**Inter-Council Network Submits Collective Response to Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada’s Draft CSO Partnership Policy**

On August 8, 2014 the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) submitted a collective response to the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada [Draft Civil Society Partnership Policy](http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/cs-policy-politique-sc.aspx?lang=eng), launched for consultation June 9, 2014. This written submission followed a Roundtable with Minister Paradis in Gatineau, July 31, 2014, on the same topic.

Within the ICN submission we have underscored that this consultation as an important step in recognizing civil society as independent development actors in our own right, who require a supportive and enabling environment in Canada and internationally, and have expressed our hope that this process and the resulting policy will help to re-establish constructive relationships between DFATD and the many CSOs that have had few opportunities to engage in the last few years. We have presented nine specific recommendations as well as detailed comments on each of the three sections of the draft policy.

Download the ICN response in [English](http://ocic.on.ca/sites/default/files/files/ICNSubmission_DFATDCivilSocietyPartnershipPolicy_August82014.pdf), or [French](http://ocic.on.ca/sites/default/files/files/FR_M%C3%A9moire%20du%20R%C3%A9seau%20de%20coordination%20des%20conseils_FINAL.pdf), here.

We look forward to participating in a follow-up Roundtable with Minister Paradis on September 5, 2014, at which we anticipate hearing back on the comments received, and learning about DFATD’s plans moving forward, including practical steps on implementation of the Policy.