



**ACGC**  
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR  
GLOBAL COOPERATION

# CONNECT...

A publication of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

Fall 2021



## Message from Leah Ettarh, Executive Director

At ACGC, we are busy ramping up fall and winter programming, as the health situation improves across the country. Many activities which were put on hold due to the pandemic have finally been realized, and new programs are underway, providing a relief from the uncertainty the last 20 months has brought.

This fall, we were excited to wrap up the large 360 Video project: **A Better World is InSight**, with deployments at the Stanley A. Milner Public Library and Kingsway Mall in Edmonton, as well as at the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat from 13 September – 6 November. While the number of guests needed to be reduced to ensure safety, we received positive feedback from many of the 950 individuals that experienced the installation. Our sister councils, SCIC and MCIC, will now host the installation between January 2022 – March 2023.

We were also pleased to be able to host the pilot of our Confluence Leadership program, with a small group of senior leaders of Alberta's international cooperation community, from 15-17 September. This experience provided senior leaders a time to disconnect and learn from each other, and build relationships that will further strengthen cooperation in Alberta. The second program will take place in Banff mid-June 2022, with registration opening in February.

The Spur Change program's Results Based Management 201 course is in full swing, with 7 regional trainings taking place hosted by the Provincial and Regional Councils. Due to the health situation, these courses are being held online, which has the added benefit of allowing participation of international partners. Planning is underway to host the 3rd Spur Change conference, in person in Montreal from 15-17th May 2022, with applications for travel subsidies available soon for a select number of Alberta SMO and teachers. The Spur program has also been able to support the second cohort of the GAC Development Impact Window recipients with training and coaching to create their project implementation plans. I was also thrilled to see many Alberta SMOs apply for the 3rd intake of the Development Impact Window, as well as the final intakes of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation. The next few years will be exciting as the results of all the programs under the [SMOs for Impact Innovation window](#) will start to be realized.

Of course, none of this work would be possible with the amazing work of ACGC's staff and board. This fall we welcomed new board members, as well as new Board leadership. We also said goodbye to a few ACGC staff and welcomed new staff. The renewed energy and enthusiasm is being felt throughout the organization, and will result in positive impacts for those we serve.

### INSIDE:

## InSight 360 Video Experience tours Alberta!

See page 3 for details

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## ACGC Welcomes our 2021 / 2022

### Board of Directors

ACGC held their Annual General Meeting on 29 September 2021. The Board of Directors welcomed four new members: **Aditya Chaudhuri, Ashley Anderson, Bev Carrick, and Tahira Ebrahim**. The Board also said an official goodbye to four long-term board members: **Ana Hoepfner, Bashir Ahmed, Danielle Gibbie, Jamie Charlebois**.

Membership had an opportunity to hear of the collective work undertaken by the coalition, highlights of which can be found in the Annual Report. For a list of the current board members, please visit [acgc.ca/about-us/acgc-staff](https://acgc.ca/about-us/acgc-staff). View the 2020-2021 Annual Report at [acgc.ca/about-us/bylaws-and-annual-reports/](https://acgc.ca/about-us/bylaws-and-annual-reports/).



#### GRADE 7-12 WORKSHOP

### BEYOND A SINGLE STORY



### New Resource Published with Cooperation From Members

Beyond a Single Story is a new workshop designed for Grade 7-12 students to explore how intersecting identities affect individual realities and quality of life. Students will consider diverse viewpoints and gain an understanding of a community's complex challenges and strengths. Each case study provided in this activity was created in partnership and solidarity with an international cooperation organization and its international partners.

Find this workshop and learn more at <https://acgc.ca/resources-publications/teacher-resources/workshops/>

### New Staff

ACGC has recently welcomed the following staff!



ACGC would like to send a big thank you to Sebastian Vielmas and Shanice Tadeo, whose terms with ACGC recently ended. We wish them all the best with their upcoming adventures.

## InSight 360 Immersive Video Experience

The InSight Project is a 360° video cylinder installation currently touring across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Through 360° video and interactive workshops, InSight brings stories of global development to life for members of the public. Four films provide InSight audiences the opportunity to learn about the unique challenges individuals and communities face in countries like Jordan, Senegal, and Kenya. Topics include Fairtrade, refugees and migration, agriculture, climate change, and more. These stories provide their audiences an understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

The InSight Project toured Alberta from September to November, visiting locations such as the Edmonton Public Library, Kingsway Mall, and the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat. ACGC sends a big thank you to these 3 venues for allowing the InSight 360° dome to be viewed by your patrons in an environment where Covid-19 safety precautions were taken.



## Global Citizenship Education

in  
Alberta's Draft  
Social Studies K-6  
Curriculum

## Engaging With Government

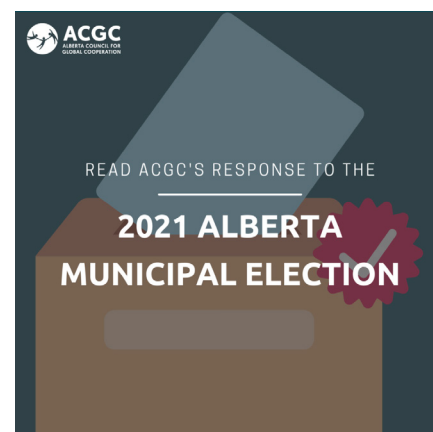
ACGC continues to provide a platform to share common concerns and engage with all levels of government through collaboration for a more equitable and sustainable future. The recent federal election resulted in another term for the Liberal Party of Canada, who recently announced their new Cabinet. Minister Karina Gould was shuffled from the International Development portfolio to become Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development, while the Minister of Defence, Harjitt Sajjan, has taken over the International Development role. ACGC has also been engaging on issues at a provincial and municipal levels as well, with the following responses:

### 2021 Alberta Municipal Election

Following the Alberta Municipal Elections on 18 October 2021, ACGC's Executive Director, Leah Ettarh released a statement welcoming new mayors, councillors, and trustees, encouraging all to work towards achieving the UN SDGs in Alberta. Read the letter at [acgc.ca/election](https://acgc.ca/election).

### Alberta's Draft Social Studies K-6 Curriculum

In June 2021, ACGC reviewed the Draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum. Following the analysis, ACGC strongly recommends that the draft curriculum be rewritten to reflect international best practices in global citizenship education. This analysis was provided to the Minister of Education, and ACGC has been contacted about participating in potential discussions this fall, to be announced. You can read the analysis at [www.acgc.ca/curriculum](https://www.acgc.ca/curriculum).



## Alberta Organizations testing innovative ideas with the support of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation:

The five planned funding intakes of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) have come to a close. As a pilot program of the Inter-Council Network, of which ACGC is a part, FIT has provided an opportunity for small and medium organizations to test new and innovative ideas, and share learnings within the sector. ACGC is thrilled that the following Alberta-based organizations and their partners have received \$1,659,852 to date in the first three intakes, with decision on intake 4 and 5 to be announced by Winter 2022. Below is a summary of the projects by Alberta organizations to date. All innovations can be found at [www.fit-fit.ca/about-us/fit-funding-decisions/](http://www.fit-fit.ca/about-us/fit-funding-decisions/)

### **Canadian Humanitarian. Guatemala \$244,702**

Canadian Humanitarian, and its local Guatemalan partner, Asociación SERniña/REALgirl, will test the impact and effectiveness of a holistic, family-centered, gender equity focused violence prevention and response program in Guatemala, as a way of reducing rates of sexual and domestic violence in Guatemala and improving recovery for survivors of violence.

### **Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST). Honduras \$250,000**

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) and Pure Water for the World Honduras will be testing an interactive learning platform to increase knowledge, shift attitudes and change behaviours around menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) in Trojes, Honduras.

### **OGOW Health. Somalia \$239,904**

OGOW Health will test a technological solution designed to improve access to high-quality, affordable care for women, new mothers, and newborns in Somalia by supporting rural and urban health facilities in medical records and health promotion.

### **Sombrilla International Development Society. Honduras \$243,500**

Sombrilla International Development Society will be testing the concept of a “mobile legal clinic” offering legal and support services to local women facing gender-based violence in Honduras.

### **CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone. \$217,932**

CAUSE Canada will test 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.

### **Embrace International Foundation: Uganda. \$213,814**

Embrace International Foundation will test a new approach to self-directed e-learning through the use of Mobile Learning Labs, to empower and improve the lives of students in rural Uganda, especially girls and those living with disabilities.

### **Change for Children Association. Nicaragua. \$250,000**

Change for Children will test a new training program and digital resource database for teachers in remote indigenous communities of Nicaragua, to determine its impact on teacher capacity, classroom resources, quality of instruction and gender equality.



# Inter-Council Network

## Decolonizing Public Engagement

As the international development sector integrates decolonial approaches in programming and projects, it is important to reflect on practices that can inform a more transformative and sustainable change.

Throughout 2021, the Inter-Council Network (ICN) has been conducting research to better understand ways of decolonizing public engagement, with learning being shared with the public through a variety of engagement activities. In September, the ICN hosted a panel of diverse speakers, each providing practical strategies that actors in the development sector can adopt in their decoloniality efforts in public engagement.

Learn about the speakers and watch the session at [www.icn-rcc.ca/en/webinar-decolonize-pe](http://www.icn-rcc.ca/en/webinar-decolonize-pe)



## Spur Change: SSHRC funding and research paper Public Engagement

The Spur Change program is collaborating with a research team from the Guelph Institute of Development Studies at the University of Guelph and The Global School at Worcester Polytechnic Institute to conduct a study on the impact and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on Small and Medium Organisations (SMOs) in Canada's foreign aid sector. Spur Change's National Program Director, Andréanne Martel, is a collaborator on a successful SSHRC Insight Development Grants aiming to support this two-year study which started in June 2021. In addition to understanding the challenges SMOs face in relation to financial loss and their ability to implement their programs, this study will seek to better understand their strategies and practices in response to the pandemic. While SMOs may experience vulnerabilities, they may also have unique adaptation strategies, flexibility and forms of resilience.

A pan Canadian bilingual survey will be launched in early November 2021. All Canadian NGOs will be invited to complete it. An SMO advisory committee has been created in the Fall 2021 to accompany the study process. Preliminary results of this two-year study will be published in Spur Change SMO report 2021-2022 in March 2022.

## Confluence Leadership Retreat

Between September 15 - 17, leaders of Alberta's international aid sector met in Banff to take part in the new Confluence Leadership program. Funded by Global Affairs Canada, this program provides a co-created, supportive space for leaders to learn, reflect, and share experiences on pressing issues, and increase knowledge sharing and collaboration within the international cooperation sector in Alberta.

This program was piloted with a small group, mixing both online and in-person meetings. Applications for the June 2022 program will be opening this fall.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.acgc.ca/confluence](http://www.acgc.ca/confluence)



## RBM 101 and 201: 13 December, for Alberta SMOS

Last Winter, the Spur Change Program launched a one-of-a-kind self-paced course on results-based management (RBM) for small and medium organizations (SMOs) in the international development sector. Following the success of this innovative eLearning opportunity, they recently announced they will be offering the next level course (RBM 201) across Canada throughout the Fall 2021.

Alberta SMOs are invited to enroll in this **3-day free participatory workshop from December 1-3, 9am to 1pm MST**. Take your knowledge and skills to the next level and apply them to your own project(s). In this training, you will learn how to design and implement RBM strategies and practices. Make sure to register soon as limited spots are available!



INTERMEDIATE LEVEL COURSE

# RBM 201

**3-day (12h) free participatory workshop for Alberta SMOs**

December 1-3, 2021

\*SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RBM 101 COURSE IS MANDATORY

*\*Note that the successful completion of RBM 101 is mandatory to participate in RBM 201.*

Take the introductory RBM 101 course at [spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/rbm101/](http://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/rbm101/)

Register to the RBM 201 Workshop before November 23rd at [www.eventbrite.ca/e/195310778797](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/195310778797)

## Spur Change: Teacher Share & Learn Series

As part of the Spur Change's Share & Learn series on Global Citizenship for teachers, they are hosting a session on "Harnessing Literature's Potential to Engage Students in Life Beyond Our Borders" on **November 25th, 4:30PM (MDT)**.

In this session, panelists will share their experiences, challenges, and discoveries in teaching diverse works of literature that ignite the hearts, imaginations, and expressions of compassion in students. Attendees will come away with a deeper understanding of how aesthetic and narrative qualities of certain works are uniquely suited to immerse students in diverse ways of knowing and being.

Learn more about the series and register for this session at <http://bit.ly/3Bdf8kb>

**SHARE & LEARN**

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

**HARNESSING LITERATURE'S POTENTIAL TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LIFE BEYOND OUR BORDERS**

**Thursday, November 25th**

**4:30pm (MDT)**

# Capacity Building and Upcoming

## Launch: Youth Champions Program 2022

Spur Change is officially launching the recruitment for their 2022 Youth Champions Program cohort and are looking for Canadian SMOs interested in an opportunity to incorporate youth perspectives into their policies and practices and make informed decisions in future youth engagement practices. Applications for this program close on **December 3, 2021**.

Organizers will also be holding an information session for interested youth and SMOs on **November 24th, 12pm EST**. It will be a great opportunity to get more details on the program and ask your questions before applying.

Learn more about the program, register for the information session, and apply to the program at [icn-rcc.ca/en/youth](https://icn-rcc.ca/en/youth)



## Together | Ensemble - SDG Youth Awards

On behalf of Together|Ensemble, ACGC opened nominations for the Canada SDG Youth Awards, a new national youth-led initiative recognizing the contributions of young people aged 30 and under across what is currently Canada towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Until **November 30, 2021**, people from all sectors, and all provinces and territories are invited to nominate initiatives led by passionate young changemakers between 10 and 30 years of age, regardless of their residency status, that have made strides towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Learn more about the Canada SDG Youth Awards at [togetherensemble.ca/sdg-youth-awards-prix-odd-jeunesse/](https://togetherensemble.ca/sdg-youth-awards-prix-odd-jeunesse/)

Learn more about the members of the youth advisory awards committee at <https://togetherensemble.ca/youth-committee-comite-jeunesse/>

## International Development Week and Top 30 Under 30

This year's annual International Development Week (IDW) is **February 7-13, 2022**.

Whether this is your first time celebrating IDW or you are an "IDW expert", everyone can celebrate this week in their own way. For more information and to join in the celebrations, visit [acgc.ca/idw](https://acgc.ca/idw).

This year also marks ACGC's **11th Annual Top 30 Under 30**, ACGC's award campaign featuring 30 accomplished youth from Alberta and around the world who are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. This year's cohort of awardees will be **announced during International Development Week**.

Visit [top30under30@acgc.ca](mailto:top30under30@acgc.ca), and follow @acgcnow on social media to stay up-to-date on the campaign!





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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 biweekly [e-Bulletin newsletter](#).

ACGC Connect is published by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation [ACGC] with the financial assistance of Global Affairs Canada. ACGC is a network of organizations and individuals, located in Alberta, working locally and globally to advance sustainable development and global citizenship. We envision that all people can fulfill their potential and prosper, become engaged citizens in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and thrive in a healthy, sustainable world.

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

**P: 780.988.0200**

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

## ACGC Current Membership

Alberta Teachers' Association • 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 • Edmonton Public School Board • Embrace International Foundation • Engineers Without Borders - Calgary City Chapter • Global Education Program, University of Alberta • Hopethiopia • Human Development Foundation of North America, Canada • Humanity Auxilium • Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) • International Education, Bow Valley College • 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 • Nile Care Advocacy for Peace and Development (NILECAPD) • Norquest International • One Child's Village • One! International Poverty Relief • Operation Eyesight Universal • Pamir Canadian Multiculturalism Council • Rainbow of Hope for Children • ReadWorld Foundation • SihleSizwe Vineyard Foundation • Sinkunia Community Development Organization • Somali-Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization (SCERDO) • 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

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