

Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

Leaders of tomorrow partner with leaders of today for more just, equitable and sustainable communities.



Our Mission

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation is a coalition of individuals, organisations and institutions working in the Atlantic region to build and model just, equitable and sustainable communities, locally and globally. ACIC connects leadership across generations by strengthening members and partners, bridging dialogue and building networking and learning opportunities. ACIC also represents and amplifies the voice of Atlantic Canada and connects the Atlantic with other provincial, national and international stakeholders.



Our Values

We aspire to be an organisation that not only addresses local and global challenges but transforms them. We embody the core values we believe are needed as the foundation upon which we build and model more just, equitable, and sustainable communities.



At ACIC, we value:

- **Courageous and Difficult Conversations:** Our willingness to openly engage in difficult conversations in order to address complex issues and tackle challenges head-on fosters an environment of growth, learning, and mutual understanding. By embodying empathy and creating space for courageous and necessary conversations, we foster an environment where difference contributes to growth rather than division.
- **Decolonization, Anti-racism and Feminism:** These values guide our commitment to dismantling systemic inequalities, addressing racism, and championing gender equality. This commitment extends beyond the organisation, influencing member organisations, youth and partners.
- **Intersectionality:** We celebrate the richness of diverse experiences and strive to build connections, solutions, and offerings that honour the complexity of individual lives and global issues. Our commitment lies in being an organisation that genuinely represents and addresses the multifaceted nature of challenges and lived experiences, and creates opportunities for individuals to thrive as their whole selves.
- **Cultivating Care, Joy, and Connection:** We strive to foster a culture where we actively create and sustain a community grounded in care, joy, and connection. We prioritise recognizing the human dimension of our collective efforts, and acknowledge that how we care for each other is also reflected in how we care for the environment and all living things.



- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Accessibility:** We are committed to ensuring that opportunities, information, and resources are accessible, and that the spaces we cultivate together are safe, open and inclusive. Our commitment to equity drives us to actively foster diverse perspectives and experiences within our community.
- **Lived Experience in all its Forms:** Elevating the value of lived experiences and embracing diverse voices enriches our understanding, empowering us to create solutions that resonate with the communities we serve.
- **Radical Ideas and Transformational Actions:** We embrace transformative actions and radical ideas to tackle global challenges head-on and create spaces for those ideas and actions to come to life.
- **Lifelong Reflection & Learning:** Prioritizing constant reflection and learning is a cornerstone value for ACIC. Central to the organisation is an unwavering dedication to ongoing self-assessment, learning, and improvement, for the organisation as a whole but also the individuals that are connected to it. By embracing this core value, we ensure that the organisation remains responsive, dynamic, and continuously evolving.
- **Justice Through Participation:** We are dedicated to dismantling systemic disparities by fostering an environment where power, wealth, and access to resources and opportunities are distributed justly. We strive to strengthen our network's ability to actively challenge and seek to rectify imbalances, while ensuring that every member of our community has a stake and voice in decision-making processes.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** We prioritise accountability and transparency, considering them essential pillars of our organisational values. We commit to openly communicating our decisions and processes, fostering trust and informed collaboration with our partners and collaborators. Through accountability, we take responsibility for the impact of our actions, viewing challenges as opportunities for growth and continuous improvement.

Who We Are



At ACIC, we are a dynamic collective. Our strength lies in the diversity of our community, each group contributing a unique perspective, experience, and passion to our shared mission.

As a coalition, we are made up of, and aim to consult, serve and impact the following groups, while also co-creating our work and imagined future together - they are our ***Communities of Focus***.

Members: Members form a diverse and engaged community, bringing unique perspectives and experiences to the heart of our mission, and leading change initiatives all around the world.

ACIC Staff: Committed and skilled professionals, our staff members are the driving force behind the implementation and realization of our initiatives.

Board of Directors: Our Board of Directors comprises visionary leaders who steer our organisation with expertise, ensuring sound governance and adherence to our mission and values.

Youth & Program Alumni: Youth and program alumni actively contribute fresh perspectives and experiences, and embody the lasting impact of our programs on future generations.

Partners & Collaborators: Partners and collaborators play a pivotal role in fostering meaningful relationships and leading innovative endeavours.

Atlantic Canadian Public: The Atlantic Canadian public represents the broader community we serve, contributing to the collective effort of fostering justice, equity and sustainability both locally and globally.



Centred in Our Work

Our strategic directions are purposeful in their design to impact each of the aforementioned communities of focus.

Based on our values of intersectionality, diversity, and a commitment to equitable representation, ACIC is dedicated to purposefully allocating resources and attention to equity deserving groups, and actively consulting them in organisational and programmatic decisions. This is to ensure our work is in service of, and alongside groups that have been historically disadvantaged in the international cooperation space. This includes Indigenous communities; Immigrant, Newcomer, Refugee and Diaspora Communities; and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, and other equity deserving groups.

In doing so, we recognise that the intersectional nature of our work requires tailored approaches, intentional engagement, recruitment and partnership development, and requires additional resources. This intentional approach ensures that our strategic directions are cross-representative, accounting for the multifaceted impact we seek to achieve.

OUR FIVE-YEAR OUTLOOK

Our work over the coming five years is focused on fostering just, equitable, and sustainable communities, both locally and globally. Guided by this vision for the present and the future, our core values will guide us in our relationships, planning, programs, and operations. Our strategic directions will be achieved alongside, and in service to our Communities of Focus and those centred in our work.



DECOLONIZATION & ANTI-RACISM

ACIC advances its commitment to decolonization and anti-racism, and supports sector wide advances, through transparent learning, sharing, policy changes, and active engagement.

Establishing a Leading Learning Environment:

Elevate ACIC's commitment by fostering a culture of transparency, sharing learnings, and encouraging continuous education on decolonization and anti-racism both within and beyond the organisation.

Linking Training Initiatives to Real-world Impact:

Bridge the gap between equity training and tangible policy changes, ensuring that anti-racist and decolonizing efforts translate into practical actions, benefitting not only ACIC but also its member organisations.



ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

ACIC has championed, celebrated and advocated for the sector, and its efforts have directly influenced public policy for just, equitable, and sustainable solutions.

Strengthening Advocacy Efforts:

With a focus on SMOs and post-secondary institutions, advocate on behalf of the Atlantic Canadian development sector to policy makers at all levels of government.

Enhancing Public Policy Discourse:

Facilitate discourse that leads to actionable outcomes and policy recommendations, strengthening the link between public engagement and impactful policy changes.



NURTURED PARTNERSHIPS

ACIC has cultivated a collaborative and strong sector ecosystem by nurturing existing relationships and partnerships, and developing new ones through focused engagement and targeted outreach.

Facilitating Reciprocal Engagement:

Foster a culture of reciprocity by actively engaging with partners, recognizing collaboration as a two-way commitment.

Focusing Outreach and Connections:

Centre and allocate additional resources for engagement with Indigenous communities, Immigrant, Newcomer, Refugee and Diaspora Communities; and LGBTQ2SIA+ communities, as well as other underrepresented communities and groups.



COALITION CAPACITY, CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

ACIC has strengthened sector capacity, connection and collaboration through enhanced engagement, targeted capacity building, and comprehensive mentorship and peer-learning.

Tailoring Capacity Building Programs:

Identify and address specific capacity gaps through targeted training, involving members, youth and partners in shaping customised programs.

Developing Mentorship and Peer-Learning Initiatives:

Establish structured mentorship offerings connecting diverse demographics within the coalition, fostering mutual support and shared learning.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVATION

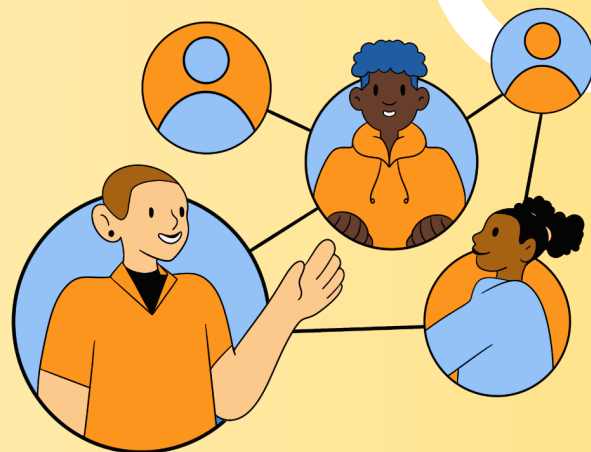
ACIC has created and maintained pathways for knowledge exchange and meaningful discussions on international cooperation in Atlantic Canada, leading to active participation and mobilization through tangible actions.

Diversifying Engagement Points:

Expand the range and format of events and points of engagement in order to reach diverse audiences.

Working Across Generations and Fields:

Position ACIC as a central engagement hub, fostering collaboration, networking, and resource-sharing among youth and program alumni, members, partners and collaborators.



STORYTELLING & IMPACT

The visibility and influence of the ACIC coalition is amplified as a result of articulating the impacts made by the Atlantic Canadian development sector.

Amplifying Coalition Impacts:

Strategically highlight the impactful work, achievements, and expertise of members, partners, and youth across diverse channels.

Enhancing Outreach and Visibility:

Strengthen the organisation's presence in the Atlantic region through purposeful media engagements and communications outreach.

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING

ACIC's organisational culture and operations are resilient, thriving, well-supported, and sustainable.

Optimizing Organisational Impact:

Ensure staff capacity is focused on impactful initiatives aligned with the organisation's mission. Allocate necessary resources and time for meaningful relationship-building, extending the organisation's reach across Atlantic Canada.

Diversifying for Longevity:

Continue to explore funding from diverse sources, including consortium funding, in order to fortify the organisation's financial resilience.

