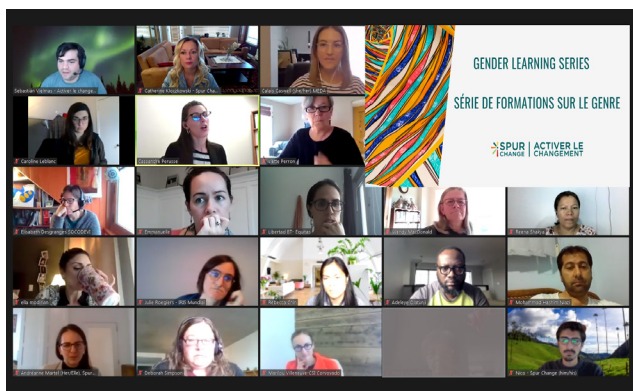
My previous work was shut down because of the coronavirus, so now I am staying at home.

## Spur Change supports SMOs to respond to Covid-19



Capacity-Building  
& Knowledge Sharing  
for Small and Medium  
Organizations (SMO)

Spur Change has been extremely busy, responding to the needs of Small and Medium organizations during the Covid-19 crises. During summer and early fall, Spur carried out their National Training on Making Data Collection Meaningful and continued their COVID-19 capacity development series.



Currently, Spur is delivering a Gender Learning Series on topics related to feminist and gender sensitive MEAL and innovative solutions. They also began a new series for educators, beginning with a webinar on the Future of Global Citizenship Education Post-Covid.

Coming up soon, Spur Change will be launching a resource library, where you will find tools and resources on a variety of topics including Financial management, Gender Equity and Inclusivity, Communication, etc. A new two-level course on Results-based-Management will also be ready for SMOs by the end of the year. Watch the Spur Change website, and be sure to subscribe to get updates, and information about upcoming opportunities.

## Spur Change Youth Champion Program

Alberta SMOS are very active participants in Spur Change's Youth Champion Program. Applications for the next cohort of the program will be launching soon. The following youth and organizations are participating from Alberta:



*Bushra Khateeb is from Palestine and is partnered with ACGC member organization University of Alberta through a collaboration between the university and the Women's Affairs Technical Committee in Palestine.*



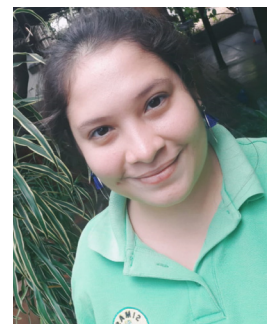
*Girma Shimelis Muluneh has a master's degree in Education, and a Ph.D. in Education Policy and Leadership. Girma is Ethiopian and is partnered with the Alberta-based organization Partners in Education Ethiopia.*



*Lilianna Coyes-Loiselle was born and raised in the vibrant city of Edmonton, Alberta and is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, partnered with the BC organization VIDEA.*



*Fern Rayas was born and raised in Mexico, and is currently studying at Ambrose University. Fern is partnered with ACGC member organization CAUSE Canada.*



*Ligia Teresa López is from Managua, Nicaragua and is a Social Communicator, partnered with ACGC member organization Change for Children.*

## FIT announces Recipients of Second Round of Funding

Nine organizations from across Canada were amongst the second cohort selected on 30th September 2020 to test innovative solutions that will improve the lives of women and girls in developing countries.



CAUSE Canada staff and students in Kabala, Sierra Leone

"Throughout our first two intakes, we've seen so many great Canadian organizations working towards improving the lives of women and girls from around the world," said Christina MacIsaac, Director of Innovation for FIT. "We are confident that the results of the selected innovative solutions will have lasting impacts for all involved, including here in Canada and within the testing countries."

Within Alberta, ACGC member CAUSE Canada's project "Eradicating Child Marriage in Sierra Leone" was selected. CAUSE Canada will be testing an innovative approach to eradicate child marriage by educating men seeking child brides about the negative consequences of child marriage for them, their families, and entire communities. The solution being tested includes 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.

Learn more about FIT at [www.fit-fit.ca](http://www.fit-fit.ca)

## Together Alberta Story Series 2020: Responding to Covid-19 Around the World

In July, ACGC released 9 stories, published in partnership with Alberta organizations, to showcase their timely and responsive work in communities around the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. Organizations have pivoted to address community needs in activities ranging from fundraising and donations of medical and WASH supplies and equipment and addressing food security; capacity building in communities including training/education on WASH, hygiene, social distancing and advocacy and public engagement/education around issues related to Covid-19 such as health, access to services, protection of human rights.

Videos, podcasts, images, and stories are available at [together.acgc.ca](http://together.acgc.ca)





## 2020 – 2021 ACGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Danielle Gibbie**  
Operation Eyesight



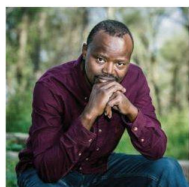
**Ana Hoepfner**  
CAWST



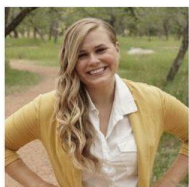
**Bashir Ahmed**  
Somali Canadian  
Education and  
Rural Development  
Organization (SCERDO)



**Carrie Malloy**  
University of Alberta  
International - Global  
Education



**Daniel Zopoula**  
Bridges of Hope



**Danielle Skogen**  
Canadian Humanitarian



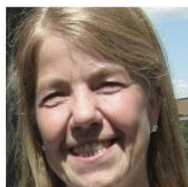
**Felipe Civita Ferreira**  
Norquest College



**Flora Trebi Ollennu**  
Trebi Ollennu Foundation  
for Community  
Development (TKOFCD)



**Jamie Charlebois**  
University of Calgary  
International



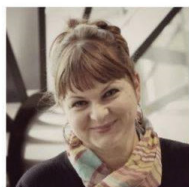
**Katrin Hoffman**  
Sombrilla International  
Development Society



**Lorraine Swift**  
Change for Children  
Association



**Murwarid Ziajee**  
Canadian Women for  
Women in Afghanistan



**Nina Delling**  
United Nations  
Association of Canada,  
Edmonton Branch

### At ACGC's AGM on September 23rd, we welcomed a new Board of Directors!

A further thank you to the following six board members who stepped down after many years of service:

Bill Howe (6 years), Fredda Cherlet (4 years), Wendy Fehr (4 years) Thomas Coldwell (3 years), Chris Enns (3 years), Monica Nino (2 years).

Read more of the highlights presented at the AGM, in our annual report and finances found at <https://acgc.ca/about-us/bylaws-and-annual-reports/>

### New Staff

ACGC has welcomed the following staff and interns this fall!



**Shanice Tadeo**  
Conference and Events Planner



**Melissa Bui**  
Campaigns Coordinator: Impact Internship program



**Catherine Kloczkowski**  
Communications and Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator

### New Members

ACGC is pleased to welcome two new member organizations to the Council for the 2020-2021 year:



Embrace International  
Foundation

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



Nile Care Advocacy for  
Peace and Development

[www.nilecapd.org](http://www.nilecapd.org)



[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](#)

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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Edmonton AB T6E 2B3**

## 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

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

Canada 