



2019-2020

IN REVIEW

ACIC  **CACI**

ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
CONSEIL ATLANTIQUE POUR LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

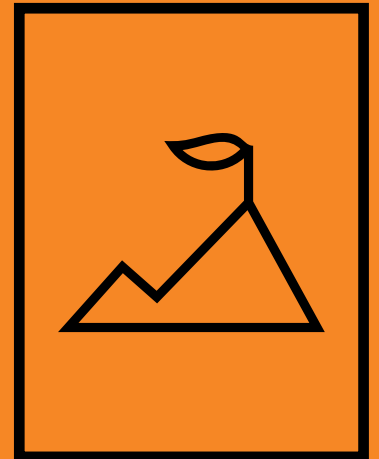


Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

Our Mission

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) is a coalition of individuals, organizations 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 Strategic Plan



In 2019, ACIC adopted a new strategic plan, aimed at: strengthening member and partner effectiveness, sense of community and peer learning; amplifying the voice and reach of the Atlantic development sector within national development dialogue; and strengthening and recognizing youth leadership.

This report covers activities that took place between July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 along this strategic plan. The financial statements at the end cover the period of July 2019 to June 2020.

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Photo by Charlotte Peng, 2020. Charlotte was one of the participants of the International Volunteer Day Photovoice project that ACIC hosted.

2019-20 Report

From the Executive Director and Board Chair



Jennifer Slood
Executive Director

The past 18 months have been a tumultuous time, but despite the uncertainty, ACIC has continued to keep our vision in focus: “Leaders of tomorrow partner with leaders of today for a more just, equitable and sustainable communities”. We have continued to support our membership in connecting with and supporting youth, by undertaking joint programming, providing capacity building activities and ensuring that youth have a voice at the table, though our events, delegations and research.



Fredrick Wangabo
Mwenengabo
Chair, Board of Directors

During this time, ACIC has been working on three large-scale initiatives – the International Internships for Indigenous Youth Program (IIYY), the Inspiring Action Program (IAGC), and the Inter-Council Network program (ICN), which has seen ACIC become the new host. These three projects, alongside some smaller scale initiatives, such as our International Volunteer Day project (hosted in partnership with the government of Nova Scotia), have all seen significant shifts due to COVID-19 and the global pandemic. We know that our membership has also pivoted their work, and to better understand the challenges we have collectively faced and the innovation that is present in our adaptations and changes, ACIC conducted a study, “Atlantic Resilience: Creativity, Adaptation and Challenges – Lessons from Atlantic Canada”. This research has provided us data and stories that we have shared with government and other stakeholders.

Our services to our membership remain front and foremost. Through capacity building endeavours, networking meetings, our symposia and collaborative projects such as International Development Week, the Members PE Fund or our Southern Speakers Fund project, we continue to engage with and support our members, in their very important work.

Our strategic focus on engaging and supporting youth has become even more important during this global pandemic. Between June 2019 and February 2020, we were able to engage with youth throughout the Atlantic region through our Act 4 Global Change suite of programs; but as lockdowns emerged, we quickly pivoted our work to continue to engage and support youth, but virtually. Our Youth Photovoice Project is one such example (see p. 12) where we connected with youth through photovoice to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on wellbeing, but also to support and document the unique experience of Atlantic Canadian youth during this time. Through our youth internship program, we wrapped up a successful cohort of 18 Indigenous youth in December 2019, thankfully before the pandemic hit. Along with other youth programs, we have adapted our work in this program to build momentum for the next round of internships through a virtual Indigenous Youth Global Leadership Program.

Through our work with the ICN, we have worked with the other provincial and regional councils to deliver a successful program that includes capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and thought leadership (primarily within the context of Public Engagement). We have hosted webinars, created policy briefs and met with Global Affairs and other government departments to dialogue about the importance of Public Engagement, particularly at a time where global solidarity is of utmost importance.

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank our many constituents – our 70+ members, our partners in Canada and across the globe, our board and committee volunteers, the other provincial and regional councils that make up the ICN, and lastly the staff team at ACIC, who continue to go above and beyond in their efforts. We look forward to more success in 2021!

Board of Directors

2019-20

Fredrick Wangabo Mwenengabo

Chair & NB Representative,
ECAAIR (Eastern and Central African
Association for Indigenous Rights)

Valeri Pilgrim

Secretary & Director-at-Large
Individual Member, NL

Shelagh Savage

Treasurer & NS Representative
Individual Member, NS

Ashley Childs

Director-at-Large,
The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
(Jul 2020 - Nov 2020)

Eric Smith

Director-at-Large,
Coady International Institute

Jillian Kilfoil

PEI Representative
Women's Network PEI (WNPEI)

Mica McCurdy

NL Representative
Memorial University NL
Internationalization Office

Laura Hunter

Director-at-Large,
Maritime Conference,
United Church of Canada

Scott Smith

Director-at-Large,
LAMP (Latin American Mission Program)

Staff

2019-20

ACIC Staff:

Executive Director

Jennifer Slood

Training and Development Manager

Janelle Frail

Program Manager (Youth)

Jackie Dowling

Rachel Morgan (Jun 2019 to Jun 2020)

Provincial Coordinators

Sam Morton, NL

Selvi Roy, PEI

Martine Panzica, NS (June 2019 March
2020)

Ross Kinney, NB (Sept to Feb 2020)

Finance and Administration Officer

Jade Ilagan

Wissam Issa (May 2018 to May 2020)

Communications Officer (ACIC and ICN)

Raushni Abraham

Sam Krueger (Jun 2019 to March 2020)

Financial Administrator

Huan Hong Xie

Inter-Council Network Staff:

National Program Manager

Sherry Stevenson

Policy Officer

Judyannet Muchiri

Tina Renier (Jan 2020 to October 2020)

International Internships for

Indigenous Youth Staff:

Program Manager

Lee-Anne Lavell

We are thankful to Canada Summer
Jobs, the Nova Scotia provincial
government and Nova Scotia
Community College's Co-op placement
for additional funding that helped us
engage youth in various opportunities:

Alison Horton | Program Support
Assistant

Ashley Beairsto | Communications
Assistant

Emma Craig | Communications
Assistant

Lindsay Vandewater | Program
Support Assistant

Lauren Tilley | Program Support
Assistant

Membership

2019-20

INDIVIDUALS:

- ◇ Angela Léger
- ◇ Anuj Charan
- ◇ Arielle Regan
- ◇ Carolyn Brown
- ◇ Catherine Ronahan
- ◇ Darlene Doiron
- ◇ Della Webster
- ◇ Grace Allen
- ◇ Ilaria Pivi
- ◇ Jean McCardle
- ◇ Jennifer Elms
- ◇ Jesse Lalonde
- ◇ John Cameron Dale
- ◇ Jonathan Ferguson
- ◇ Joy Hecht
- ◇ Keith Forsyth
- ◇ Kevin Deveaux
- ◇ Lindsey Edney
- ◇ Louise Webb
- ◇ Marian Lucas-Jefferies
- ◇ Mary Jane Harkins
- ◇ Mary Rigby
- ◇ Perla Hernandez
- ◇ Pete Day
- ◇ Prem Kumar SR Marisa
- ◇ Sandra Juarez Reyes
- ◇ Saurabh Kulkarni
- ◇ Shelagh Savage
- ◇ Su Alteen
- ◇ Suraj Baral
- ◇ Susan Hartley
- ◇ Suzan Kamel Marie
- ◇ Teresa Lush
- ◇ Valeri Pilgrim
- ◇ Vicky Schreiber
- ◇ Ying Zhang

ORGANIZATIONS:

- ◇ Amnesty International Maritimes
- ◇ Atlantic Region of the United Church of Canada
- ◇ Breaking the Silence Maritimes-Guatemala Solidarity Network
- ◇ Campbell Webster Foundation
- ◇ Canadian Red Cross
- ◇ Centre for Nursing Studies: International Office/ Eastern Health
- ◇ Chalice Canada
- ◇ Coady International Institute
- ◇ Community Forests International
- ◇ Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- ◇ Conservation Council of New Brunswick
- ◇ Cooper Institute
- ◇ Dalhousie University, Global Health Office
- ◇ Dalhousie University, Office of Research Services
- ◇ Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture International Office
- ◇ Dalhousie University, International Development Studies (IDS) Department
- ◇ Development and Peace (CCODP)
- ◇ East and Central African Association for Indigenous Rights (ECAAIR)
- ◇ Engage Nova Scotia
- ◇ Farmers Helping Farmers
- ◇ GPI Atlantic
- ◇ Help 2 Overcome Society (H2O)
- ◇ International Development Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS)
- ◇ International Sustainable Community Assistance (ISCA)
- ◇ Latin American Mission Program (LAMP)
- ◇ Marine Institute International
- ◇ Memorial University, Internationalization Office
- ◇ Mennonite Central Committee
- ◇ Mikinduri Children of Hope
- ◇ New Brunswick Community College (NBCC)
- ◇ Nova Scotia Community College, Centre for International Activities
- ◇ ONE
- ◇ Oxfam Canada
- ◇ Saint Mary's University, Global Learning and Intercultural Support Office
- ◇ Tatamagouche Centre
- ◇ University of New Brunswick - Fredericton
- ◇ University of PEI
- ◇ Venture2Impact
- ◇ Women's Network PEI
- ◇ WUSC (World University Service of Canada)



Communication

1159 POSTS

6009 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

9135 ENGAGEMENT



30,296 users
68,050 pageviews



2358 followers
4020 engagement



2,247 users
986 engagements



940 followers
3856 engagements



30,296 users
68,050 pageviews



973 subscribers
Monthly newsletters

ACIC's communication efforts are driven by its new strategic plan. We profile our members' work, opportunities, and programs through the 'From Our Members' series. We also profile sector initiatives including capacity building opportunities, grants, and other community and peer learning opportunities through our 'From The Sector' series. Since June 2020, we have highlighted antiracism resources through our 'Social Justice Tuesdays' campaign, which highlights resources that speak to a feminist perspective. The last year also saw campaigns run to highlight youth voices. For example, to launch PhotoVoices, ACIC partnered with Inspiring Communities highlighting 36 photographs taken by the youth. We also continue to regularly engage with our membership through our social media channels, and highlight their work through our monthly newsletter.

* 'Engagement' includes the sum of reactions, shares, and comments on social media posts.

Symposia

Varying Perspectives. Engaging Speakers.

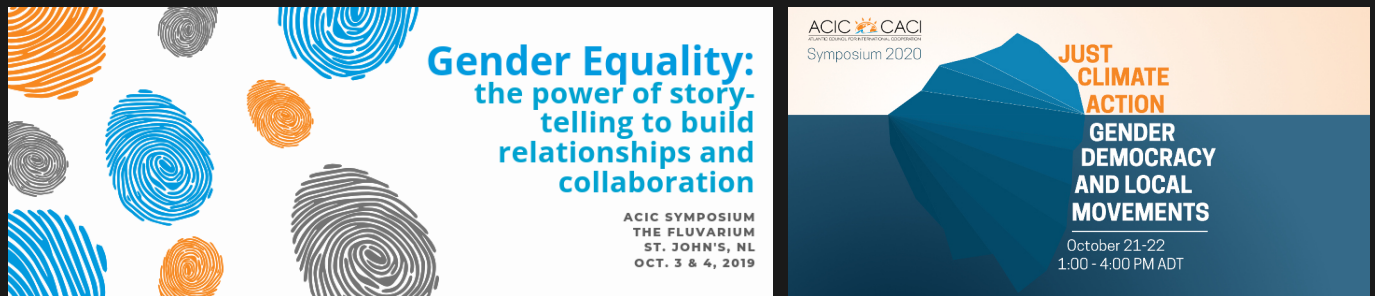


Photo: Promotional images for ACIC Symposium 2019 and 2020 respectively.

In fall 2019, ACIC held its annual symposium on **Gender Equality: The Power of Storytelling to Build Relationships and Collaboration**. The Symposium, held in St. John's, Newfoundland, offered opportunities for capacity building through keynote, panels, and workshops, and networking opportunities for 46 attendees.

Sister Lissy Chako delivered the keynote address – made possible in partnership with ACIC member Chalice Canada, and through the Southern Speakers Fund – on 'Gender Equality at the Grassroots Level in India.' Evaluations of the symposium were overwhelmingly positive, with the energy, knowledge and perspective of the panelists being a key highlight for most attendees.

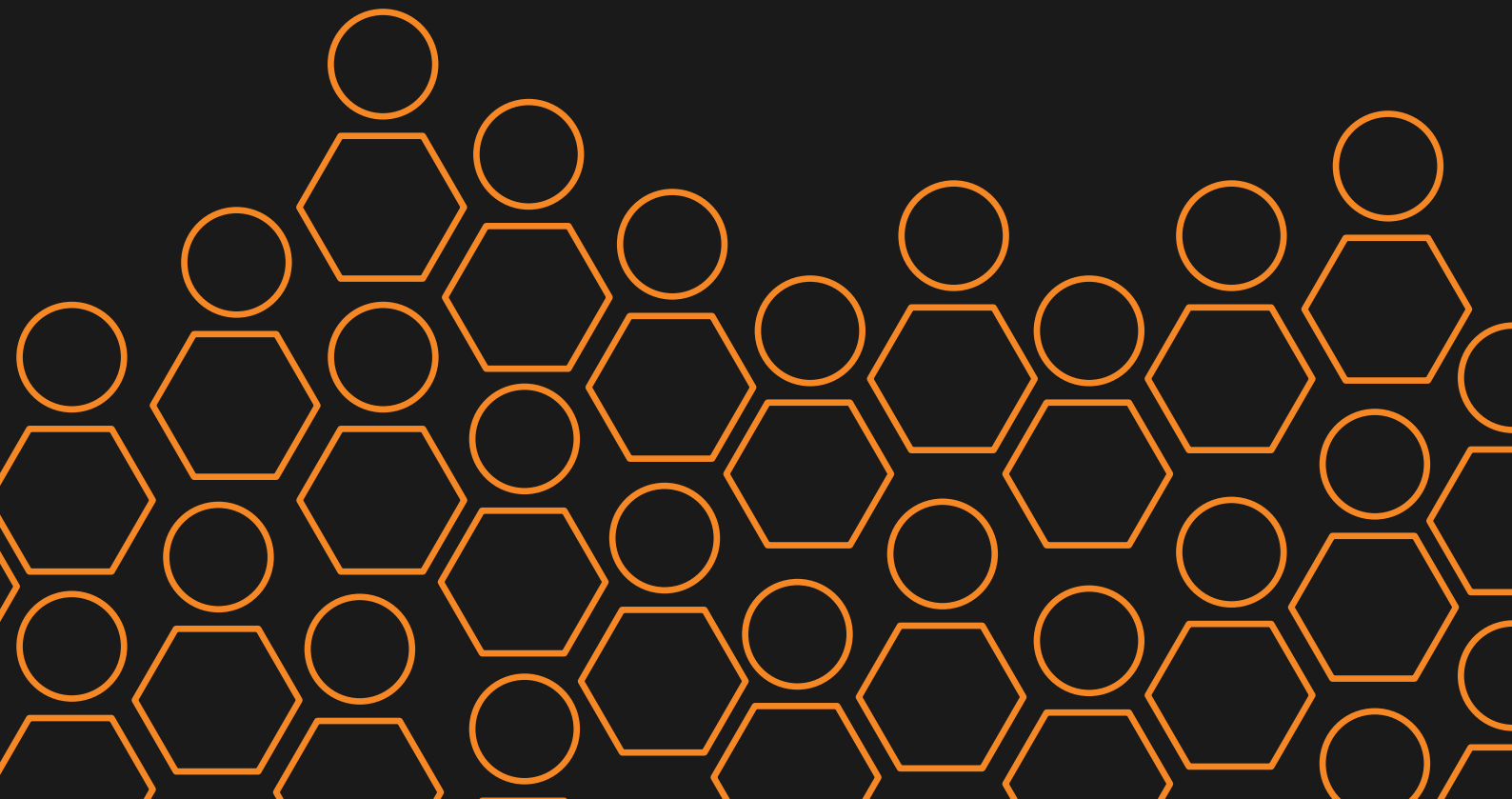
The **2020 Symposium** saw the world going online, bringing with it a unique opportunity of more accessible connections. Titled '**Just Climate Action: Gender, Democracy and Local Movements**' the 2020 ACIC Symposium stressed the importance of a global community response with speakers and panelists from Atlantic Canada, Guyana, Kenya and Uganda. The Symposium also featured a youth delegation of 10 youth from Atlantic Canada, Guyana, Haiti and Peru. The delegation discussed climate justice work in Canada and the Global South, the Sustainable Development Goals, and international cooperation, while reflecting on how this work impacts communities at the local and global levels.

Over four sessions, panelists and attendees discussed what a climate just world looks like, how we create such a world, and why the climate crisis a human rights crisis. In her widely liked – as evidenced by the evaluation report – and anticipated keynote address, Dr. Ingrid Waldron discussed the ENRICH project's work on environmental racism in Nova Scotia, its impact on communities in the Atlantic Canadian provinces, and steps on how attendees can help.



“We’ve heard stories of environmental racism in Mi’kma’ki and further away. Of the disastrous effects of climate change in Nunatsiavut, Kenya, Guyana and beyond. But we’ve also heard **stories of community and cooperation**. Of people building inter-generational bridges, working with women who are on the ground, who are the context experts. And being connected with content experts: the academics and advocates, who can support them. We’ve heard stories of **how we can build hope and unite voices through resisting systems of inequality, oppression and power.**”

- Speaker, ACIC Symposium 2020



Atlantic Resilience

Understanding and Learning from the Pandemic

In June 2020, faced with a global pandemic and recognizing the challenges faced by our membership, ACIC conducted a study to understand the impact of the pandemic on the work of our members, and their organizational and community response. A preliminary report was launched in August 2020 in order to share learnings, resources, and best practices that have emerged. Forty semi-structured interviews were conducted within a three-week timeframe. The researchers employed a semi-grounded theory approach to identify themes as they emerged.

The preliminary findings were presented to the membership in a webinar discussing the report, which was attended by 23 members in August 2020. The preliminary findings discussed [a\) virtual programming and events](#), [b\) travel](#), [c\) gender](#), [d\) localisation](#), and [e\) infrastructure and funding](#). Discussions in the webinar indicated resonance with the themes and brought up further questions the study could focus on. A full report will be published in 2021.



“The closure of schools to control COVID-19 transmission has a differential effect on women economically, given their role in providing most of the informal care within families, with consequences that limit their work and economic opportunities. In general the outbreak experience means that [women’s domestic burden becomes exacerbated as well](#), making their share of [household responsibilities even heavier](#), and for [many while they also work full time.](#)”

- From the Atlantic Resilience Report, 2020

International Development Week

#GoForTheGoals

15
EVENTS

12,948
DIRECT REACH

117,000
INDIRECT REACH

The year 2020 marked 30 years of International Development Week. ACIC and members organized events and engagement activities to celebrate the theme: Go For The Goals. Some of the key engagement activities included: the #UNIGNORABLE# campaign by Student United Way; a film screening and discussion at St. John's Farmers' Market; a film production workshop; a town hall meeting; introduction to SDGs workshops; poetry recitals and musical evenings; and panel discussions.

In fall 2020, ACIC and its members started preparation for the International Development Week 2021 With the same theme, 'Go For The Goals.' The mostly virtual engagement activities will aim to engage a wider audience and shed light on the fallout of the pandemic, the gaps it has exposed and the importance of using the sustainable development goals as a roadmap to a socially just world.

Photo by Grace Gillis for the Atlantic Youth Weavers' Photovoice Project.



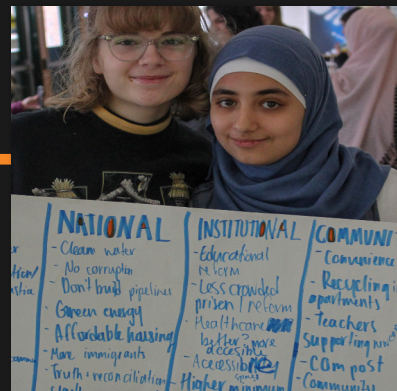
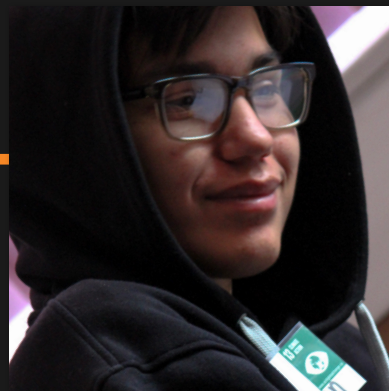
Atlantic Youth #GoForTheGoals

During IDW 2020, there were 13 youth-led events funded by ACIC, drawing a total 348 attendees. IDW Youth events were funded between \$200-\$600 and were implemented by youth ages 15-28. Youth were successful in attracting high profile speakers and participants. In addition by using their voices on various social media platforms youth from all four provinces in the Atlantic, helped generate awareness and broaden the reach of their IDW events, global issues in general and ACIC's mandate.

Youth Conference

The ACT4GlobalChange conference is a place for youth to partake in experiential learning opportunities that encourage deepened engagement on local, regional and global issues. The conference took place in November 2019, in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, with 38 participants joining from the four Atlantic provinces. 79% of the youth came from underrepresented backgrounds. The three day conference included eight workshops on global issues. Some of the sessions focused on: the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Introduction to the SDGs, Forced to Fight (Red Cross), Quality Education (Ore Joda), and Immigration and Activism (Let's Sprout).

ACIC received additional funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest, The United Church of Canada, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, and PAL Airlines, which helped make the conference a success and was widely appreciated by participants.



Photos by Tedi Buffett of ACT4GlobalChange participants engaging in experiential learning opportunities over the three-days conference.

International Volunteer Day

Celebrating and Capturing the Importance Of Volunteering



Photos from IVD 2019 and 2020: Photos from Sarah Paraisio, Lydia Mazel, Lynn Matheson (clockwise).

The International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2019 celebration curated an exhibition of photos from volunteer placements, and a line-up of speakers and storytellers, who narrated the exhibit and spoke about the value of volunteerism. The photo competition had six winning photos selected by an all-youth selection panel. ACIC also organized a IVD Travel Grant. Two successful applicants – Indigo Christ and Courtney Law – were selected to split the ACIC IVD Travel Grant of \$4,000, and conducted work in Cuba and Guatemala.

For IVD 2020, 17 volunteers from across the Atlantic provinces used photojournalism techniques to tell their stories of volunteering locally and the effect it has globally, capturing how volunteering looks different in the time of COVID-19. In December 2020, all the photos were curated into an e-gallery and were launched in an event featuring seven selected volunteers. The launch event was attended by 38 people.

The International Volunteer Day celebrations are held each year in partnership with Nova Scotia's Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage.

My Voice Counts

In fall 2020, ACIC launched the My Voice Counts initiative – an interactive workshop that provides youth with an opportunity to explore how the global pandemic has impacted gender and climate change. Workshops began in December 2020 and will continue into spring 2021. The workshop will focus on discussion among peers to explore and identify trends (both positive and challenging) which have emerged in the pandemic. Through thought provoking activities, youth will learn more about Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 13 (Climate Action) and will create messages that express the importance of youth voice being present at decision-making tables.



ACT 4 Global Change 2020-21

MY VOICE COUNTS

Youth perspectives on how the global pandemic has impacted gender and climate change in their communities

Atlantic Youthweavers Photovoice Project

The Atlantic Youth Weavers (AYW) Photovoice project connected sixteen Atlantic Canadian youth in an eight-week, honorarium-based project, which explored what resilience looks like from a youth perspective.

Launched on May 12th, 2020, the project was built on the core tenets of Participatory Action Research: 1) democratic, participatory pathway for community reflection and expression; 2) equal access to liberties, rights, and opportunities; 3) investigating root causes of problems that directly impact communities; and 4) taking action: reaching policymakers and stakeholders to catalyze change.

Sixteen youth, from diverse backgrounds, captured images that emote what it means to be a changemaker. In a convening session in summer 2020, the photographs taken by the youth were curated into an e-gallery and launched in a convening session attended by 25 attendees, including policy leaders, decision makers and thought leaders from across Canada.

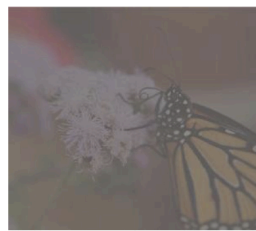
AYW was a joint initiative between Inspiring Communities initiative WeavEast and ACIC. Funding was provided by the McConnell Foundation, Global Affairs Canada through ACIC, and Inspiring Communities.

COLLECTION

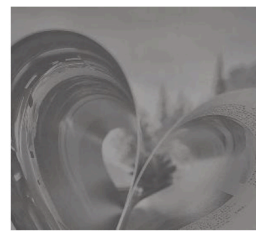
Youth Voice: Becoming, Through Pandemic Change

During the Covid Pandemic, when lives have globally changed, shifted, uprooted, & redefined. When lockdowns, bubbles, mask-wearing, & social distancing are topics and actions of necessity! or debate? Atlantic Canadian Youth shine as CHANGEMAKERS.

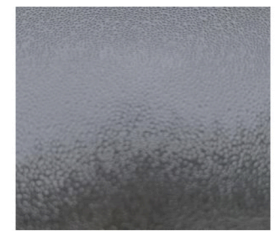
Get started



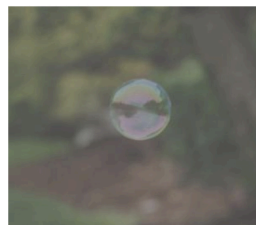
1 Welcome to Our #Gallery4Change



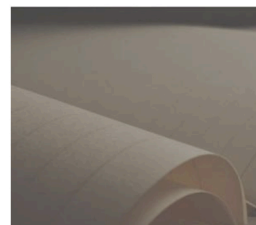
2 Youth Behind the Lens



3 Fearful Truths



4 Hope Floats



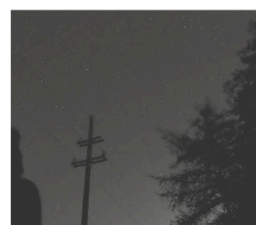
5 Our 15%



6 Unique Experiences



7 Unveiling Privilege



8 Trending Up



9 We Are Changemakers

Members' Public Engagement Fund

ACIC's Members' Public Engagement Fund – now in its sixth year – supports small public engagement opportunities that aim to engage Atlantic Canadians in global development issues. In 2020, we updated the mandate to focus especially on supporting novel practices and innovative methods. Members were encouraged to consider creative, non-traditional approaches that would allow deeper engagement and lead to personal involvement and informed action.

2019

Five applications were received. A selection committee consisting of past recipients, staff and Board evaluated the applications, and selected the following projects to receive the \$1500 funding. The four projects led to an indirect reach of 4,242 and 177 people were directly engaged at events.

- ◆ Breaking the Silence Maritimes Guatemala Solidarity Network: Solidarity Training Program
- ◆ Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture: SDG Ideathon

2020

Six applications were received. Three projects have been funded for this year. The projects will be completed in winter 2021.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture, International Office

A group of youth (aged 15-25) will be trained on film production and gender studies, and placed in small crews to produce a short videos which will then be showcased publicly during International Development Week.

Engage NS: Women and the NS Quality of Life Survey

Engage NS launched a province-wide Quality of Life Initiative survey collecting close to 13,000 responses. Funding from ACIC's PE fund will be used to host and invite women-serving agencies to join a virtual gathering to discuss the survey results.

Farmers Helping Farmers: Broken Crayons

Farmers Helping Farmers member Patsy Dingwell, in Broken Crayons, tells the story of pre-service teacher Ellen Gillis and her unforgettable experience in a Kenyan school. Funding from ACIC's Members PE Engagement Fund will be used to support a book launch and book readings in schools in Prince Edward Island and Kenya.



Photo: Memorial University screened the film Metamorphosis (poster in photo).

- ◆ Memorial University Newfoundland Cinema Politica: Reel Issues on the Rock
- ◆ Saint Mary's University IDS Undergrad Society: East Coast International Development Summit 2020

Capacity Building Opportunities

Demystifying Partnerships: Stakeholder meeting with Global Affairs Canada | Winter 2019

ACIC arranged for two information sessions – in Halifax and Sackville, NB with a representative from Global Affairs Canada. The event provided information and insight into the main focus of Global Affairs Canada, and partnering with Global Affairs Canada project: from designing a project to selection and implementation questions. 95% of the participants indicated their satisfaction with the workshop facilitation as ‘high’ or above, and a 100% rated workshop content as high or above, signaling an overwhelming satisfaction with the event.

Spur Training on Data Collection Through Project Cycle | Spring 2020

Spur Change – an initiative of the Inter-Council Network – organized a full-day training in Halifax in March 2020. The training was attended by 20 people representing 15 organizations.

Panel Discussion on What will international development look like in a post-pandemic world? | Summer 2020

ACIC collaborated with the Canadian International Council’s Halifax Branch to discuss how Canada can utilize its resources effectively to support global sustainable economic and social development, and the need to consider new approaches that will allow Canada to maximize its use of aid as a soft power. The virtual event was widely attended, with 116 people joining from across Canada.

Localization – National and Local Ownership Post-Pandemic | Fall 2020

With an increased focus on localization, ACIC held a moderated panel discussion discussing the effectiveness and sustainability of partner-led programs to ensure national and local ownership. ACIC member Nova Scotia Gambia Association’s story, told by its executive director Abdou Kanteh, was explored as a case study in this panel attended by 42 people.

Innovation for New Programming | Fall 2020

Collaborating with ACIC Member Venture2Impact, this training, attended by 14 members, explored organizational culture that leads to innovative thought and action. Attendees also discussed tools needed to innovate and overcome fear of failure.

Safer Space Dialogue | Winter 2020

ACIC is piloting its Safer Space Dialogue program through an ongoing anti-racism training facilitated by Wayn Hamilton, of Wrapped in Pride. The pilot will assess the benefits and shortfalls of hosting safe spaces virtually.

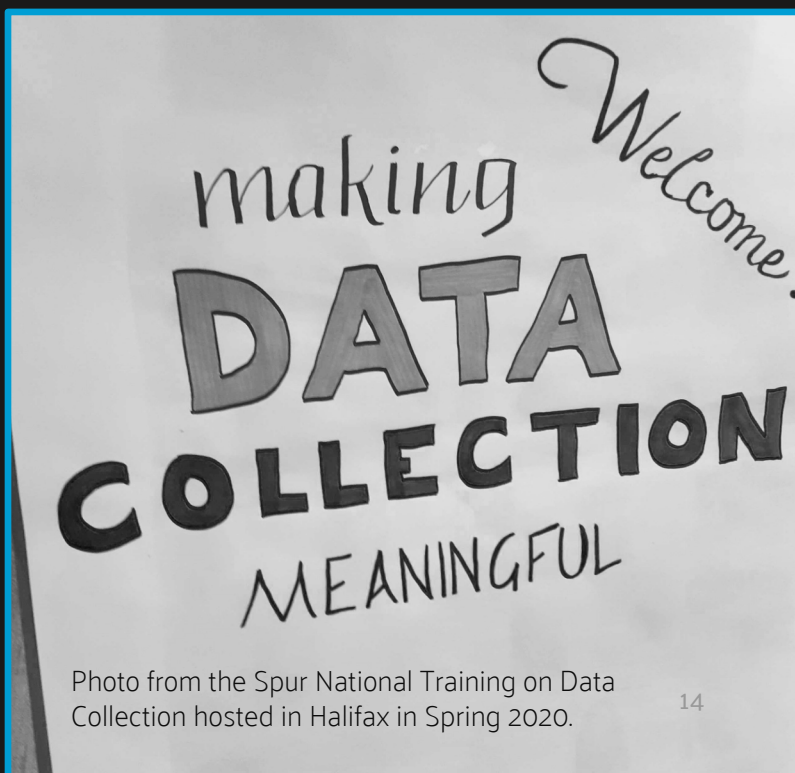


Photo from the Spur National Training on Data Collection hosted in Halifax in Spring 2020.

Shirley Case Leadership Award

The Shirley Case Leadership Award, presented annually since 2009, has four objectives: to officially recognize leaders in Atlantic Canada that are actively involved as global citizens; to draw public attention to the full scope of global citizenship and engagement activities; to inspire individuals to continue their involvement in the international cooperation movement; and to honour the memory of Shirley Case.

Created to honour the life of Shirley Case, former ACIC intern who was killed in Afghanistan while working with the International Rescue Committee, the Award is presented annually to an individual in Atlantic Canada who has demonstrated a spirit of global citizenship in a local, national or international capacity and who has helped create a more just and sustainable world.

2019



Nabila Qureshi (St. John's, Newfoundland) was the recipient of the Shirley Case Leadership Award in 2019. Nominated by Memorial University of Newfoundland's Internationalization Office, Nabila was recognized for her work on supporting gender equality, her service to immigrants in St. John's, NL, and her work to establish the first refugee sponsorship program in NL as part of WUSC at Memorial University. Her research, as she pursues a masters in Community Health, focuses on the impact of early resettlement experiences on refugee youth. ACIC Board Chair Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo presented Nabila with the award at the 2019 Symposium.

2020



Delvina Bernard (Halifax, Nova Scotia), an educator, civil and human rights activist, singer/songwriter, and institutional change strategist, was awarded the Shirley Case Leadership Award in 2020. Delvina is the principal founder of the Africentric Learning Institute of Nova Scotia, and served for 18 years as the Executive Director of the Council on African Canadian Education and as an Afrocentric education policy advisor to the Nova Scotia Department of Education. Since 2013, Delvina has been on the Board of Directors of Oxfam Canada – who nominated her. Pam Ellis, Shirley Case's sister, presented Delvina with the award at the ACIC Symposium 2020.

Southern Speakers' Fund

Sister Lissy Chako | 5th Recipient

Sister Lissy Chako, nominated by ACIC member Chalice Canada, joined ACIC as the keynote speaker for the 2019 Symposium on 'Gender Equality: The Power of Storytelling to Build Relationships and Collaboration.' Sr. Chako was part of several engagement activities in Atlantic Canada during her visit – such as an event on gender equality in India, and a CBC radio interview on the International Day of the Girl Child. Through her engagement activities she shared knowledge and experience, contributing to the dialogue about empowering and creating awareness on gender equality.

Due to the pandemic, in 2020, we were able to host multiple speakers from the Global South through our Southern Speakers' Fund at our virtual Symposium – leading to dialogues and discussions on diverse perspectives.

Sister Estellina Namutebi | 6th Recipient

Shedding light on the plight of farmers faced with deforestation in the tropical region of Uganda, Sister Estellina, nominated for the fund by Coady International Institute, spoke about the measures her community has taken to help revive the ecosystem. Sr. Estellina is a lecturer and Head of the Department of Development Studies in the School of Arts in Social Sciences, at Uganda Martyrs University. She is also a Global Change Leader trained at Coady International Institute, and an action researcher in indigenous tree species reforestation as an adaptation measure to climate change.

Leah Jepkirui | 7th Recipient

A community worker from Kenya, Leah works with women groups in Nandi County to mobilize resources to teach the benefits of owning a biodigester. Leah spoke about the effect of climate change, the increase in droughts and floods, that is affecting the farmers of Kenya. She focused on the response of and problems faced by women from rural Kenya to the changing environment and subsequently created food security issues. She shed light on her work promoting greenhouses and biodigesters, and the need to adopt these techniques and technology locally. As Leah said, "If given a chance, these women will feed the entire country."

Jacinta Realine & Joshua Fredericks | 8th & 9th Recipients

At the 2020 ACIC Symposium, Jacinta and Joshua highlighted the work and importance of the South Rupuni District Council (SRDC)– a legally recognized district council in Guyana under the 2006 Amerindian Act which represents the 21 Wapichan communities in the Wapichan Territory. Jacinta and Joshua serve as the spokesperson and chairperson of the youth arm of SRDC, and were also a part of the 2020 Symposium Youth Delegation, interacting with 8 other youth discussing the global and local impacts of the sustainable development goals.

Inter-Council Network

The Inter-Council Network (ICN) is a coalition of the eight provincial and regional Councils for International Cooperation committed to global social justice and social change, currently hosted by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation. Representing over 350 diverse civil society organizations, ICN provides a national forum in which the Councils collaborate for improved effectiveness of the sector and identifies common priorities for collective action, coast to coast to coast. ICN currently has two initiatives: *Spur Change* and *Funds for Innovation Transformation*, hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation and Manitoba Council for International Cooperation respectively.

International Development Week

For *IDW 2020*, to mark 30 years of International Development Week, ICN produced a short video showcasing the work of civil society organizations across the country. In fall 2020, ICN began the process of *developing a podcast* which will explore timely topics related to international development and the SDGs within the context of the global pandemic. IDW 2021 will mark the launch of the ICN podcast.

Policy, Research and Advocacy

ICN supports and builds the international cooperation sector, by conducting original research to influence policy and community-led change. In spring 2020, ICN conducted a *policy scan of the sector* to map out emerging themes and projects within the changing context of the pandemic. ICN, under its brand ICNEngage (Fr: RCCParticipe), hosted *two webinars in summer and fall 2020*. Speakers from varying perspectives: feminist, indigenous, youth, and the Global South addressed and *highlighted the importance of ethics in, and the changing context of public engagement and global citizenship education*. ICN also advocated for increased investment in the international cooperation sector in a letter to the Minister, *highlighting the rising importance of ODA in the pandemic*. ICN is represented on a number of government-CSO high level committees, including the Civil Society Partnership Policy Advisory Group (CPAG), Task Force for Implementing Effectiveness (TaFie), EXAC PE Advisory Group, Covid Dialogue Group and Covid Solutions groups.

Public Engagement

ICN, together with Cooperation Canada (formerly the Canadian Council for International Co-operation), the Canadian Association for International Development Professionals (CAIDP), the Climate Action Network (CAN-Rac) and the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) hosted *two virtual Town Halls with the Honourable Karina Gould, Minister for International Development*. The town halls presented the sector the opportunity to hear from the Minister, and voice priorities on issues that matter globally, and in the changing context of the pandemic. The town halls were individually attended by over 400 professionals from the international cooperation and development sector.

Youth Delegation

Each year, the Inter-Council Network Youth Delegates, comprised of eight delegates representing the eight provincial and regional councils, attend multilateral spaces and conventions to meet with policymakers and international changemakers. In 2020, the Youth Delegates were meant to attend the 64th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters. Due to the pandemic, this plan had to be changed, and the Delegation instead attended a Youth Forum at the Senate of Canada, in Ottawa.



Photo of the ICN Youth Delegation at the Youth Forum at the Senate of Canada, Ottawa.

“Being a part of a delegation of eight powerful, brilliant, fierce individuals was the highlight for me. The learning didn’t end when the scheduled events were over, as we would then share a meal and discuss things that we were passionate about and the change we hope to see in the world. The ideas and thoughts that came out of these new relationships we formed will stay with me forever.”

- Chesa Abma, ICN Youth Delegate 2020

Spur Change

The Spur Change program is a 5-year initiative of the Inter-Council Network (ICN), funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), supporting capacity building and knowledge sharing for Canadian Small and Medium Organizations (SMOs), educators, and youth.

In 2020, 39 people from Atlantic Canada participated in online and in-person capacity-building opportunities covering a wide range of topics including fundraising, risk analysis, contingency planning, gender learning. These participants were members of 20 unique Atlantic SMOs with head offices in Gander, Halifax, Charlottetown, and Truro among others. Two out of 11 members of the Spur Conference planning committee are from Atlantic Canada. As a group, the committee confirmed this year's focus to be Human Dignity, with the cross-cutting themes of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The first cohort of the Youth Champions Program is just wrapping up activities as recruitment for a new cohort gets underway. Two youth, Autumn Jules and Chork Mouykea, collaborated with and were mentored by SMO GPIAtlantic. It was a challenging year for all the youth, who had to pivot their planned public engagement activities online. Nonetheless, they improved their skills and knowledge of the UN SDGs through 12 training seminars which also covered youth social movements, public engagement, communication skills and career development.

Funds for Innovation And Transformation

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) is a program of the Inter-Council Network (ICN) made possible through funding from Global Affairs Canada and administered by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. FIT is a five-year \$16.5m national program designed to provide funding to small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) in Canada to test innovative solutions to specific development challenges that advance gender equality and empower women and girls in the Global South.

The first round of recipients was announced in February 2020, with nine Canadian SMOs selected. Testing has begun or will be soon underway. In the midst of adapting to COVID-19, the second round of recipients was announced in September 2020, with nine Canadian SMOs selected. The innovations address challenges related to agriculture, climate change & environment, education and livelihoods, all with a focus on gender equality. The SMOs will be testing their ideas in different countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Concept Notes for intake 3 were submitted in October 2020 and selected SMOs will be submitting full proposal in 2021.

International Internships For Indigenous Youth

Implemented by ACIC and the Northern Council for Global Cooperation, the purpose of the IIIY program is to bring together Indigenous and youth-serving organizations to empower Indigenous youth in Canada as global citizens in their own communities and beyond. The program incorporates Indigenous knowledge, families and community members, Indigenous community organizations, and local partner organizations who work in priority development sectors in Indigenous communities in the Global South.

Each cohort of Indigenous youth completes four-month internship placements in countries around the world. Through these internships, youth participants learn first-hand about international development issues while gaining professional development experience and building teamwork and leadership skills. In August 2019, the second cohort of interns (18 Indigenous youth from across Canada) travelled to work with our partner organizations in Kenya, Nepal, Myanmar, Guyana and Costa Rica.

The IIIY program also works with a consortium group of 4 Canadian partner organizations: GPI (Genuine Progress Index) Atlantic, Native Council of PEI, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and BYTE – Empowering Youth. These organizations provide advisory support to the program and also support the recruitment, orientation and mentorship of program participants.

Year 2 Public Engagement Activities and IDW:

The second cohort of interns organized numerous public engagement activities upon their return to Canada, culminating in several that were hosted during IDW in February 2020. Interns took part in several activities including media interviews, writing blogs about their overseas experiences, classroom presentations, and a Human Library event. The public engagement activities raised awareness of the work being done by the interns' host organizations while drawing connections with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Indigenous Global Leadership Program

Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 virus in Canada and around the world, the internship component of the IIIY program was postponed in Spring 2020. Following a series of consultations with Indigenous and youth-serving organizations in Summer and Fall 2020, the Indigenous Global Leadership Program was launched in November 2020.

The Indigenous Global Leadership Program will bring together Indigenous youth from across Canada to build leadership skills and learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the local-global connection, while learning how to actualize leadership skills at the community level. There will also be an opportunity for youth to connect with members of ACIC's Southern partner network, as well as special guest speakers from across Canada, who will join the online sessions to share examples of the work being done in their communities.



Photo: IIIY interns lead a water conservation workshop at a local elementary school as part of their placement with the Rift Valley Resource Centre, Nandi County, Rift Valley, Kenya.



“I hope that youth always feel encouraged to try for experiences like this... always keep your horizons open, have an open mind and try new things.”

- Phylicia Kagyut, IIIY Youth Cohort Year 2

National Leadership And Representation

Contributing to Cooperation Canada's Greening CSOs Project

Over 2020, Cooperation Canada worked to raise awareness among Canadian CSOs about environmental mainstreaming and climate-conscious operations, identified and documented CSO experiences in this sphere, and consulted Canadian CSOs on the barriers and opportunities for engaging in green operations. In addition to member engagement and data collection through surveys, focus groups and peer learning, Cooperation Canada documented good practice case studies and developed a repository of greening tools to support the sector. ACIC, in addition to contributing funds, was part of the national working group for the research project.

Together 2020 | Leaving No One Behind

ACIC moderated the session 'Leaving No One Behind: Addressing Inequality Across Sectors in Atlantic Canada' at the Together | Ensemble 2020 e-conference in summer 2020. The session featured representatives from Atlantic Canada and spoke to the indigenous and youth perspective while identifying accessibility as a key area to address. This session highlighted work in the Atlantic to close the inequality gap in traditionally underrepresented communities, and focused on the lessons from community-based approaches and public policy and explore challenges to achieving their respective goals.

Spur Change Conference 2021 Planning and Engagement Sub Committee

ACIC is part of the planning committee and engagement subcommittee that is informing the organization of the 2021 Spur National Conference. This three-day conference will focus on Human Dignity, while addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women as a cross-cutting theme.

Leaving No One Behind: Addressing Inequality Across Sectors in Nova Scotia



Jennifer Slood

Atlantic Council for
International Cooperation



Ashley Copage

Mi'kmawey Green
Communities Program



Rachel Morgan

Atlantic Council for
International Cooperation



Amy Middleton

Nova Scotia
Department of Justice

May 21, 2020 | 12-12:45pm EDT
togetherensemble.ca

Networking Events

Long identified as a strength of ACIC, and amongst the most useful aspects of being an ACIC member, we hosted nine networking events between July 2019 and December 2020. These events are organized by provincial coordinators and take place in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The networking events take various formats (development drinks, member mingles, cross-sector meetings) all with the aim to facilitate connections across our diversity of membership.

In March 2020, many of our networking events had to be rethought to account for the global pandemic, and the mass migration of our members to the online world. The online world, though ripe with the opportunities of connections beyond geographical reach, also brought with it widespread fatigue. Identifying the usefulness of cross-sector connections and capacity building opportunities, ACIC arranged the following networking and knowledge getaways. A comprehensive list, both virtual and onsite follow:

- LGBTQ2S+ Voices in Sustainable Development | Summer 2019
- Nova Scotia Fall Development Drinks | Fall 2019
- New Brunswick ACIC Fall Networking Event 2019 | Fall 2019
- Symposium 2019 | Fall 2019
- International Volunteer Day 2019 | Winter 2019
- Nova Scotia Holiday Development Drinks 2019 | Winter 2019
- International Development Week | Winter 2020
- Members Public Engagement Fund Events | 2019 - 2020
- Spur Training on Data Collection Through Project Cycle | Spring 2020
- Atlantic-wide Members meeting | Summer 2020
- University Members Meeting | Summer 2020
- What Will International Development Look Like In A Post-Pandemic World? | Summer 2020
- Localization – National and Local Ownership Post-Pandemic | Fall 2020
- Innovation for New Programming | Fall 2020
- Symposium 2020 | Fall 2020
- International Volunteer Day 2020 | Winter 2020



ACIC Committees

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support of ACIC through their voluntary committee work, constantly providing insight and knowledge that helps us realise our mission and goals.

Governance Committee

Mica McCurdy, Eric Smith, Shelagh Savage, Jennifer Slood

Membership Committee

Scott Smith, Ann Wheatley (2019-2020), Sonia Ho, Della Webster, Louise Webb, Saurabh Kulkarni

Ad Hoc Symposium Committee 2019

Valeri Pilgrim, Sojin Kim, Roxanne Pereira, Rachel Morgan, Sam Krueger, Wissam Issa, Jennifer Slood, Janelle Frail, Samantha Morton

Ad Hoc Symposium Committee 2020

Eric Smith, Valeri Pilgrim, Leo Cheverie, Della Webster, Lee-Anne Lavell, Raushni Abraham, Jackie Dowling, Alison Horton, Jennifer Slood, Janelle Frail

Ad Hoc Nomination Committee

Shelagh Savage, Mica McCurdy

Ad Hoc COVID Committee

Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo, Laura Hunter, Valeri Pilgrim

Risk Committee

Shelagh Savage, Jillian Kilfoil, Laura Hunter

Human Resources Committee

Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo, John Cameron

Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash	430,527	267,339
Accounts receivable	15,860	3,804
Harmonized Sales Tax Receivable	24,162	30,746
Prepaid expenses	-	400
	470,549	302,289
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	52,808	27,887
Employee deductions payable	12,328	6,422
Deferred revenue	189,946	91,251
	255,082	125,560
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	113,300	75,945
Internally restricted net assets	102,167	100,784
	215,467	176,729
	470,549	302,289

Statement of Revenues and Expenditure

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Project Revenue		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	423,334	-
International Internships for Indigenous Youth	330,243	372,657
Inter-Council Network	207,679	-
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	48,052	10,804
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	7,752	340,334
Diversity and Community Capacity Building Fund	-	5,800
Other Revenue		
Federal Summer Student Program	10,834	5,522
Other	37,868	17,155
	<u>1,065,762</u>	<u>752,272</u>
Expenditure		
Project Expenditures		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	406,519	-
International Internships for Indigenous Youth	328,911	364,267
Inter-Council Network	203,609	-
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	49,572	10,804
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	9,718	331,756
Diversity and Community Capacity Building Fund	-	5,800
Other Expenditures		
Federal Summer Student Grant	10,834	5,522
Other	17,861	1,589
	<u>1,027,024</u>	<u>719,738</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure	38,738	32,534



ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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