



The Alberta International Development Program

An Analysis of Data from 1974 – 2019

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205, 10816A - 82 Avenue
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The Alberta International Development Program

An Analysis of Data from 1974 – 2019

Introduction

On October 24th, 2019, the newly formed Alberta Government, led by the United Conservative Party, tabled the 2019-23 Fiscal Plan and 2019 Budget. In this new plan, the government eliminated the international development program, operated by the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women under the Community Initiatives Program, as part of its commitment to reduce that Ministry's spending by \$60 million over four years¹. This funding stream provided, "funding to small and medium-sized Alberta-based non-governmental organizations to meet local needs through support of sustainable community development projects," with a purpose to match or supplement the donations Albertans made to humanitarian projects in developing nations.²

For 45 years, the international development program provided essential funding to Alberta-based civil society organizations tackling poverty and inequality internationally, while motivating Albertans to contribute to these efforts by requiring dollar-for-dollar matching donations. While \$1.5M funding was a relatively small line item on the provincial government's budget, it was crucial for these organizations to continue their international poverty relief efforts, and ensure their local Alberta communities continue to be engaged and motivated to contribute.

1. Purpose of Review

On October 30, 2019, The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) launched a review of the international development program (herein called 'the program') to better understand the program's history and scope, as well as the impact the program had across the globe. Using data available online³, as well as data accessed through a freedom of information request made to the Government of Alberta, this analysis aims to provide insight into four key areas of the program, including:

- “ The annual budgets and expenditures over time
- “ The number and location of Alberta organizations which received funding
- “ The types of international development projects supported with the funding
- “ The countries and regions impacted by the contributions of Albertans

While not the main purpose of this analysis, a comparison to international development project-based funding provided by the federal government to Alberta-based organizations is made. This comparison sheds light on the access Alberta organizations have to federal funding now that Alberta funding is no longer available.

Through sorting, publicizing, and analysing the data received from the Alberta Government, ACGC hopes the findings can serve to amplify the public's understanding of the impact Albertans have had on reducing poverty around the world.

2. Limitations

ACGC received data on the Alberta international development program through publicly accessible databases, as well as a freedom of information request. While data related to the annual budgets and expenditures is available from 1974, detailed information on the disbursements, including the name of the organization, project type, or country is no longer available for the period of 1974/5 – 1997/8. Further to this, specific country data for funded projects is only consistently available from 2013 onwards. Due to these gaps, a detailed analysis has only been conducted for the last decade of the program, and specific limitations are noted in the graphics and tables contained in this report. An evaluation of the development results achieved by the program, as well as qualitative research interviewing recipients of the funding, would provide a deeper understanding of the program's full impact.

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.

Alberta International Development Program: 1974-2019

For the first decade following the international development program's formation under the leadership of Premier Peter Lougheed in 1974, the budget and expenditure rose year-over-year, with the government occasionally dispersing more than the budgeted amounts. The peak of the program was in 1984-5, where a total of \$9.9million was dispersed, \$2.9million over the program budget. Following this peak, the program budget saw a sharp decline over the next decade to a level of \$1.58 million by 1993-4, a budget level which would never be exceeded over the remaining 25 years of the program.

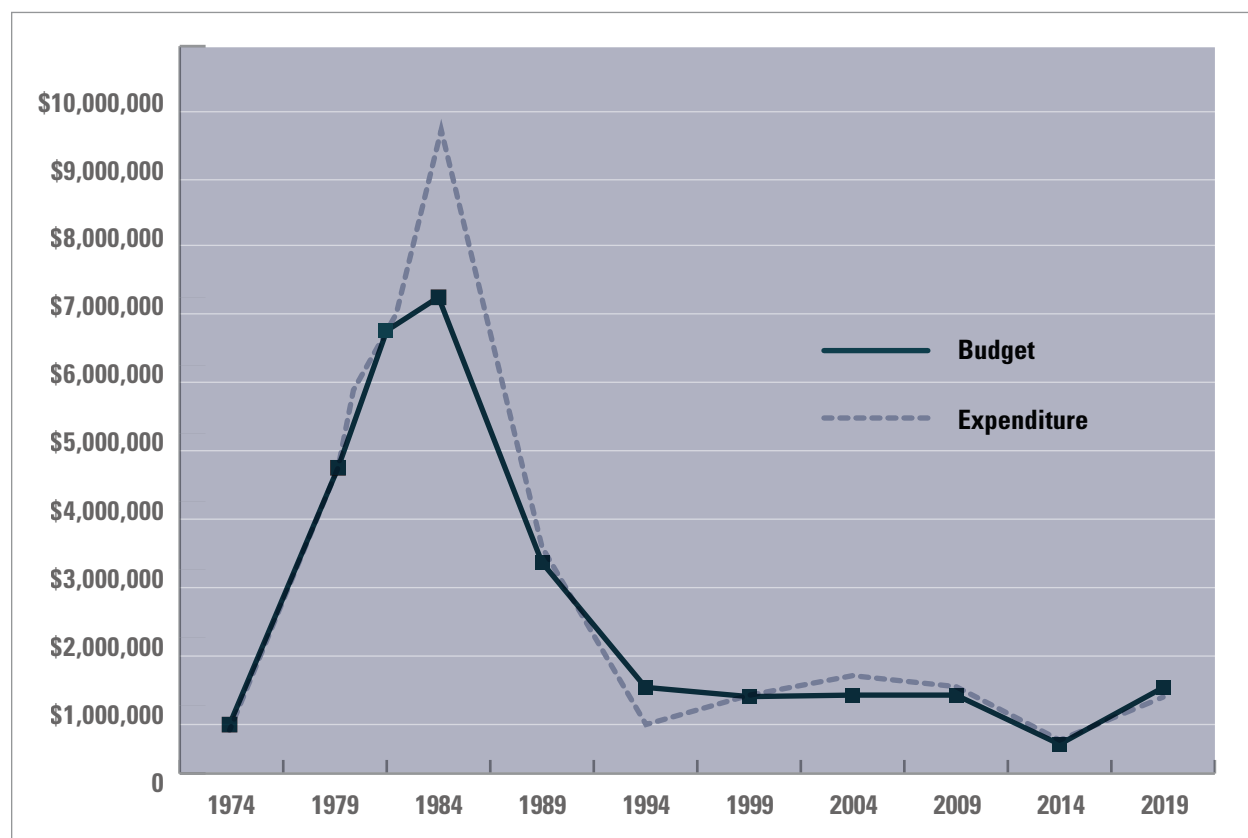
Complicating budget fluctuations, the international development program has also been subjected to cuts and near-eliminations at different moments throughout its history. In most recent years, the program was put in jeopardy in 2009 with the elimination of the Wild Rose Foundation, which oversaw the grant, was paused by the Minister of Community Development between September 2005 - January 2006 following an audit by the Auditor General⁴, and was initially eliminated but then reinstated at half its budget in 2013, only fully reinstated in 2016 following a change in government.

Over time, the expenditures closely matched the budgets, with notes available to explain any discrepancies where the full budget spend was not reached (see table in Annex for data). In the final two years of the program, records show that the budget was not spent due to the non-responsiveness of Alberta organizations. However, this discrepancy should not be interpreted as a decreased demand by Alberta organizations for the funding. Rather, a policy limiting funding to organizations with international spending less than \$1.5million, and a cap on funding at \$25,000 per organization per year (except for emergency disaster relief)² prevented capable Alberta organizations from receiving further funding, even if they demonstrated the capacity and required matching public donations to implement more programs. In the final year, 2018-2019, 54% of all funded organizations received the maximum allocation, indicating a majority were capable of managing larger projects.

In total \$117,356,825 was dispersed by the program over the 45 years, exceeding the cumulative budgeted amount of \$111,957,928. Through the required matching donations, the fund mobilized 4.4 times more in private donations from Albertans than it dispersed, equaling \$519,541,030 over the 45 years.

*Graph: Alberta International Development Program:
Total Budget and Expenditures: 1974 - 2019*

See Table in Annex for all data.



Alberta International Development Program: 2009-2019

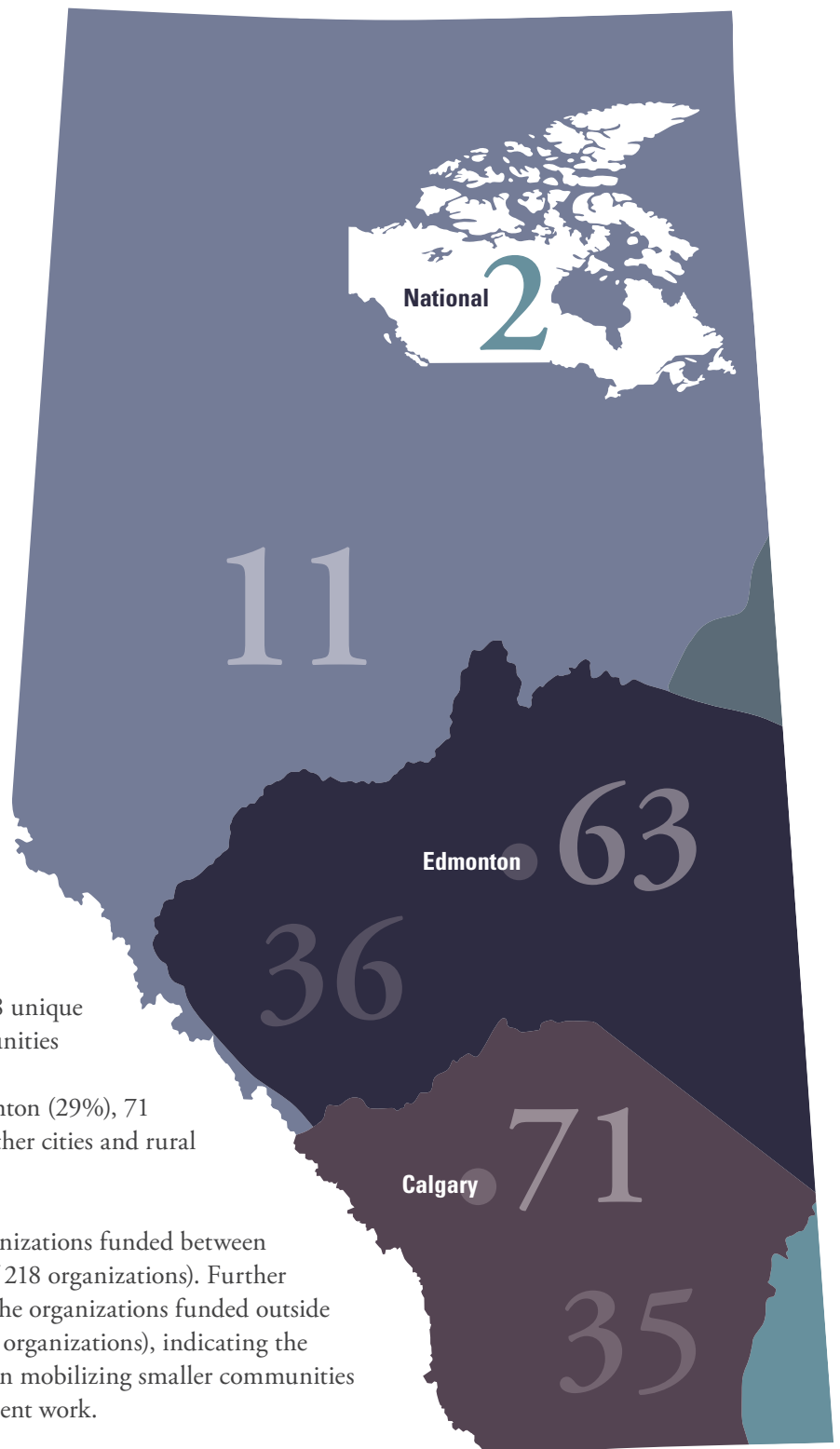
The following analysis takes a closer look at the final decade of Alberta's international development program, between 2009-2019. Using the detailed data available for this period, the analysis will focus on the organizations funded, the types of projects funded, and regions impacted by the funding. While this section will not focus on expenditure, the value of projects funded during this final decade was \$11,241,048, or 9.5% of the total 45-year program expenditure.

1. Organizations Funded: 2009-2019

The number of organizations funded each year from 1974-2019 remained relatively stable over time, indicating a priority to provide funding to as many qualified and diverse groups as possible despite any volatility in the budget (See Annex for Table). On average, 66 groups were funded per year.

Analysing 2009-2019 data, a total of 218 unique organizations were funded in 44 communities across the province. Of the 218 unique organizations, 63 were located in Edmonton (29%), 71 located in Calgary (32.5%), and 84 in other cities and rural locations (38.5%).

It is interesting to note that 29% of organizations funded between 2009-2019 were Rotary Clubs (59 out of 218 organizations). Further to this, Rotary Clubs represent 40% of the organizations funded outside of Edmonton and Calgary (34 of the 84 organizations), indicating the importance of this service organization in mobilizing smaller communities across Alberta in international development work.

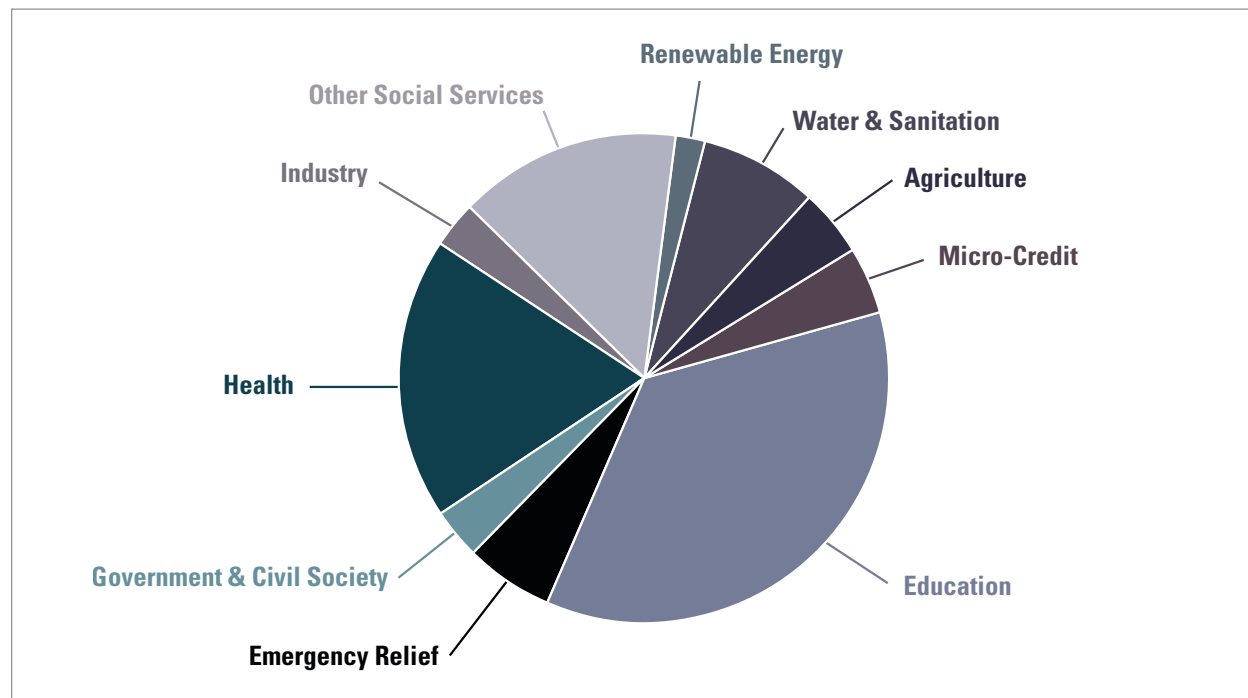


Map: Location of Alberta Funded Organizations: 2009-2019

2. Types of Projects Funded: 2009-2019

In the last decade of the program, 709 sustainable development and humanitarian aid projects were funded by the Alberta Government. Of those, 38% were education sector projects, followed by health (18%) and other social services (15%).

Chart: Percentage of Projects by Type 2009-2019



Of the 271 education projects, 38% involved the construction, expansion, or rehabilitation of schools and school-related infrastructure, including playgrounds. Similarly, 43% of health projects involved the construction and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment for basic and specialized health services. Of note, 13% of health projects involved providing specialized training to local health personnel.

A significant percentage of projects involved the provision of basic sustenance and access to basic social services for poverty relief, which are classified under 'other social services'. Within this category, 44% of the projects specifically mention supporting the basic needs of orphans and vulnerable children, noting the desire of Albertan organizations and international partners to provide support to this target group.

Table: Total Projects by Type (2009-2019)

Projects are analysed using purpose codes developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

| | Total Projects | % of Total Projects | Total Expenditure | % of Total Expenditure |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Agriculture | 31 | 4.4% | \$512,311 | 4.6% |
| Micro-Credit | 28 | 3.9% | \$496,694 | 4.4% |
| Education | 271 | 38.2% | \$4,025,857 | 35.8% |
| Emergency Relief | 25 | 3.5% | \$679,570 | 6.0% |
| Government & Civil Society | 22 | 3.1% | \$351,143 | 3.1% |
| Health | 130 | 18.3% | \$2,089,321 | 18.6% |
| Industry | 23 | 3.2% | \$357,410 | 3.2% |
| Other Social Services | 110 | 15.5% | \$1,644,044 | 14.6% |
| Renewable Energy | 13 | 1.8% | \$223,740 | 2.0% |
| Water & Sanitation | 56 | 7.9% | \$860,958 | 7.7% |
| | 709 | 100% | \$11,241,048.00 | 100% |

3. Countries and Regions Assisted: 2013-2019

Between 1974-2019, Alberta Government funded projects in at least 85 unique countries, at an average of 51 countries per year.⁵ In the years that specific country data is consistently available (2013-2019), 424 projects were funded across the globe, the adjacent map displaying the percentage of the total number of projects approved by region in this period.

The regions most impacted include Eastern Africa, with 114 funded projects, Southern Asia, with 83 projects, and Central America, with 62 projects. Taking a closer look, the individual countries with the most number of funded projects, India (42), Ethiopia (35) Malawi (22) Peru (21), and Pakistan (17), also received the most amount of funding overall: India (\$643,333), Ethiopia (\$585,597) Malawi (\$364,520) Peru (\$337,240), and Pakistan (\$231,950). Other countries receiving more than \$200,000 in the period include Vietnam (\$218,770), Haiti (\$217,750) and Ecuador (\$217,500). While the data shows particular regions being funded at higher levels, this is reflective of the requests for funding made by the community organizations and their international partners, rather than a strategic decision made by the Government of Alberta to focus aid on certain regions.

World MAP: Percent of Total Funded Projects by Region (2013-2019)

Countries are clustered into regions using the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical use (M49 Standard) prepared by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat

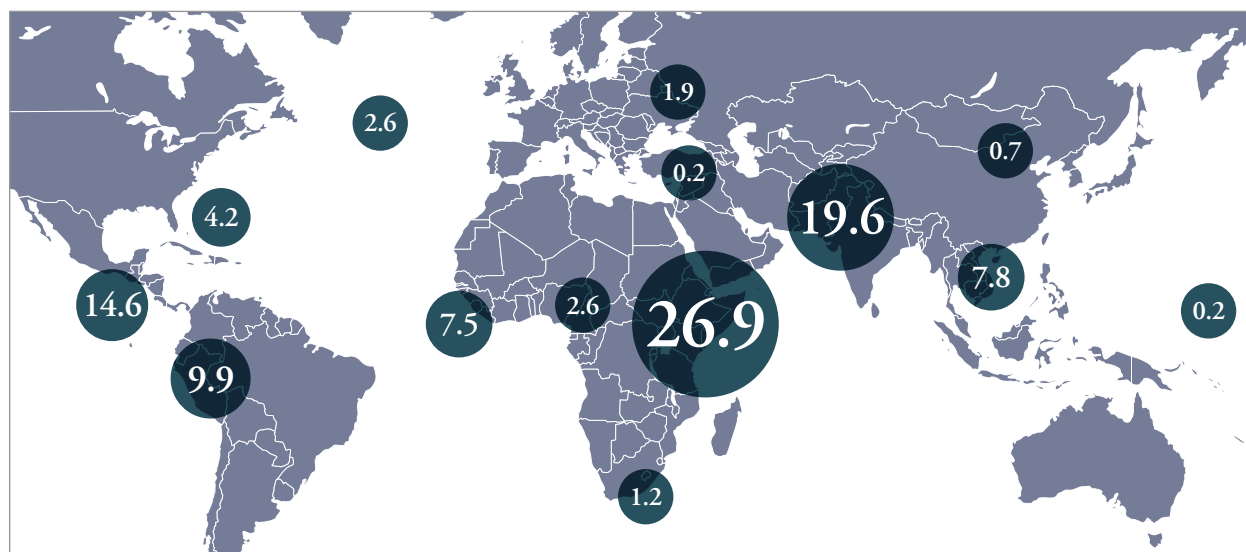


Table: Total Projects and Expenditure by Region (2013-2019)

Regions are coded using the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical use (M49 Standard) prepared by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat

| Region | # of Projects | % of Total projects | Total Expenditure | % of Total Expenditure |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| South America | 42 | 9.9% | \$671,990 | 10.6% |
| Caribbean | 18 | 4.2% | \$382,750 | 6.0% |
| Central America | 62 | 14.6% | \$925,751 | 14.6% |
| Eastern Asia Count | 3 | 0.7% | \$36,500 | 0.6% |
| Western Asia | 1 | 0.2% | \$11,000 | 0.2% |
| Southern Asia Count | 83 | 19.6% | \$1,238,805 | 19.5% |
| South-eastern Asia Count | 33 | 7.8% | \$428,282 | 6.8% |
| Eastern Africa | 114 | 26.9% | \$1,723,927 | 27.2% |
| Middle Africa | 11 | 2.6% | \$97,320 | 1.5% |
| Western Africa | 32 | 7.5% | \$496,316 | 7.8% |
| Southern Africa | 5 | 1.2% | \$73,000 | 1.2% |
| Melanesia | 1 | 0.2% | \$9,000 | 0.1% |
| Eastern Europe | 8 | 1.9% | \$115,089 | 1.8% |
| Mixed/Unknown | 11 | 2.6% | \$133,390 | 2.1% |
| | 424 | 100% | \$6,343,120 | 100% |

Comparison to Federal International Development Assistance: 2009-2019

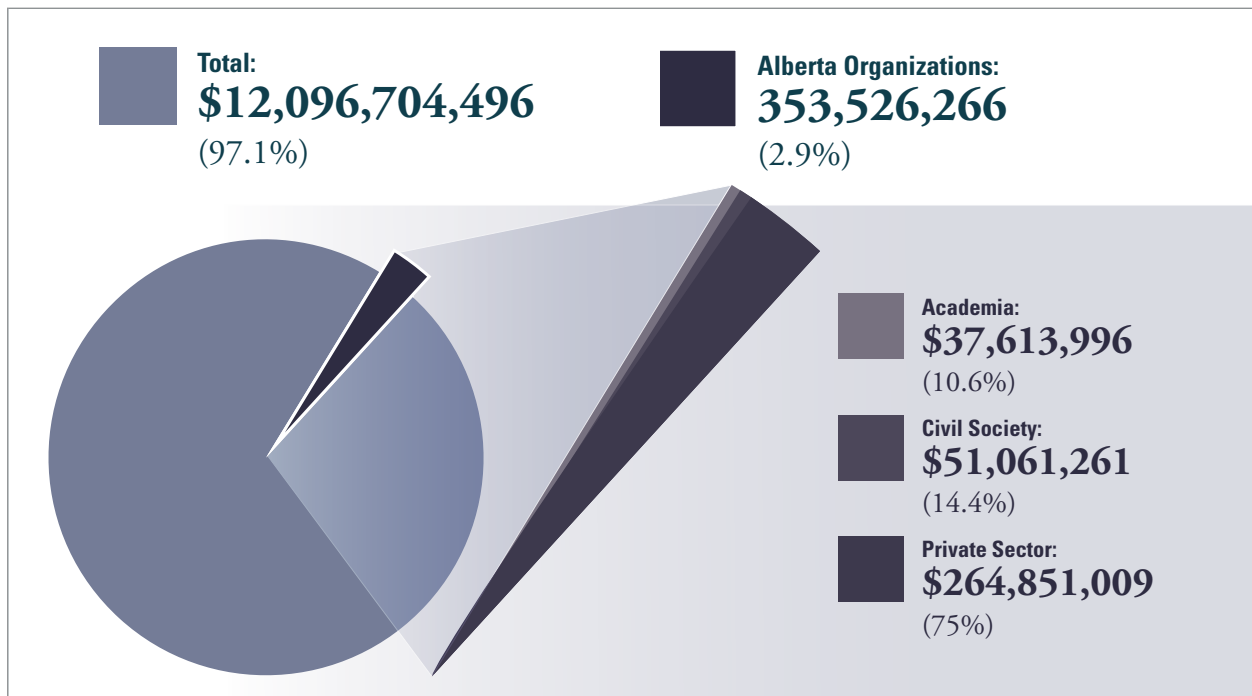
Global Affairs Canada is the federal government department responsible for Canada's international assistance. Organizations may respond to the department's calls for proposals or submit a funding request, to support their international aid efforts. However, as the data shows, very few Alberta organizations have been successful in receiving federal funding over the past decade.

Removing all bilateral and multilateral project funding and organizations from the equation, the federal government (CIDA/DFATD/GAC) funded 2348 international development projects, through 596 organizations, valued at \$12,096,704,496 between 2009-2019.⁶

In this time period, only 20 out of the 596 organizations (3.35%) funded by the federal government were Alberta-based organizations, including 10 civil society organizations, 7 academic institutions, and 3 private sector companies. Furthermore, only 7 of these organizations had been previous recipients of the Alberta international development program funding, a small fraction of the 218 unique organizations funded by the Alberta government in the same period.

Graph: Federal International Development Project-Based Funding to Alberta Organizations: 2009-2019

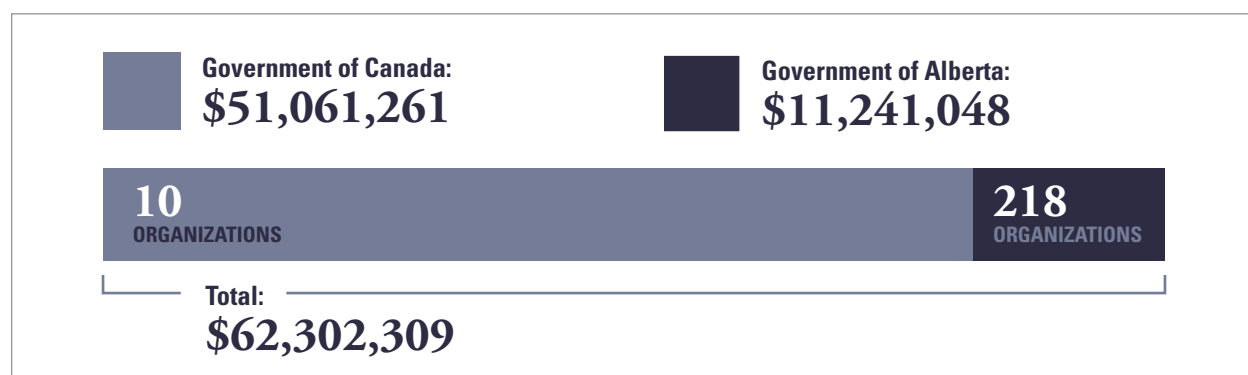
Excluding Bilateral and Multilateral project funding



It is clear from this data that Alberta organizations already managed a very small fraction of the total federal project-based funding, and that the 10 federally-funded civil society organizations shared a very small proportion of this total (0.42% of total federal funding).

All together, between 2009-2019, Alberta-based civil society organizations managed \$62,302,309 of both federal and provincial international aid funding. While the graph shows that the Alberta government's contribution was a much smaller portion of this total, what is important to note is the distribution of total government aid funding across Alberta civil society organizations. The aid provided by the Alberta government (18% of the total) was managed by 218 civil society organizations, while the aid provided by the federal government (82% of the total) was managed by only 10 civil society organizations. Eliminating Alberta's international development program therefore impacts a wider number of Albertan civil society organizations and their ability to engage their communities and address poverty around the world, and creates uncertainty for the future sustainability of the vibrant and diverse international development sector in the province.

Graph: Government Project-Based Funding Managed by Alberta Civil Society Organizations: 2009-2019



Conclusion

For 45 years, the Alberta government demonstrated significant leadership in supporting the health, social, and economic conditions in developing nations. While the dollar value of the international development program in the last decade was small in comparison to provincial budgets, the fund encouraged a positive Alberta presence internationally, and represented a long-standing public commitment of the resource-rich province to support, “Albertans’ concern for social justice and desire to help those less fortunate around the world.”²

The fund was not without its challenges – experiencing budget fluctuations and cuts, as well as policy restrictions which if addressed, could have allowed Alberta organizations to have a larger impact globally. However, by funding as many Albertan organizations as possible each year, across all regions of the province, the fund was an important instrument in mobilizing communities to learn about international issues, and take meaningful and concrete action as global citizens. Given the number of Albertan organizations and communities which accessed the international development program, and the amount of matching private donations mobilized, Albertans demonstrate a clear desire to assist global communities in realizing their own human rights, dignity, and prosperity.

Annex

Table: Alberta International Development Program: 1974-2019

Source: Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. October 2019

| Fiscal Year | Funding* | Budget | Expenditure | Amount Raised in Alberta by NGOs | No. of NGOs Assisted | No. of Projects Approved | # of Emergency Relief (Included in Total) | No. of Countries Assisted |
|-------------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1974-75 | | \$1,000,000 | \$996,597 | \$1,000,000 | 28 | 58 | n/a | 34 |
| 1975-76 | | \$2,000,000 | \$1,995,626 | \$2,301,000 | 32 | 95 | n/a | 49 |
| 1976-77 | | \$2,136,000 | \$2,135,941 | \$2,897,988 | 33 | 134 | n/a | 54 |
| 1977-78 | | \$3,720,000 | \$3,719,916 | \$3,834,500 | 36 | 201 | n/a | 62 |
| 1978-79 | | \$4,320,000 | \$4,319,993 | \$4,320,000 | 39 | 254 | n/a | 70 |
| 1979-80 | | \$4,850,000 | \$5,849,967 | \$4,850,000 | 47 | 245 | n/a | 66 |
| 1980-81 | | \$4,850,000 | \$6,349,401 | \$6,760,231 | 48 | 263 | n/a | 80 |
| 1981-82 | | \$4,850,000 | \$7,049,819 | \$8,894,773 | 61 | 338 | n/a | 78 |
| 1982-83 | | \$7,000,000 | \$6,998,889 | \$11,376,174 | 78 | 320 | n/a | 80 |
| 1983-84 | | \$7,000,000 | \$6,998,889 | \$12,562,413 | 74 | 468 | n/a | 80 |
| 1984-85 | | \$7,000,000 | \$9,994,285 | \$14,269,411 | 83 | 469 | n/a | 85 |
| 1985-86 | | \$7,000,000 | \$7,167,143 | \$17,759,048 | 83 | 335 | n/a | 70 |
| 1986-87 | | \$7,000,000 | \$6,516,924 | \$21,026,651 | 92 | 366 | n/a | 75 |
| 1987-88 | | \$3,543,000 | \$3,542,844 | \$22,000,000 | 61 | 253 | n/a | 53 |
| 1988-89 | | \$3,100,000 | \$3,335,884 | \$18,299,902 | 75 | 235 | n/a | 54 |
| 1989-90 | | \$2,000,000 | \$1,997,797 | \$20,286,881 | 70 | 168 | n/a | 58 |
| 1990-91 | | \$2,000,000 | \$1,940,905 | \$20,459,310 | 69 | 172 | n/a | 56 |
| 1991-92 | | \$2,000,000 | \$1,951,988 | \$21,712,708 | 77 | 155 | n/a | 56 |
| 1992-93 | | \$1,512,000 | \$1,512,000 | \$24,031,905 | 80 | 158 | n/a | 60 |
| 1993-94 | WRF | \$1,580,000 | \$1,000,181 | \$10,976,493 | 51 | 90 | n/a | 50 |
| 1994-95 | WRF | \$1,580,000 | \$1,223,357 | \$16,720,746 | 64 | 105 | n/a | 46 |
| 1995-96 | WRF | \$1,580,000 | \$1,133,964 | \$14,490,276 | 56 | 91 | n/a | 42 |
| 1996-97 | WRF | \$1,380,000 | \$1,198,956 | \$11,286,709 | 62 | 101 | n/a | 40 |
| 1997-98 | WRF | \$1,357,000 | \$1,223,646 | \$12,480,824 | 61 | 99 | n/a | 41 |
| 1998-99 | WRF | \$1,405,000 | \$1,405,615 | \$15,237,426 | 66 | 90 | n/a | 42 |
| 1999-00 | WRF | \$1,478,000 | \$1,478,000 | \$13,828,669 | 75 | 118 | n/a | 48 |
| 2000-01 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,472,602 | \$14,664,436 | 74 | 99 | n/a | 41 |
| 2001-02 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,440,969 | \$11,409,358 | 78 | 105 | n/a | 45 |
| 2002-03 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,470,899 | \$20,967,750 | 73 | 89 | n/a | 45 |
| 2003-04 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,660,858 | \$18,388,438 | 86 | 107 | n/a | 50 |
| 2004-05 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,705,078 | \$23,825,556 | 87 | 102 | n/a | 50 |
| 2005-06 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$810,855 | \$3,904,665 | 43 | 54 | n/a | 29 |
| 2006-07 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,452,845 | \$6,558,969 | 71 | 81 | n/a | 44 |
| 2007-08 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,492,839 | \$4,965,529 | 71 | 80 | n/a | 42 |
| 2008-09 | WRF | \$1,473,000 | \$1,570,305 | \$7,688,950 | 74 | 85 | 2 | 44 |
| 2009-10 | WRF | \$1,300,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$5,315,298 | 61 | 63 | 2 | 36 |
| 2010-11 | CIP | \$1,183,928 | \$1,183,928 | \$6,594,636 | 67 | 68 | 5 | 37 |
| 2011-12 | CIP | \$1,226,500 | \$1,226,500 | \$5,027,256 | 72 | 74 | 2 | 38 |
| 2012-13 | CIP | \$1,187,500 | \$1,187,500 | \$8,026,656 | 80 | 80 | 1 | 34 |
| 2013-14 | CIP | \$687,500 | \$687,500 | \$7,551,345 | 73 | 73 | 1 | 35 |
| 2014-15 | CIP | \$687,500 | \$687,499 | \$7,462,714 | 69 | 69 | 2 | 32 |
| 2015-16 | CIP | \$687,000 | \$685,000 | \$7,709,739 | 70 | 70 | 3 | 49 |
| 2016-17 | CIP | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$10,049,386 | 79 | 79 | 3 | 42 |
| 2017-18 | CIP | \$1,500,000 | \$1,347,255 | \$7,506,584 | 63 | 63 | 9 | 32 |
| 2018-19 | CIP | \$1,500,000 | \$1,435,866 | \$8,259,727 | 70 | 70 | 0 | 36 |
| | | \$111,957,928 | \$117,356,825 | \$519,541,030 | 66 | 6892 | 30 | 51 |

Notes: Table: Alberta International Development Program 1974-2019

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| * Funding | <i>WRF: Wild Rose Foundation; CIP: Community Initiatives Program</i> |
| 1996/7 - 1998/98 | <i>\$200,000 reallocated to International Association for Volunteer Effort '98 World Volunteer Conference</i> |
| Sept 2005 - Jan 2006 | <i>No grant activity as program put on hold by the Minister due to audit \$637,145 given to the WRF Quarterly Grant program for distribution, and \$25,000 underspend due to Ministerial Discretion. Recommendation for emergency relief that was not approved in time to be utilized from the budget year</i> |
| 2006-2007 | <i>Full grant not spent and dollars allocated to onsite review conducted by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (recommendation to conduct onsite by the Auditor General)</i> |
| 2017/18 - 2018/19 | <i>Budget underspent. "Non-Responsive"</i> |

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- 2 Alberta Culture and Tourism. Community Initiatives Program: International Development Stream Program Guidelines. May 2017. Online. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/a1482815-0727-4fc8-896d-a97b7facae5d/resource/ebel0f31-ac63-4eb9-8c5d-2d8cbf09f83c/download/cip-international-development-guidelines-2018.pdf>
- 3 Government of Alberta. Previous Grant Recipients Database. <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/env/previous-grant-recipients-database>
- 4 Auditor General Alberta. Annual Report of the Auditor General: 2004-2005. Online <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/90c5577c-0d5b-440e-84b7-c7101c902b2f/resource/bd1b1ebe-c4fc-40b7-8a19-67eb52a81b3b/download/2004-05oagar.pdf>
- 5 85 unique countries were assisted in 1984/5, the highest on record. As specific country data is not available prior to 2013, the number of unique countries assisted overall between 1974-2019 may be higher.
- 6 Global Affairs Canada. Project Browser. Online: <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets>





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