



## Spur Change National Conference 2019

Inclusive Governance: Meaningful Participation towards Gender Equality

20 - 22 November 2019

Edmonton, Alberta

The Spur Change program for Capacity-Building and Knowledge-Sharing for Small and Medium Organizations (SMO) invites representatives from SMOs and educators across Canada to its first annual **National Conference on "Inclusive Governance : Meaningful Participation towards Gender Equality"**.

The two-day, interactive, bilingual national conference will take place from **20 to 22 November 2019 in Edmonton, Alberta.**

In order to reinforce the capacity of SMOs, Spur Change seeks to convene 50 representatives of SMOs as well as 50 educators from coast-to-coast-to-coast to learn from experts, and share expertise, approaches and good practices for inclusive, gender transformative, sustainable development; to identify and form partnerships; and strengthen the sector's collective work to more effectively engage all Canadians as global citizens.

The theme of each annual conference over the next five years will be tied to one of the six Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) action areas, with Action area 1: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls will be cross-cutting for all five years of the program. The theme of the 2019 Annual National Conference will be tied to FIAP Action area 5: **Inclusive Governance.**

### Objectives

SMOs should expect to:

- Learn about and integrate current international and national frameworks and approaches to their development practices, including
  - A feminist approach
  - The framework of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - A human-rights based approach
- Share expertise, good practices and resources on inclusive governance
- Identify and establish potential partnerships and synergies
- Share experience and knowledge on effectively measuring the quality and impact of their efforts towards meaningful participation and inclusion
- Communicate and celebrate successes and collaborate on finding solutions to identified challenges

## Participation

All SMOs meeting the following Global Affairs Canada criteria across Canada are invited to participate in the annual conference:

- The consolidated revenue in the organization's financial statements is equal to or less than \$10 million (this limitation does not apply to educational institutions)
- The organization does not have annual overseas expenditures exceeding \$2 million in development assistance (i.e. projects administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective - regardless of the funding source)
- SMOs can be civil society organizations, education institutions, private sector or social enterprises
- SMOs must be legally incorporated in Canada

There will be a limited number of spaces available to SMOs for fully subsidized participation.

Information and application for subsidization are available [here](#).

The deadline for application is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

All applicants will be notified of the results of the process by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Rationale

The Annual National Conference is an initiative of the Spur Change program for Capacity-Building and Knowledge-Sharing for SMOs that seeks to increase the capacity of Canadian SMOs to engage with national and international counterparts, partners, and key community stakeholders, in order to increase their overall development effectiveness towards gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Spur Change capacity-building program is part of a 5-year pilot initiative for Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation announced by the Minister of International Cooperation, in May 2017. This pilot initiative was a response to the ICN's efforts on behalf of SMOs. In April 2016, the ICN commissioned a [study](#) on the contribution of SMOs to Canada's efforts in international development, as part of its ongoing effort to represent and support SMOs across Canada. The study was conducted on 807 registered Canadian charities that had devoted more than 30% of their revenue to overseas expenditures. Of these charities 744 were SMOs. The study found that SMOs:

- Raise significant and high proportions of their resources for development cooperation,
- Are the main avenue and best positioned to reach and engage Canadians in many cities and communities across Canada,
- Are at a disadvantage accessing federal government funding, and were dramatically affected by the change in government funding mechanisms in 2010, that moved towards an exclusive call-for-proposal approach, and
- Are strongly represented in the 25 priority countries for Canadian Overseas Development Assistance.

As a result of these findings, the ICN engaged in discussions with Global Affairs Canada about possibilities of providing support to these critical agents of Canada's effort in international development and cooperation.

In May 2017, the pilot initiative was announced by the then Minister of International Cooperation, Marie-Claude Bibeau.

The initiative consists of three windows:

1. The Fund for Development Impact (up to \$76 million) funds thematic programming by SMOs through calls for proposals led by Global Affairs Canada. A preliminary call for proposal was launched in November 2017. Twenty-one organizations received funding. A second call for concept notes closed in July 2019.
2. The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (up to \$18 million) invests in innovative and effective solutions which have the potential to increase impact. The deadline for the first call for concepts was July 22, 2019. This window is managed by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on behalf of the Inter-Council Network of the Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN).
3. The Spur Change program, which is managed by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) on behalf of the ICN.

In order to reinforce the capacity of SMOs, Spur Change seeks to convene 50 representatives of SMOs as well as 50 educators from coast-to-coast-to-coast for a two-day, bilingual, interactive conference that will act as a multi-level interface and exchange to build connections, and to learn from each other and from experts. Participants will engage in workshop-based sessions, as well as open dialogue to infuse our collective, shared expertise with innovative ideas that can be applied at local, provincial, regional, national and international levels.