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ACGC

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

Our Vision

All people can fulfill their **potential and prosper**, become engaged citizens in **peaceful, just**, and **inclusive** societies, and thrive in a **healthy, sustainable** world.

Our Mission

Mobilize Albertans to become **global citizens** engaged in sustainable development. We do this by **building the capacity** of network organizations, **representing** members' interests with government and others, and increasing the **awareness, knowledge**, and **connections** of Albertans in global issues and sustainable development.

Our Values

Respect, Inclusiveness, Equality, Empowerment, Human Rights, Collaboration, Accountability, Transparency, Sustainability, and **Mutual Learning**.

ACGC at 50: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future

In 2023, ACGC proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary in Alberta's international cooperation sector. Originally known as the Alberta Committee of International Cooperation (ACIC), our mission was straightforward yet profound: **"Let us make no small plans. Let us work for a world in which people in all nations may live with dignity and respect"**.

Partnering with 41 agencies, churches, and organizations, ACIC spearheaded a successful campaign for a provincial matching grant program to support overseas relief and development. In November 1973, Premier Lougheed introduced a groundbreaking policy that matched every dollar donated by Alberta citizens to agencies involved in international development. With \$1 million raised and matched by the government, ACIC supported 58 transformative projects across 34 countries. This "Alberta experiment" set a precedent across Canada with councils in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario receiving matching grant support and commitments from their provincial governments to dedicate resources to international development.

Since then, we've never looked back.

Over the last five decades, ACGC has mobilized Albertan communities to engage with global issues and collaborated with hundreds of member organizations throughout the province. As we look forward to the next 50 years, ACGC remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the international cooperation sector in Alberta, expanding and supporting our membership, advocating for continued government support and inspiring future generations to take on the mantle of global partnership in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

This year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our Executive Director, Leah Ettarh, whose leadership and dedication over the past years have left an indelible mark on ACGC and the sector. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire us for years to come. As new leadership steps in to lead ACGC into a bold and dynamic future, we invite our member organizations to join us on this exciting journey. Together, let's honor the vision of our founders—ensuring dignity and respect for all!



Sandra Muchekeza, Executive Director & **Beverly Carrick**, Board Chair

Our Impact

2023-2024

294

ORGANIZATIONS
IMPACTED

6488

PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

4667

YOUTH
ENGAGED

422 946

REACHED
ONLINE

588

EDUCATORS
SUPPORTED

Results shown are from ACGC's Inspiring Action, Spur Change, and Community Impact projects.

Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

Formal and informal opportunities for learning are critical to building the capacity of organizations to ensure more effective community development. The ACGC Annual Conference 2023, themed 'Gender Equity in Action: Collaboration for change,' was held in Calgary and featured talks, workshops, and networking by leaders trailblazing the path to gender equity in the international cooperation sector.

Providing a platform for exchange, discussion and dialogue, where deep issues can be explored, is a critical function of the council. This programmatic year included many more opportunities to engage our members, partners, and larger communities. One of the forums of this engagement was in celebration of our organization's 50th anniversary; ACGC celebrated its 50th Anniversary on December 7, 2023, which will make the 2024/25 programmatic

year its official full year of operation at 50 years. Throughout the month of January, 2024, ACGC facilitated an interactive 50th anniversary digital campaign in recognition of the members, supporters, and partners who make up ACGC and its impact.

In January of 2023, ACGC undertook the Improving Digital Infrastructure for Community Impact project with funding from the [Government of Alberta's Civil Society Fund](#), in which we worked with 15 Alberta organizations to provide sustainable digital resources and equip these organizations to better reach their local and international communities. These resources primarily included new websites for each organization, as well as accompanying marketing tools and other digital assets, such as logo creation/refurbishment, domain registrations, and various minor account administration tasks/

troubleshooting. This project allowed us to connect one-on-one with many local organizations and work with them to provide concrete and sustainable digital solutions.

ACGC continued its tradition of supporting organizations during International Development Week (February 4-10, 2024) this year by funding public engagement events for Sombrilla International Development Society and Ubuntu

Mobilizing Central Alberta. ACGC also partnered with the Edmonton and Calgary Public Libraries to launch book lists focusing on climate justice to align with the 2024 Top 30 Under 30 campaign. It was certainly a very fruitful year, as we continued to prioritize bringing together communities of like-minded citizens to discuss emerging issues, building capacity, and learning from each other.



Description: Photo of the panel: Taking Action: Perspectives on Gender Equity from the ACGC Annual Conference 2023. From left to right: Dr. Aamir Jamal (University of Calgary), Alisa Tukkimaki (End FGM Canada Network), Gloria Anniva Wabwire (RaricaNow), and Rachel Levee (ACGC).

Engaging Youth in Meaningful Opportunities

Engaging youth in international cooperation and solidarity initiatives continues to be a priority of the council.

ACGC was pleased to run its youth experiential learning program, Global Connect, again this year. This program continues to engage youth in dialogue and practical hands-on learning to deepen understanding of international cooperation by traveling across Alberta, meeting with Alberta-based international cooperation organizations, and with community leaders. One of these youths was selected as a 2024 Top 30 Under 30 award recipient.

Our deep engagement work continues to be complemented by our Top 30 Under 30 recognition, which this year showcased youth taking meaningful action on SDG 13, 14, and 15 - collectively under the umbrella of “climate justice”. The Top 30 celebration was held in person with the 13th annual event

taking place in Edmonton, welcoming Jyoti Gondek, the Mayor of Calgary, representatives from the city of Edmonton (Councillor Jennifer Rice) and Government of Canada (Member of Parliament and former ACGC Executive Director Heather McPherson), as well as an international Top 30 youth, Wannet Dim, who joined us from Cambodia.

Another mandate we hold is ensuring that young Albertans engage in forums where they can contribute perspectives and share their knowledge. Each year, ACGC takes applications from members and partners of our international cooperation community and selects one person to participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This year, Asmaa Ali was selected to travel to the UN Headquarters in New York and participate in CSW68, standing out for her many achievements in academia, her field of work, and for

her work within the local International Cooperation Community. Throughout her experience at CSW68, Asmaa reported back to us on her thoughts and experiences, many of which were shared live across our social media accounts.

As our programs shift and change, we continue to evolve our programming in order to respond to the needs of youth and strengthen our approach.

Description: Photo from the 2023 Global Connect tour around Alberta. Top row, left to right: Somtochukwu Ezeigwe, Maria Cristancho (CAUSE Canada), Esther Muloki, Wendy Fehr (CAUSE Canada), Precious Majekodunmi, Harveen Saini, Karla Marquez (Sombrilla). Bottom row, left to right: Hope Salim (ACGC), Favour Ajakaiye, Wajed El-Halabi (ACGC).



Supporting Global Citizenship Education

As COVID-related restrictions and other impacts on our local schools lessened, we continued to increase our support and opportunities for educators and school-aged children and youth. ACGC has continued to support an educator community of practice, offering opportunities for educators to learn from each other as well as from ACGC member organizations on global citizenship education and emerging global issues. We continue to work with the Center for Global Education to host these virtual dialogues.

In 2022, ACGC developed do-it-yourself media kits based on the 'A Better World is InSight' project in partnership with the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) and the Manitoba

Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), which allowed us to deliver a form of the original project in a more succinct and accessible format for use in the classroom. This year, we completed the roll-out of these media kits, which included a guidebook and cardboard viewers compatible with cell phones that provided an immersive video experience for students. With the Calgary and Edmonton teachers' conventions continuing in-person, we were able to set up booths to showcase and distribute the kits to interested schools.

ACGC will continue to support school communities by offering resources, opportunities for dialogues, and providing connections to organizations working internationally.

National Collaboration for a Stronger Sector

ACGC continues to play an active role in international and social development activities on a national level in order to bring the perspective of Alberta-based organizations to nation-wide conversations, and to ensure this information is shared back within Alberta.

In celebration of the annually held International Development Week (IDW), we had the opportunity this year to organize a networking event for members of our active international community in Edmonton. The diversity of representation at this event allowed our community to share their perspectives with the Global Affairs Canada team, including its highest representative, Minister Ahmed Hussein. The event took place at Action Skills Lab on February 7th as part of the IDW agenda.

Advocating for stable and increased funding to support global partners continues to be a priority concern in national conversations, and the ICN continues their work to showcase the impact SMOs and their partners are making around the world, and to advocate for continued support. In practice, this includes programs and projects such as completing the implementation of the training series decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist public engagement; Coordinating a delegate of 9 youths from across Canada to participate in the [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW68\)](#) in New York; Collaborate with the councils to produce the [Recipes for Change](#) project for IDW 2024; Training council staff on the Most Significant Change Approach, and more throughout the 2023-2024 programmatic year.



Description: Photo from Change for Children and the Alberta Teachers' Association Spur Sparks conference event in Red Deer, AB. The event brought together Alberta-based educators and education leaders in Nicaragua and was held in collaboration with Spur Change.

Through the ICN's Spur Change program, managed by ACGC, on a national scale we are able to support SMOs through knowledge sharing and capacity building and engage young people as global citizens. This past year was very eventful with a [regional conference series](#), trainings from coast to coast to coast for [small and medium organizations \(SMOs\)](#) and for educators, the conclusion of the [Youth Champions Program](#) (equipping young people in Canada and internationally with the skills and tools to promote the SDGs), and a [webinar series](#) highlighting the vital impact of SMOs in

the international cooperation sector. As a pilot program alongside the [Fund for Innovation and Transformation \(FIT\)](#) under Global Affairs Canada's [Small and medium organizations for impact and innovation initiative](#), we were thrilled the program received a no-cost extension for another year of programming and are excited to continue promoting sustainable results and cooperation on a national level.

Our Finances

2023-2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

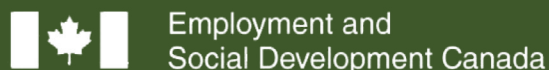
AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 821,739	\$ 587,016
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	29,769	17,531
Prepaid expenses and deposits	421	2,151
	851,929	606,698
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)		
	1,727	1,952
	\$ 853,656	\$ 608,650
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 120,321	\$ 67,957
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	439,880	338,048
	560,201	406,005
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	1,727	1,952
Internally restricted (Note 6)	189,977	116,517
Unrestricted	101,751	84,176
	293,455	202,645
	\$ 853,656	\$ 608,650

For full audited statements visit
<https://acgc.ca/about-us/our-finances-and-policies/>

Our Funders

ACGC is appreciative of the support from the following institutional partners that made our work possible during the year.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
GAC grant: Spur Change (Note 6)	\$ 1,107,664	\$ 912,831
GAC grant: Inspiring Action	551,042	569,079
Civil Society Fund	164,150	6,230
Canada Summer Jobs	4,696	4,641
Alberta SDG Hub	-	58,401
SDG Awards	-	10,253
Interest income	2,931	1,494
Donations	40	40
Memberships	-	9,298
Workshop income	-	1,000
	1,830,523	1,573,267
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits (Note 9)	997,290	838,670
Subcontractors	302,646	118,888
Travel	190,666	212,946
Events	92,836	183,297
Administrative	82,375	79,440
Communications and publications	72,504	66,156
Amortization	1,396	1,553
	1,739,713	1,500,950
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 90,810	\$ 72,317

Our Leadership

CHAIR

Beverley Carrick – *Embrace International Foundation*

VICE-CHAIR

Daniel Zopoula – *Bridges of Hope*

TREASURER

Aditya Chaudhuri – *Engineers Without Borders - Calgary Professional Chapter*

SECRETARY

Shaka Ceesay – *Foundation for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Initiatives*

MEMBER AT LARGE

Lindsey Machona-Maenzanise – *Expand Hope*

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Paulina Lazarini – *Sombrilla International Development Society*

Murwarid Ziayee – *Right to Learn Afghanistan*

Kristin Poch – *Operation Eyesight Universal*

Benazir Rahman – *University of Calgary International*

Maria Cristancho – *CAUSE Canada*

Karen Joe – *Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology*

Greg Sowak – *NorQuest International*

Farhan Mujahid Chak – *Islamic Relief Canada*

Sandra Muchekeza – *ACGC Executive Director*

Our Partners

ACGC is a member of the **Inter-Council Network (ICN)**, a coalition of the eight Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation. ACGC operates the *Spur Change* program on behalf of the ICN and also collaborates with the *Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)*, operated by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on behalf of the ICN, promoting knowledge sharing within Alberta. ACGC is also a member of **Cooperation Canada**, a coalition of Canadian civil-society organizations working in the international development and humanitarian sector.



Accreditations

Fair Trade Workplace: ACGC is proud to be a Fair Trade Workplace certified by the Canadian Fair Trade Network.

United Nations ECOSOC: As of June 2019, ACGC holds Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Alberta Living Wage Employer: ACGC is a Living Wage Employer in the Province of Alberta.



Commitments

As a member of **Cooperation Canada**, ACGC adheres to its Code of Ethics, which ACGC has adopted as its own. ACGC is also a signatory of the *Leaders' Pledge on Addressing and Preventing Sexual Misconduct*, and the *Anti-Racism Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector*.

Our Members



Calgary Board of Education



Our Members





ACGC
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