



CENTERING LEARNING, COMMUNITY & SOLIDARITY

PROGRESS REPORT 2021-2025



Ontario Council for
International Cooperation

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Land Acknowledgement

OCIC recognizes and honours the Indigenous peoples who have historically and do presently live and work on the traditional, both treaty and unceded territories that we operate on. These include the Huron Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation, and many others. We acknowledge that our staff, Board, volunteers, members and broader community operate on the treaty and unceded territories of these and numerous other Indigenous peoples and nations.

As we reflect on our role within a settler-colonial context, we acknowledge the importance of naming the Indigenous peoples and nations on whose lands we live, work and play, and understand the importance of framing our engagement in the international cooperation sector and beyond through the lens of reconciliation and decolonization. We recognize that we have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples who have and continue to fight for social justice on their own lands



Demystifying Key Acronyms

ACGC	Alberta Council for Global Cooperation
ACIC	Atlantic Council for International Cooperation
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AQOCI	Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale
BCIC	British Columbia Council for International Cooperation
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CAIDP	Canadian Association of International Development Professionals
CAN-Rac	Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada
CanWACH	Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health
CBPAR	Community-Based Participatory Action Research
CCF	Community-Centric Fundraising
CPAG	Cooperation Policy Advisory Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
FIAP	Feminist International Assistance Policy
FIT	Fund for Innovation and Transformation
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GE Hub	Gender Equality Hub
ICN	Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation
IDW	International Development Week
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & other identities
MCIC	Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
NCGC	Northern Council for Global Cooperation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCIC	Ontario Council for International Cooperation
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMO	Small and Medium-sized Organization
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YPH	Youth Policy-Makers Hub

A Message from our Executive Director

Dear members and friends,

In a world increasingly devastated by climate change and environmental crises, geopolitical instability and conflict, threats to democracy, attacks on human rights, backtracking on gender equality gains, cuts to Official Development Assistance, rapid technological change, dis and mis-information, spiraling mental health challenges, and so much more, we need community and global solidarity in favour of the most vulnerable and historically marginalized communities and peoples, more than ever before.

For nearly four decades, learning, community, and solidarity have been at the centre of our journey at OCIC. Together with our members, our dedicated staff, interns, volunteers and Board Directors have worked with so many of you to create spaces to test new ideas, share good practices, strengthen capacity, and exchange knowledge. Through workshops and symposia, communications, public engagement initiatives, and campaigns of many kinds we have come together to influence and inspire positive change within and far beyond our province.

We begin this 'Progress Report' with highlights of some of the impacts of our programs, since 2019:

Together, we have empowered hundreds of youth to lead, collaborate, and take action, while raising awareness and commitment to gender equality and the SDGs:

- OCIC has delivered 96 workshops and peer-learning programs to 529+ unique youth (1,329 total participants)
- We have supported 302 youth to be a part of national and international programs, delegations, and conferences, and 309 youth to participate in roundtables and OCIC Innovation Labs.
- 83% have reported greater awareness of intersectionality and gender equality, 84% felt more motivated to take action on global issues, and 95% were satisfied with their experience.

Together, we have grown our communications and storytelling capacities to increase member visibility, and strengthen awareness of global issues across Ontario and beyond:

- OCIC has led and supported 54 International Development Week (IDW) activities, 9 International Days activities, and engaged 164 influencers to help spotlight global justice issues.
- 3.8M+ Ontarians have been sensitized on key global issues through our programs, campaigns, and communications.
- 287K+ people have been directly involved in Council-led PE and communications activities
- 3.6M+ people have indirectly engaged through OCIC's website and social platforms, amplifying member voices.
- 76% of members agreed their visibility was amplified, and 90% reported increased awareness of OCIC and member efforts on FIAP and the SDGs.

Together, we have committed and contributed to knowledge exchange, learning and unlearning:

- OCIC has delivered 65+ capacity-building opportunities on innovation, FIAP action areas and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), engaging 2,200+ participants (1,400+ unique). 183 CSOs (167 unique) participated in years 5–6 alone.
- Offerings have ranged from financial management and advocacy bootcamps to decolonization and public engagement training, and more.
- 98% of participants reported satisfaction across all capacity-building events.
- 87% reported new knowledge or deeper understanding of innovative tools, methods, or approaches.
- 76% of organizations strengthened their capacity in gender-inclusive, sustainable, and innovative programming, and 79% made efforts to address barriers to access and strengthen inclusion.

Together with the ICN, we have increased access to funding, training, resources and opportunities, supporting a national eco-system of over 350 diverse organizations from coast-to-coast-to-coast:

- Through innovative public engagement activities, such as ACGC's 'Top 30 Under 30 Awards', ACIC's Public Engagement funds, AQOCI's bilingual educational comic book series, and NCGC's 'Storytelling Series', the Councils recognize and support youth leadership, leverage reach to smaller communities through creative programming, provide educational resources, and make space to question dominant assumptions and point toward different futures.
- 12M+ people reached through communications.
- 213,904 program participants.
- 80% motivated to act on global issues.
- 88% of organizations reported increased innovation in an international cooperation project.

Within the pages below we shine a light on some of the specific initiatives and people behind our shared work over the last four years. Whether you are learning of these efforts, organizations and individuals for the first time or you have been a part of the community for years, we invite you to join us in celebrating the collective commitment and impact these activities represent, and to meet us from wherever you are at in your own journey.

Together, we make a difference.

In solidarity,



Kimberly Gibbons
Executive Director, OCIC

About OCIC

OCIC is a thriving community of Ontario-based organizations, networks, institutions and individuals working for sustainable solutions to global poverty challenges.

Our Vision

Global social justice, human dignity and participation for all.

Our Mission

As a Council, OCIC strives to increase the effectiveness and collective impact of all our members' efforts to promote sustainable, people-centered development in a peaceful and healthy environment. OCIC is committed to principles of fair and equitable cooperative international development and promotes public engagement that helps Canadians develop a global perspective and take action for social justice.

Our Mandate

OCIC encourages the development of the Ontario international cooperation and global education sectors and sharing of resources between OCIC members by providing forums for networking, communications and collaborative reflection and action, and facilitating capacity building in public engagement and organizational development. OCIC is a learning organization with inclusive, cooperative and participatory processes that are accessible and accountable to all members.

Our Principles

OCIC's work, both internally and as a collective of members, is guided by ideals about anti-oppression, human rights, international cooperation, and the appropriate meeting of human needs articulated in a multitude of places by multilateral bodies, states, and civil society organizations (CSOs).

We embrace the Istanbul Principles, a set of eight mutually shared values developed through an extensive worldwide consultation with thousands of CSOs. They include:

- Respect and promote human rights and social justice
- Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' rights
- Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Practice transparency and accountability
- Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity
- Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning
- Commit to realizing positive sustainable change



Our Approach & Priorities

OCIC seeks to catalyze impact among and with our members by working to develop new and innovative partnerships, facilitating knowledge co-creation and sharing, and supporting the organizational development of CSOs and promotion of sectoral innovation.

Since 2018 our strategic directions have been:

- to strengthen capacity, with a focus on knowledge exchange;
- to increase multi-sectoral dialogue, prioritizing dialogue and collaboration; and
- to influence and inspire, with a focus on transformative community and public engagement.

Our Theory of Change represents an integration of individual Theories of Change for our three Strategic Directions, and provides a roadmap for our collective efforts towards holistic and accelerated progress on sustainable development.



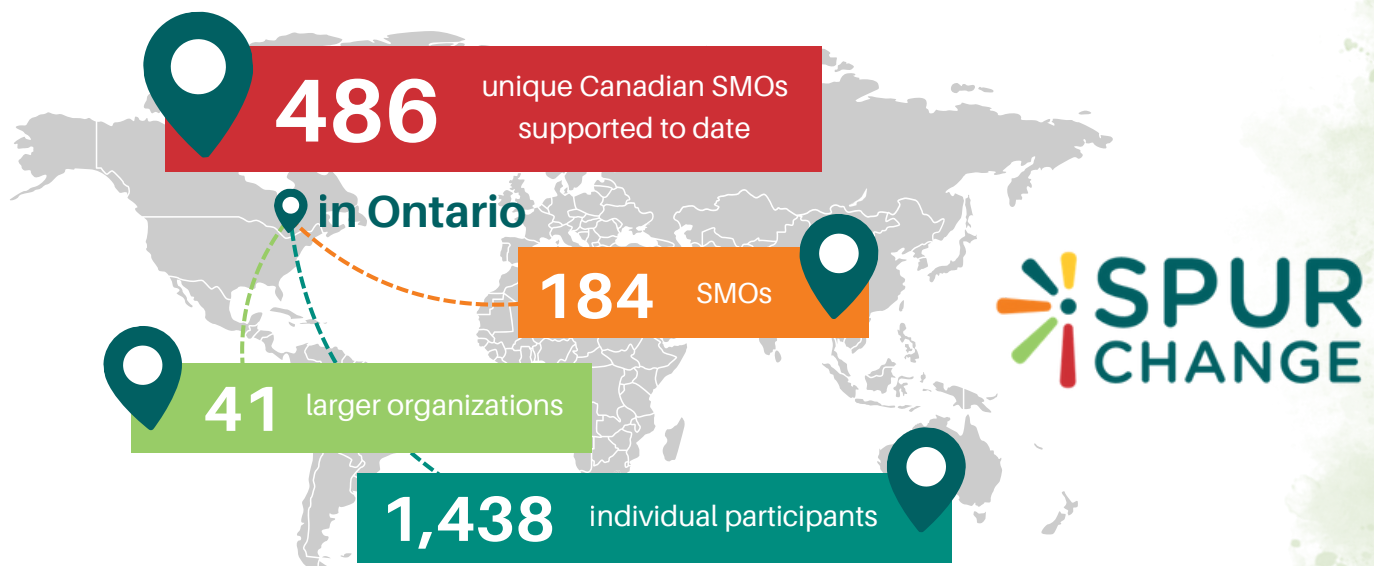
These initiatives were undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. Our sincere thanks to the team at GAC for their partnership and support.

ICN Inspires Action

In addition to our work in Ontario, we are proud to have partnered with others across Canada and globally to increase our collective reach and impact. One of our most significant partnerships is with the **Inter-Council Network (ICN)**, a coalition of the eight Provincial & Regional Councils for International Cooperation representing diverse civil society organizations (CSOs) from coast to coast to coast.

Spur Change

The ICN Spur Change program, hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), works to increase the effectiveness of Canadian Small and Medium-sized organizations (SMOs) to deliver sustainable results in support of FIAP and the SDGs. As an implementing partner, we ensure that Ontarians have access to capacity building programs in our region and to support the overall success of the program.



Results from April 2019 – March 2025

“I think our organization works less in a silo now, very much influenced by participation in OCIC activities, learning, and collaborating with other members. The environment seems less competitive and more welcoming of the concept of maximizing ultimate good by supporting one another.”

– Annual Membership Survey respondent

OCIC-hosted Spur Change Opportunities:

December 2022

RBM 201: Strengthen your capacities in Results-Based Management



May 2023

Building Equity: Fundraising Workshop



January 2025

Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Training



January 2023

Towards Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement: From Research to Practice

September 2023

Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Training

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“After the first day, the facilitator of the training event, Claire Holloway Wadhwani, asked us all to write down a word to describe how we were feeling. I wrote down: “Empowered.” I felt like I could contribute more to the discussions and group work than I originally thought I would. I felt like I understood GAC’s expectations and could adequately manage CPAR’s upcoming GAC-funded project in Tanzania. I also felt like I was not alone in my learning curve, as many of the other participants had similar questions and concerns, and we all supported each other.”

– **Keely Noiles**, PIP Training participant

”

‘Towards Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement: From Research to Practice’

Since November 2021, the ICN, hosted by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation Canada (ACIC), has been researching better practices in public engagement within international cooperation, centering on equity and power. Their findings have shown that public perceptions of decolonization, anti-racism, and feminism strongly shape how these approaches are applied, though understandings vary across contexts.

In January 2023, we hosted the ICN training, **‘Towards Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement: From Research to Practice’** in Toronto. Participants were able to build a shared understanding on what these approaches look like in practice, and to gain an understanding of how to assess core power dynamics at the heart of public engagement activities. The ICN is working on developing the training modules into self-paced learning material, using feedback from consultant facilitated sessions with councils’ PE staff to ensure that councils’ approach to PE is reflected.

“At the core of this gathering lies a profound exploration of water—its preservation, its intrinsic meaning, and its profound impact on our lives. The Muskoka region, with its shimmering lakes and lush landscapes, provides an inspiring canvas for dialogues that transcend the mundane, delving into the essence of our interconnectedness with water and the responsibilities we bear for its sustenance.”

- **Ashley Anthony**, Wasan participant

Wasan 2023 ‘Spur Sparks’ Regional Retreat

The Wasan 2023 Spur Sparks Regional Retreat, hosted by OCIC in partnership with Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) and Spur Change, was an opportunity for 25 civil society actors from SMOs, including youth from across Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada to come together on Wasan Island to deepen collective awareness, understanding and action towards:

- the UN International Decade for Action on Water 2018-2028;
- the UN 2023 Water Conference;
- Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) Action Area 4 (focused on the Environment and Climate Change); and
- Pan-Canadian efforts of SMOs and youth to advance and connect to global efforts on water, the environment and climate change.

WASAN 2023



“When we feel connections to the ecosystems surrounding us, we’re more likely to want to protect it.”

- **Mei-Ling Patterson**,
Wasan participant



Fund for Innovation
and Transformation

Fonds pour l'innovation
et la transformation

Fund for Innovation and Transformation

The FIT Program, hosted by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), exists to support Canadian SMOs in testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South with the goal of cultivating a working environment in which SMOs are empowered to experiment, fail, adapt and try again. Here's some of what they have done:

64

FIT-funded SMOs,

28

in Ontario,
have tested innovative
solutions to advance
gender equality and
empower women and
girls in

37

countries



Results from April 2019 – March 2025

Lucky Iron Fish tested an innovation to reduce iron deficiency anemia's prevalence in Benin by using digital tools, speaking books, and radio programming to share educational messaging.



Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) tested a solution aimed at improving antenatal care (ANC) and obstetric services through the use of ultrasound technology in remote locations of the North Shoa Zone in Ethiopia.

Canada Students Offering Support (SOS) tested a scalable approach to increase civic leadership and participation of Mayan communities in rural regions of Guatemala through digital tools, such as podcasts, videos, and photo essays.



Humber College tested combining the technical skills of digital entrepreneurship with life skills and mentorship to increase livelihood opportunities for refugees in Nairobi, Kenya.

Journalists for Human Rights tested an approach to train media, government officials and civil society organizations on sexual and reproductive health rights.

OCIC Strengthens Capacity

Elevating Intersectional Voices in Gender Equality

Taking an intersectional approach to gender equality, OCIC encourages the sector to recognize diverse experiences and identities. We promote local and global partnerships that reflect the lived realities of many. One key initiative advancing this work was our Gender Equality (GE) Hub.



Activating the Gender Equality Hub

May 2021

From International to Intersectional Cooperation



August 2021

Prevention in Practice: Using case studies to discuss PSEA



October 2021

Voices from the Grassroots: International Day of Rural Women



February 2022

Feminist Approaches to Localization



March 2022

Voices from the Grassroots: Radical Solidarity



August 2023

Mindful Expressions: Mental Health & Wellbeing for Humanitarian & Development Practitioners



“The knowledge-sharing and community that we have forged in OCIC have exponentially increased our organisations’ capacity, and our management team is now considerably more prepared to support the exponential growth of our organisation. We thank OCIC for their support and look forward to maintaining our membership for many years to come.”

— **Rachel Morrison**, Good Neighbours Canada

Centering Gender Equality during International Development Week

Demystifying the Women, Peace & Security Agenda, and its Linkage with Climate Change



IACOUELINE O'NEILL
Canada's Ambassador for
Women, Peace & Security



DR. SIHAM RAYALE
Senior Policy Analyst
Global Affairs Canada



DR. LAUREN OATES
Executive Director
CW4WAfghan



DR. RASKHSHINDA PERVEEN
Gender Inclusion Expert
South Asia/Pakistan

During IDW 2023 we hosted a panel focused on **'Demystifying the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and its linkage with Climate Change'** to deepen understanding of how women, peace and security, and climate change are interconnected. We also explored regionally specific examples of the gendered impacts of extreme weather events in Afghanistan and South Asia, and its intersection with human rights, poverty and existing social norms.

— “ —

“During [the panel] I mustered up the courage to ask the panellist how they found the urgent problems they wanted to dedicate their lives to. Lauryn Oates answered, “The problem that makes you the angriest and that triggers your compassion and empathy most powerfully.” That’s when I realized my passion for gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

— Angelina Ding sharing her post-panel thoughts —

Navigating Gender and Water Challenges Globally

OPENING REMARKS



Dominic O'Neill
Executive Director
United Nations Sanitation
and Hygiene Fund



Dr. Grace Oluwasanya
Senior Researcher,
Water, Climate and Gender
United Nations University
Institute for Water,
Environment, and Health

MODERATOR



Nina Bianchi
Project Manager
International Secretariat
for Water



Adnan Ibne Abdul Qader
Climate and Water
Governance Specialist
WaterAid Bangladesh



Ann Turinayo
Country Director
International Fund for
Agriculture Development
Burkina Faso

In 2024, our IDW gender panel focused on **‘Navigating Gender and Water Challenges Globally’** to highlight the interconnected nature of gender, water and climate. Speakers emphasized the critical need to advance gender equality across all SDGs, address funding and sustainability issues, prioritize intersectional analysis through data and research, and sustain inclusive dialogue to drive collective action on the many complex gender and water challenges.

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“We know over the years that women are water managers at the household level, but when you get to the decision making level, how many of them are there? At the country level, at the global level, at higher levels beyond the household? How many women are represented in decision-making in government? This is what we need to shift [...] Fast tracking SDG 5 is crucial to fast tracking SDG 6.”

– **Grace Oluwasanya** making the connection
between gender and water

— ” —



“What sustained me over the years was always my ability to lead with authenticity. Authenticity is a lovely word, no doubt, but for me, it meant being true to who I was and to the people I served, and served with. Sometimes it meant admitting I had no answers for the problems we faced, but being confident that together we can create the solutions. Other times it meant leading from behind and not having to be out front and visible. That’s hard for people who are in leadership roles, but it’s something that we must practise.”

- **Senator Paulette Senior** during her opening remarks



In 2025, we learned how community-driven collaborations can challenge traditional power dynamics in our panel **‘Feminist Futures: Exploring Transformative Leadership and Equitable Partnerships’**. Speakers shared how feminist leadership and inclusive partnerships are driving sustainable development and social change in their communities, while exploring the role of government, civil society, and the international community in advancing gender equality.



FEMINIST FUTURES

Exploring Transformative Leadership and Equitable Partnerships



OPENING REMARKS:
**Senator
Paulette Senior**



**Elizabeth
Kemigisha**
*The Uganda Association
of Women Lawyers*



**Dr. Rubel
Manivannan**
*Regions Beyond
Medical Union Society*



MODERATOR:
Marlen Mondaca
*Canadian Feed
the Children*



**Shobha
Shrestha**
*Women for Peace
and Democracy Nepal*



**Dr. Felagot
Taddese**
CPAR Ethiopia

Learning and Unlearning Together at our AGM & Symposia

Over the past decade there has been an increasing shift in the ways we talk about and work towards aid, development, and decolonization; this next decade needs to significantly advance action on those words and on this journey. As we work to convene the international cooperation and humanitarian sector in Ontario, we strive to support our members and community in deepening our collective understanding of the issues, and broadening our vision of the future of this work. Our AGM and Symposium are some of our favourite moments of the year, where we gather to advance this agenda.

‘Centering Reconciliation and Decolonization in the International Cooperation Sector’

2021



In September 2021, our AGM & Symposium presented an opportunity to build capacity as a community, and to recognize the complex and diverse histories, lived experience and systemic power relations experienced at the individual, community, sectoral, regional and global levels, through a series of virtual panels held over three days:

- We kicked things off with **‘A Year of Anti-Racist Cooperation: Where We’ve Gotten, Where We’re Going’** where Cooperation Canada introduced their anti-racism framework along with insights from a few of the signatory organizations.
- The session, **‘Decolonizing Knowledge: Strengthening Academic-CSO Partnerships Through Community-based Approaches’** drew upon the perspectives, experiences and current research and policy collaborations from panelists working to strengthen academic-CSO partnerships and community-based and informed research.
- Canadian Feed The Children invited their First Nations and Bolivian partners to share their communities’ work in the session, **‘Authentic partnerships with Indigenous Peoples in Canada and Latin America.’**
- Kawartha World Issues Centre led us through **‘Connecting for Change: Intersections and Opportunities for Leaving No One Behind’** with speakers sharing their work to localize the SDGs and centering Indigenous Leadership through community education partnerships.

‘Global Stories of Change that Change Our Global Story’

2022



We met virtually for our AGM & Symposium in September 2022 to recognize the unique experiences and power that each of us carries to make positive and systemic change. The event provided space to learn from diverse members, artists and storytellers working with various innovative mediums and approaches:

- We opened the Symposium with the session, **‘Innovation, Research and Knowledge Exchange: A Spotlight on Key Achievements & Priorities Ahead for Three Key ICN Initiatives.’**
- The FIT **‘Innovation Stations’** encouraged participants to engage in dialogue, reflection and learning with FIT-funded organizations.
- The session, **‘One Small Visit’** shared the processes and learnings behind big screen storytelling.
- Participants were invited to join **‘Open Space’** workshops to learn from the collective on organizational policy development, localization, metrics, public engagement, policy advocacy, sustainability and more.
- Our final event was a private screening of the film, **‘Broken Courage’** followed by a dialogue with director David Peck and filmmaker Noemi Weis.

‘Strengthening Community, Collaboration and Solidarity’

2023



2023 was extra special as it marked OCIC’s 35th Anniversary. Our focus was not only to celebrate the community-centered work we’ve collectively accomplished over the past 35 years, but also to highlight the strength and importance of working together in the sector for a collective goal.

- We started the day off with Bear Standing Tall leading us through the session, **‘Honouring Indigenous Wisdom: Taking Action for Reconciliation.’**
- Our second session, **‘Perspectives on Community, Collaboration & Solidarity: Armchair Conversation Series’** explored what real collaboration looks like in action with discussions led by Canadian Feed the Children, Rayjon Share Care, Results Canada, and the University of Guelph.
- Participants had the opportunity to select from four sessions during the **‘Planning for Action Parallel Dialogues’**, exploring approaches to partnerships and knowledge exchange, before winding down with a **‘Sharing & Learning Plenary’**.

“It was a high-impact event, engaging, and offered a platform for me and my research team to share our findings directly with stakeholders from the sector. What made it particularly impactful was the interactive session that followed, where we could engage in two-way conversations, something not always possible in traditional conference settings.”

– **Andrea Paras**, University of Guelph



Engaging GAC through the Grants and Contributions Transformation Initiative

During our 2023 AGM, we hosted a session with Brandon Lee, Director General, Grants and Contributions Transformations Bureau, on the Grants and Contributions Transformation at Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Engaging directly with Brandon provided participants with a clearer understanding of the transformation's goals of minimizing the administrative burden and improving risk assessments, while also uncovering opportunities for active involvement in the process.



Above Illustrations: Mishka Watin | Photos: Mishka Watin & Ken Wong

‘Positioning for the Future’

2025



For our Symposium 2025, we gathered at Humber College to draw insights from the strategic foresight work undertaken by our partners, taking time for reflection and learning. This event happened right after our neighbours to the south announced a freeze on all USAID funding, which set the undertone for the event and emphasized the importance of building community and strategic foresight.

- We kicked off day one with, **‘Strategic Foresight for a Changing World’**, exploring how foresight tools can help civil society actors anticipate emerging challenges, foster innovation, and reimagine global development cooperation.
- In **‘Imagining What’s Next: Reflections and Dialogue’**, participants shared their perspectives on the future of international cooperation and global education in Ontario, Canada, and beyond, considering how OCIC and its members can evolve to meet shifting contexts and needs.
- We closed day one with a joyful and inspiring evening celebration, **‘Reflections, Community & Celebration’**, where attendees connected over live music and celebrated the strength and diversity of Ontario’s international cooperation community.
- For day two, participants chose one of three dynamic Parallel Dialogues:
 - **Strengthening GAC’s Financial Transparency and Support for CSOs**
 - **Exploring Feminist, Decolonial Public Engagement**
 - **Challenges and Opportunities for Civic Space: Reflections on the Current Scenarios**



Photos: Allan Lissner/Praxis Pictures

Building Capacity and Community

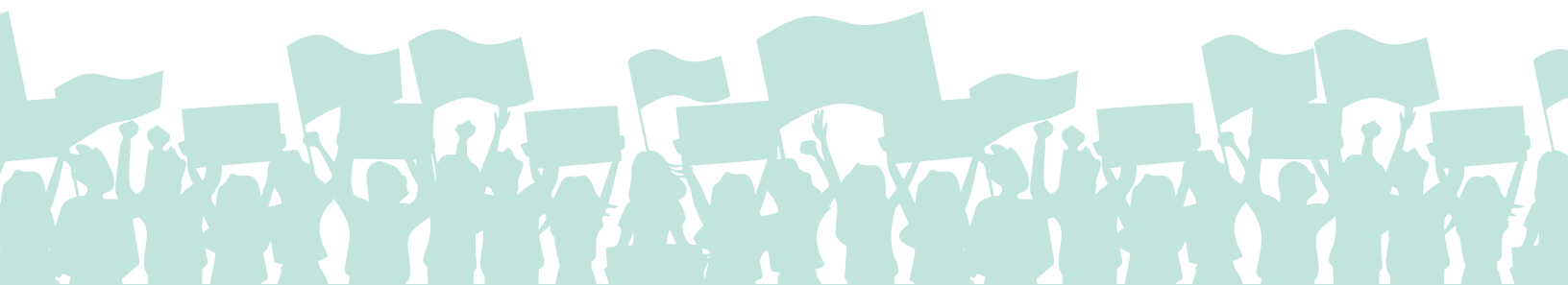
Strengthening Financial Management for NGOs

In March 2022, we hosted a two-part virtual **'Risk Management'** workshop series for organizations and their Board Directors with Eric Plato, focusing on the identification, evaluation and prioritizing of risk, followed by the implementation of controls to manage and mitigate the impact of risk events.

Inspired by a discussion around ethical fundraising during one of our Communications Community of Practice meetings, we invited Esther Lee of Further Together to host the webinar, **'Community-Centric Fundraising: From Principles to Practice.'** The principles behind CCF emphasize prioritizing community needs over individual donors, promoting equity, transparency, and inclusivity in fundraising, collaborating with others to dismantle harmful systems, and valuing the collective over individual achievements. Heather Smith of Rayjon Share Care also shared practical examples of how Rayjon has worked to put these principles into practice.

Strengthening Capacity for Advocacy

In 2024 we launched a new **Advocacy Incubator** program in partnership with Results Canada to provide tailored, hands-on advocacy training for member organizations. This program was a unique opportunity for selected organizations — Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Canadian Feed The Children, Canadian Friends Service Committee, and World Renew — to build their organizations' advocacy strategy, set measurable advocacy outcomes, and embed advocacy into their organizations while navigating political changes.



— “ —

“Politics changed widely over the past 4 months and [the Advocacy Incubator] really brought home the need to be flexible and adapt to new realities.”

– Advocacy Incubator participant

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Introducing Community-based Participatory Action Research

In 2019, OCIC joined the The University of Toronto Scarborough Knowledge Equity Lab and the Toronto Centre of Learning and Development, to launch the **Knowledge For Change (K4C) Tkaronto Hub**. Together, we held the inaugural **Summer Virtual Institute on Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR)** in 2020.

The second annual CBPAR Virtual Workshop was in October 2022, where we highlighted the principles of CBPAR—community-driven, participatory, and action-oriented—and showcased various methods, such as participatory observation and muralism. Participants from diverse backgrounds shared their experiences and explored how CBPAR principles could be applied in their own work and communities.

In 2023, we convened CBPAR Summer Institute once again, but this time in-person with a two-day workshop focused on learning about the origins, purpose, key principles, ethics and planning phases of CBPAR. After two days, participants felt a real sense of community and were reluctant to leave, showing how the tools and methods of CBPAR go far in building trust and respect among participants.



OCIC Increases Multi-Sectoral Dialogue

Our efforts to support dialogue and collaboration have been influenced and amplified by the efforts of our Gender Equality and Youth Policy-Makers Hub participants, working in collaboration with grassroots and community-based leaders and partners locally and globally.

Amplifying ‘Voices from the Grassroots’



The **Voices from the Grassroots Flipbook and Reflection Report** emerged as a powerful initiative of the GE Hub, created to amplify the lived experiences of women and girls in Afghanistan, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, the Philippines, Uganda, and South Sudan. By gathering firsthand accounts, the flipbook not only documented their realities and challenges, but also celebrated their resilience and leadership in advancing gender equality.

DIGNITY FOR THE MOST MARGINALIZED: WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Article, photos and videos by
Bless Adriano, Tess Poria,
Virgie Rabino, Mona Visperas,
Carmen Zubiaga



Exploring the Future of Global Solidarity Through Storytelling

With support from podcast producer Safa Shahkhalili, and illustrator Amanda Schutz we launched the first season of OCIC's **'Tapestry 2030'** Podcast in February 2021, developing and launching 8 podcast episodes with OCIC members Bhutan Canada Foundation, CAP Network, CMETrust, Heart-Links, Inter Pares, Partners in Health Canada, Rayjon Share Care, the YMCA of Greater Toronto, and their respective international partners in Bhutan, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Colombia, and Peru.

In fall 2021, Heart-Links, Rayjon Share Care, Cultural Seeds, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and OCIC staff received podcast training and worked hand in hand with partners in Canada and across the globe to envision, record, and create their own podcast episodes on the future of global solidarity, with a focus on the partnerships needed to achieve gender transformative, sustainable development and the growing call for localization.

The most popular episodes from **Season 2**:



In **'Episode 1: Local Thinking, Design and Leadership'**, host Eliana Fleifel, invited Brian Tomlinson, of AidWatch Canada, and Marlen Mondaca, localization and development expert, to share what localization means to them personally; why it is important; challenges and opportunities they have noted within this agenda; and their take on why the international cooperation sector needs to prioritize localization.



In **'Episode 3: Land. Food. Culture. Justice'**, we heard from Celeste Smith, Urban Indigenous Farmer, Educator and Founder of Cultural Seeds and Ga Gitigemi Gamik (We Will Plant Lodge). Celeste speaks about the concepts of Land, Food, Culture and Justice through Indigenous eyes and how these intersecting relationships affect her and her community everyday.

— “ —

“Tapestry 2030’ was invigorating, start to finish. It began with forging new connections with diverse SMOs from across Ontario—sharing our experiences, learning from one another, and brainstorming ways to maximize the reach of our individual and collective stories. As stories were shared we saw the interconnectedness of our work and the common threads binding us together, stronger collectively than individually. I think the project helped us recognize the importance of solidarity across geographic and project boundaries, especially during a time of global crisis... Our partner relationships were strengthened, and mutual respect grew. This is a change that will last.”

— Heather Smith, Rayjon Share Care

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Season 3: Global Voices

In 2023, five OCIC YPH members – Hudson Biko, Bernice Mwaura, Charles Oulton, Kendra-Lee Heney and Shoffana Sundaramoorthy – decided to create their own season of the **'Tapestry 2030'** Podcast titled, **'Global Voices'**. Season 3 was youth-led from start to finish. The YPH members chose their topics, reached out to speakers, and recorded their interviews with support from our team to publish the episodes. The YPH continued the spirit of 'Tapestry 2030' – weaving diverse voices into a shared narrative of resilience, partnership, and the collective pursuit of a more just and sustainable world.

The most popular episodes from **Season 3**:



In **'Episode 3: Global Voices: Disability Inclusive Development'**, host Kendra-Lee Heney was joined by Catherine Cameron, James Chidzanja, Puwata Deogratias, and Livingstone Koech, four guests from Canada, Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya, to highlight some of the adversities people with disabilities in East Africa face including traditional attitudes, stigma, lack of access, and lack of enforcement of global and national policy.



In **'Episode 6: Global Voices: Migrant Worker Rights in Canada'**, host Bernice Mwaura was joined by Professor Ethel Tungohan and Gabriel Allahdua to explore Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker program in all its facets, while exposing the systemic abuse and issues that require reform.

2,651 lifetime downloads from listeners in **64** different countries.

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“I am also extremely proud of the Global Voices podcast episode that I put together for my group's final project. It helped me to realize that I do have a voice and can also give a voice to others who are often overlooked in international cooperation and policy conversations.”

— Kendra Lee-Heney, YPH Member

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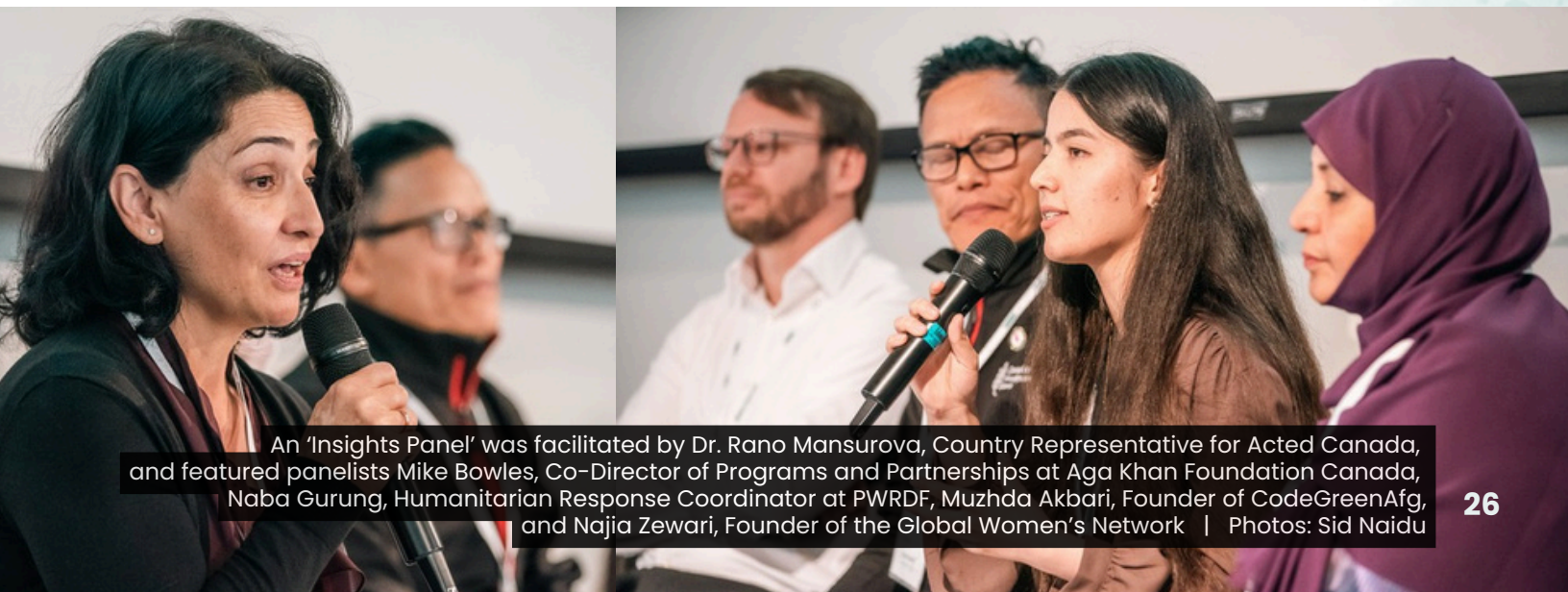
Towards a Connected Future: Ontario Engagement in Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy

In October 2024, OCIC brought together 45 academics, CSOs and youth, each with ties to the Indo-Pacific region to explore *Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy*. GAC representatives, Aly-Khan Rajani, Director of the Indo-Pacific Strategy Secretariat, and Karlye Wong, Senior Development Officer, Disaster Risk and Resilience, had the opportunity to learn more about the needs of local communities in the region and to what extent the Indo-Pacific Strategy aligns with this. Civil society representatives were able to access information about the government's implementation of the Strategy and to advocate for meaningful changes during its next five-year phase. A key theme of the event was the concept of localization and its significance for Canadian professionals working with Indo-Pacific counterparts.

Attendees agreed on key priority areas for implementation of the IPS, including:

- Adopting a triple nexus approach to provide a holistic response to community needs and minimize the need for future emergency humanitarian responses;
- Building the capacity of local partners in the Indo-Pacific region, while strengthening capacity here in Canada through public engagement and mutual learning from Indo-Pacific partners
- Increasing advocacy for marginalized groups, including incorporating a gender-smart approach to climate financing and policy development
- Strengthening communications between government and civil society to effectively navigate implementation efforts

28 out of **40** countries in the Indo-Pacific were represented through the participants' work.



An 'Insights Panel' was facilitated by Dr. Rano Mansurova, Country Representative for Acted Canada, and featured panelists Mike Bowles, Co-Director of Programs and Partnerships at Aga Khan Foundation Canada, Naba Gurung, Humanitarian Response Coordinator at PWRDF, Muzhda Akbari, Founder of CodeGreenAfg, and Najia Zewari, Founder of the Global Women's Network | Photos: Sid Naidu

OCIC Influences & Inspires

Supporting the Next Generation of Policy-Makers

The Youth Policy-Makers Hub (YPH)

The YPH is all about empowering Ontario's youth to dive into policy and advocacy work, with a strong focus on gender equality and intersectionality. Each year, we bring together a dynamic group of young leaders to explore, engage, and champion impactful policy-making and advocacy campaigns. The YPH have been keeping busy these past few years and providing the OCIC community with a heavy dose of inspiration.



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“As a firm believer in the power of representation and the importance of youth in development, I greatly appreciated the support of OCIC staff in coordinating and engaging youth from diverse professional backgrounds and the diversity of youth in the program. I am grateful for the opportunity to have joined the YPH with inspiring youth members.”

— Laura Perez Gonzalez, 2022-2023 YPH member

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In the summer and fall of 2021, we hosted 10 youth-focused capacity-building sessions that were delivered to the public through our **'Policy Matters'** series. This included two hackathons which created the opportunity for youth to translate a case study into a concrete policy recommendation. We also hosted two grant writing workshops in partnership with the #RisingYouth program at TakingITGlobal to support youth as they turn their ideas into community-level action.

Policy Matters Highlights

- **'Activating Youth Delegations'**, YPH Member Erika Dupuis facilitated a conversation with Jeffery Qi and Panthea Pourmalek of the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) and Christina Caouette of the Young Diplomats of Canada (YDC) around the opportunities and value provided by young people involved in forums at national and international levels.
- **'Policy Advocacy Tools'**, YPH members Ruva Gwekwerre, Harshini Ramesh and Tenzin Shaksur moderated a discussion with Judyannet Muchiri of the Inter-Council Network and Naia Lee of Youth Climate Lab to explore ways in which policy can be created from top-down and bottom-up approaches.
- **'Grassroots Mobilization in a Digital Age'**, with Results Canada shared best practices to mobilize engagement in a digital context.
- **'Hackathon'**, with the Canadian Council for Young Feminists (CCYF) under the office of Senator Marilou McPhedran, provided young people the opportunity to form teams and take part in a 'deep dive' on different thematic areas, including Human Rights and Inequalities, Climate Change and Justice, Public Health/Healthcare, and Future of Work/COVID-19 and a Just Recovery.
- **'From Passion to Action'**, with TakingITGlobal's #RisingYouth program invited youth to an interactive grant writing workshop to understand the funding available to young people across Canada, and to begin to develop the skills and proposals to launch local initiatives.

This cohort of the YPH also spearheaded their own policy initiatives to share their learnings and dig deeper into the policy issues that inspired them:

- Salamatu Mohammed, supported by Amaina Masood, Harshini Ramesh, Andrea Rodriquez, and Cisi Zhang, planned and hosted a three-part series called, **'Boost Your Job Search'** focused on supporting racialized youth navigate the pandemic job-market.
- Salamatu Mohammed led, **'Black Women Taking Up Space'**, a panel discussion focused on the experiences of Black Muslim women navigating the social justice space.
- Ruva Gwekwerere, Harshini Ramesh and Tenzin Shaksur coordinated a Fireside Chat through the **Youth Policy Advocates' (YPA) Policy Corner** initiative they created during their time in the YPH, focused on ways that youth can be involved in the policy advocacy space. They also collaborated with OCIC on the **Policy Advocacy Tools** session of the Summer 'Policy Matters' series.
- Albesa Aliu and Harshini Ramesh informed **'The Common Agenda'**, a report requested by the Secretary of the UN where youth from 10 countries shared their ideas for the future. They were also able to meet virtually with UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina Mohammed.

YPH Alumni Stories

The Youth Policy Advocates (YPA) Policy Corner, originally created through the YPH, has continued to influence and inspire. Following their time in the YPH, OCIC nominated the group for the **Together|Ensemble SDG Youth Awards** to honour their role as leaders taking action and paving the way toward progress on the SDGs. The YPA Policy Corner was 1 of 10 awardees recognized, specifically honoured in the category 'Innovation And Systems Change-Making'.

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“As opposed to learning more about specific SDGs, I have learned more about what those goals look like materially. By interacting with entrepreneurs, other people in the non-profit sphere, and other people working towards societal improvements, I have a better understanding of what “change on the ground” actually looks like. It has made the SDGs more tangible instead of a broad goal set by a vague powerful body such as the UN.”

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“Before the YPH I was passionate about climate change and sustainability but without an environmental/science background I felt very unmotivated. The YPH highlights how creating a difference in your own realm can really contribute to the bigger picture.”

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In the fall and winter of 2022–2023 we hosted five **‘Policy Matters’** sessions for YPH members, followed by an in-person retreat focused on creating policy advocacy plans facilitated by RESULTS Canada.

Policy Matters Highlights

- **‘Intersectionality and Anti-Oppression’** with Aniqah Zowmi, Gender Equality Advocate (and former OCIC Community Engagement and Gender Equality Specialist)
- **‘Energy policies, domestically and abroad’**, and ways youth can find opportunities and become more engaged in the policy sphere with Hem Dholakia, Senior Research Associate, Smart Prosperity Institute, and Harshini Ramesh, former YPH member and Smart Prosperity Institute Intern
- **‘Partnerships and achieving the SDGs’** with Julie Wright, Director, Partners for Action and Councillor, Ward 7, City of Waterloo
- **‘Neglected Tropical Diseases’**, with a focus on Canada’s advocacy on the topic domestically and abroad with Tina Sweeney, Advocacy and Policy Officer, and Dr. Alison Krentel, Co-founder & Chair of the Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases
- **‘Practical skills to meaningfully engage in policy advocacy’** with John Cameron, Professor of International Development, Dalhousie University

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“As a firm believer in the power of representation and the importance of youth in development, I greatly appreciated the support of OCIC staff in coordinating and engaging youth from diverse professional backgrounds and the diversity of youth in the program. I am grateful for the opportunity to have joined the YPH with inspiring youth members.”

— Laura Perez Gonzalez, YPH member

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“I feel that I have a better understanding of international policy and the processes it takes to make social change, which will help me with my goal of working as a human rights lawyer in the future.”

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“In addition to my previous knowledge and experiences, the YPH helped me to understand gender equality in the Canadian context; also I learned how to become an effective ally and advocate for gender equality in my personal and professional lives.”

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In the fall and winter of 2023-2024 we focused the YPH **'Policy Matters'** series on Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), with a monthly focus on each of its action areas.

Policy Matters Highlights

- **'Action Area 1: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls'** with Carelle Mang-Benza, Policy Lead at Cooperation Canada, and Zeenia Faraz, Senior Advisor of Gender Equality and Inclusion at Plan International Canada.
- **'Action Area 2: Human Dignity'** with Maya Israeloff-Smith, the Gender Equality and Inclusion Specialist at CARE Canada.
- **'Action Area 3: Growth That Works for Everyone'** with Ian Thomson, Manager of Policy at Oxfam Canada, and Rosa Hageraats, Gender Specialist at Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada.
- **'Action Area 4: Environment and Climate Change'** with Dennis Tessier, Environment and Climate Change Expert.
- **'Action Area 5: Inclusive Governance'** with Anju Fujioka, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Expert with Alinea International, and Anne-Lise Bloch, Democratic & Inclusive Governance Knowledge Sharing Officer with International Development Research Centre.
- **'Action Area 6: Peace and Security'** with Laura Sewell, Steering Committee Member of Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada, and Emily Neilson, Senior Advisor of Humanitarian Diplomacy at Canadian Red Cross.

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“OCIC’s support has not only made a difference in my journey but has also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to advocate for inclusive opportunities and meaningful experiences for all.”

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— **Branavi Raveendran**, YPH member

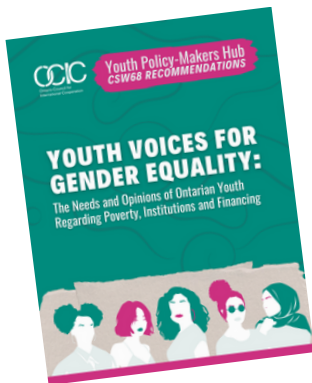
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“This newfound sentiment towards social policy work has reignited my sense of purpose and invigorated my commitment to creating positive change.”

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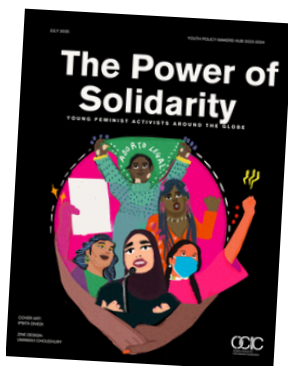
— **Dael Vasquez**, YPH member

This cohort of the YPH also spearheaded their own policy initiatives to share their learnings and dig deeper into the policy issues that inspired them:



- A **CSW68 Group** included Fayez Sahak, Rajaa Berry, Rachel Morrison, Yusra Ahmed and Keziah Oduro, who worked together to collect youth voices from Ontario on the priority theme of CSW68, incorporating those to the UN Women's Call for Recommendations for CSW68, and as a report. They also shared their findings with a wider audience during OCIC IDW events and at the OCIC co-led side event at CSW68.

- A **Youth Engagement Group** including Branavi Raveendran, Dael Vasquez, Devon Jarovi and Lian Marie Sayno, worked together to organize a workshop and handbook titled, **"Blueprint for Change"**, with an aim to inspire youth to be effective leaders through advocacy and photojournalism.



- A Gender Equality Group including Anais Rezaigue, Angelina Ding, Iknoor Khaira, Madhuri Kibria and Sanya Vij, created a zine titled, **"The Power of Solidarity"**, documenting feminist activists from across the world.

- An **Inclusion and Access Group** including Hudson Biko, Bernice Mwaura, Charles Oulton, Kendra-Lee Heney and Shoffana Sundaramoorthy, launched a podcast series titled, **"Global Voices"**, where they interviewed speakers on themes related to international development work focused on disability rights, menstrual health and other topics of interest.





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“I am also extremely proud of the Global Voices podcast episode that I put together for my group’s final project. It helped me to realize that I do have a voice and can also give a voice to others who are often overlooked in international cooperation and policy conversations. I am extremely passionate about disability inclusive development, and I am so proud that I can share this important topic with others, who will hopefully be inspired to act in this field.”

— Kendra-Lee Heney, YPH member

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“I’m most proud of the networking and professional growth I experienced through the YPH coffee chats. Connecting with a diverse group of peers and mentors was invaluable. It broadened my perspective, challenged me, and helped me develop skills for advocating on global issues like gender equality and sustainable development. Plus, it opened doors for future collaborations that I’m excited about.”

— YPH member

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In 2024–2025, the YPH continued to create enabling spaces for underrepresented youth to engage in international cooperation through policy-focused initiatives and skill-building opportunities. This year's **'Policy Matters'** series focused on the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), with an emphasis on Canada's role, youth engagement, and next steps.

Policy Matters Highlights

- **'An Introduction to the BPfA'** with Mary Scott, Co-founder of Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba, and Divya Sharma, Youth Advocate and CSW68 delegate.
- **'The BPfA in Canada'** with Marjorie Emmanuel, Director of Intergovernmental and International Relations at Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), and Vicky Smallman, National Director of Women's and Human Rights at Canadian Labour Congress.
- **'Lessons from CSW69 & the BPfA'** with Dorothy Baziwe, Executive Director of Shelter and Settlements Alternative (SSA), Meseret Haileyesus, Executive Director of Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE), Marilou McPhedran, Member at The Senate of Canada, Mia Vallière, YPH Member, and Margaret Zou, Executive Director of Kawartha World Issues Centre.

YPH Policy Matters Series
**UN BEIJING DECLARATION
 AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION**



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“Meeting in person at the start of the year helped me build lasting connections. I still keep up with those I met that day, and it made the online meetings feel more personal.”

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“I have developed a stronger sense of what I stand up for, and YPH helped me cultivate clear and concise communication for presentations.”

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“Through YPH, I have gained valuable leadership, advocacy, and policy-making skills. The experience has expanded my network, opened doors to speaking opportunities, and empowered me to refine my advocacy efforts.”

— ” —

Zine: From Policy to Progress

Twelve YPH members formed a dedicated working group to collaboratively create a youth-led zine titled, **From Policy to Progress: Assessing Canada's Commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Empowering Youth Action**. Each member focused on one of the BPfA's 12 critical areas, contributing original writing, visuals, and research with support from OCIC staff.



Engaging Canadians throughout International Development Week

International Development Week (IDW) is an annual celebration of Canada's contribution to sustainable development around the world. With leadership from Global Affairs Canada, the theme for 2022–2024, **'Go for the Goals'**, emphasized the importance of collective action and global citizenship. In 2025, we turned our attention to the future with the theme **'Building a Better World Together'**.

Each year, OCIC works closely with our members and partners to co-create programs that broaden our reach through depth, width, and height. As a convenor, we continue to experiment with new strategies to engage diverse audiences, reduce duplication, and strengthen collaboration with our global partners. Through creative communications, storytelling, and capacity-building initiatives, we mobilize communities across Ontario and beyond to connect, learn, and act for global change.

20 in-person and virtual events hosted

15 member meetings convened

7,800+ people reached directly

115,000+ people reached indirectly



Global Citizens Forum 2022: 'Localization Matters'

In February 2022 we came together virtually for two days of panels, storytelling, workshops, podcasting and other creative mediums as we sought to re-imagine international cooperation, solidarity and localization, particularly from the perspective of SMOs.

- **'Exploring the OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society'** was a conversation around the nature and content of this recommendation, its significance for SMOs, and the opportunities for improving conditions facing civil society from a global south perspective.
- **'Localizing Food Systems'** brought different voices together to share views on decolonizing aid, our relationship to the Earth, community approaches to food security, and examples of localization in action during development projects.
- **'Connecting Mind and Body Thru Yoga'** was an opportunity for participants to centre their minds and bodies as we entered a new day of learning and collaborating.
- **'Feminist Approaches to Localization'** was led by Oxfam who shared their definition of a 'feminist' approach, gender assessment tool, and examples of how their programs embody the feminist principles.
- **'Maintaining the Gains: People, Projects and Partnership in the time of COVID-19'**, coordinated and presented by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), this session explored the impacts of COVID-19 through the data they have gathered and through real-life experiences of their partners on the ground.
- **'Haitian Women at the Forefront of Community Solutions and Locally Led Change'** shared insights on how community-led and grassroots solutions are transforming communities in Haiti and built upon the conversation between leaders from Rayjon Share Care Canada, Rayjon Share Care Haiti, and the Haitian Women's Federation in OCIC's 'Tapestry 2030' podcast.

192 participants from Argentina, Burundi, Canada, Haiti, Mozambique, Philippines, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States

On February 11 – 12, OCIC's 2022 IDW Innovation Lab centred around the theme of, **'Dignified Storytelling: telling stories with dignity, integrity, and respect in the international cooperation sector.'** Over the course of two days, the lab hosted diverse participants and contributors from around the world.

Starting us off on day one was African poet and playwright Chief Moomen who introduced the ten principles of dignified storytelling. He was followed by a panel which brought together a diverse group of global and national experts for a conversation around the different principles of dignified storytelling, how they relate in different sectors of international cooperation work, and how individuals can apply them to shape and reshape the way stories are told.

Danielle Khan Da Silva of Photographers Without Borders Canada took the lead on day two with a session to explore decolonizing our mindsets and what an ethical and anti-oppressive approach looks like through different stages of storytelling assignments. By the end of the Lab participants left inspired and committed to dignified storytelling principles as we ensure the empowerment of people and communities we work with both locally and globally.

"The speakers and facilitators taught us that while stories can and do have a powerful impact on identifying local priorities, inspiring grassroots action, and informing policy change, it is not the just the 'story' that changes the world, but HOW the story is being told and WHY it's being told in the first place."

– **Ruqaiyah Hassim,**
OCIC Innovation Lab Coordinator

Participant Reflections

"Good intentions don't equal good work."

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"Learning that a rich community of practice exists in the communications space for dignified storytelling motivates me to further our work."

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"Today I was made more aware of how much storytelling we do when we are not intentionally or consciously telling a story. It is probably impossible NOT to be telling a story or receiving a story!"

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"It was an insightful participatory event today... Keep curating these wonderful spaces for fostering sharing, learning and solidarity."



SDG Innovation Lab 2022

Dignified Storytelling

February 11 & 12

On February 2, 2023 we kicked off IDW with our virtual event, **'Innovation Lab 2023 Part 1: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Realities From Across the Globe'**. This flagship event featured distinguished speakers from three CSOs working to effect positive and sustainable change in local communities. They shared how they have been experiencing the varying effects of climate change in the communities they serve as well as how the speakers engage with the broader international cooperation community to deepen their global citizenship work.

On February 11, 2023 we wrapped up our IDW events with our **'Innovation Lab 2023 Part 2: Arts Based Engagement Toward Climate Action'**, a unique in-person learning opportunity focused on storytelling and creative communication as tools to motivate climate action. Using film, photography, podcasts and muralism, participants were exposed to transferable, arts-based engagement tools to document their stories of climate and engage others in their work.



Participant Reflections

"Participating in these two events have been fruitful for two reasons. First, it enabled me to appreciate the importance of sharing the different initiatives around the world in the actual field where the sustainability challenges are most felt. Second, it provided me with a tangible technical tool for sharing my sustainability realities to the world, through the workshop on podcasting, where I learned how technology can be used to share our stories to a greater audience. I learned the technical side of production, as well as the creative and potential social change components of podcasting."

– **Eddy Lee**, Innovation Lab participant

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"The OCIC 'Innovation Lab 2023 Part 2: Arts-Based Engagement Toward Climate Action' has changed my path as an international development student. Through learning about muralism, I've found a powerful tool for advocacy, community involvement, and social change. As I continue my journey, I am dedicated to using the power of art and the lessons I've learned from this amazing experience to make the world more just and sustainable."

– **Lian Marie Sayno**, Innovation Lab participant

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"The IDW2023 [Innovation Lab] becomes my starting point. I have so many ideas and passions in my mind that I cannot wait to fulfill. I would like to thank OCIC for giving me a sense of belonging and for helping me realize my superpowers and unique values."

– **Angelina Ding**, Innovation Lab participant

INNOVATION LAB

2024

'Exploring Innovative Approaches to Global Water Challenges'

We dove in head first to take on the topic of water and climate during our Innovation Lab 2024: **'Exploring Innovative Approaches to Global Water Challenges'**. This event offered a unique in-person opportunity for people and organizations interested in reflecting upon their relationship to water and climate issues in local and global contexts, and in building and sharing their knowledge and understanding to join OCIC and partners at the University of Waterloo.

This immersive environment was an opportunity to deepen our understanding of water issues, and to ignite a sense of urgency and commitment to contribute meaningfully to water conservation efforts, moving forward.

Participant Reflections

"The OCIC Innovation Lab 2024 [...] was a hub of innovative thinking and collaborative action, dedicated to finding solutions to the critical challenges of water security and climate change. The event was a ray of hope, showcasing a blend of traditional wisdom and modern science to forge new paths toward a sustainable and just future."

- **Srishti Ratnu**, 2024 Innovation Lab participant



INNOVATION LAB

2025

Global Youth Summit at Lakehead University

We changed up our Innovation Lab in 2025 by partnering with Lakehead University for their **'Global Youth Summit for Youth Voice, Policy, and Action'**. Participants met online throughout Fall 2024 before joining together in Orillia in February 2025. Youth from 12 countries gathered for a powerful week of dialogue, cultural exchange, and hands-on learning. Focused on urgent global issues like climate change, AI, and conflict, participants moved beyond discussion to shape solutions and become agents of change.

Participant Reflections

"Since the Summit I've continued promoting global citizenship through presentations to students and educators, embedding values of empathy, equity, and collaboration into my outreach. The experience deepened my belief that youth are acutely aware of the moral and political challenges in their communities—and globally. Despite different contexts, we often face similar issues: corruption, exclusion, and systemic inequality. It was eye-opening to see how universal these injustices can be."



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'Culture matters': Lakehead hosts global youth summit in Orillia

'The nuances of culture we've been able to get a glimpse of is incredible,' says Lakehead University assistant professor and summit organizer



Tyler Evans

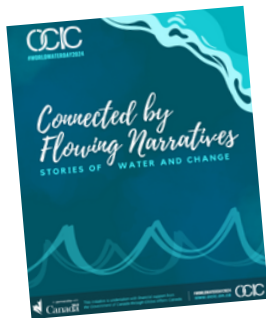
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Exploring Water & Climate Through the Arts

Building on the momentum of the OCIC Spur Change Wasan Retreat, we spent much of 2023 and 2024 exploring the topic of water and climate, culminating in our *World Water Day 2024* activities centered around arts-based engagement tools to learn and explore the topic.

E-Zine: 'Connected by Flowing Narratives - Stories of Water and Change'



Ahead of *World Water Day*, we put out the call for personal stories and photos from the community, leaving space for individuals to interpret the call as they wished. We received 12 wonderful submissions. Each story and photo offered a unique perspective, highlighting the interconnectedness between individuals and water, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries. By showcasing these personal accounts in an e-zine, we aimed to foster empathy and understanding, and to inspire deeper appreciation for water stewardship.

Storytelling Night: 'Calming the Waters: Stories of Water, Peace, and Life'

On the eve of *World Water Day*, OCIC partnered with the 1001 Friday Nights of Storytelling community for '**Calming the Waters: Stories of Water, Peace, and Life,**' a storytelling night that featured a curated selection of personal narratives, folk tales, fairy tales, songs and other oral pieces that explore the beauty, mystery and significance of water. Our storytellers took to the virtual stage, engaging 58 listeners with captivating tales of tides, turkeys, dolphins and mermaids, a song about high-fibre diets, and thought-provoking accounts of droughts, contaminated wells and polluted seas.

Community Arts Workshop: 'Creating Ripples'

On *World Water Day 2024*, we gathered at UNITY Studio in Toronto for a community arts workshop led by Azul Baez, Angelina Ding and Eddy Lee. Through movement, dance and art, the workshop provided an opportunity to amplify diverse personal voices, elevate perspectives, and inspire intentions towards sustainable water stewardship. Harnessing the transformative potential of artistic expression, participants cultivated a deeper sense of reverence and responsibility for water, provided space for mental and emotional recentering, and inspired healthier, more interconnected individuals and communities.



OCIC Delegations to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

CSW66

In March 2022 a group of 13 youth and CSO representatives attended the *66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*, as a part of our inaugural virtual delegation. The theme was, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

The delegates compiled their takeaways in a blog, sharing that they “found networking with other Canadian and international delegates enriching” and made meaningful virtual connections throughout the week. They also shared that although the negotiation process can feel opaque with many closed door meetings there are still “avenues, both formal and informal, to learning about what goes on. For example, youth delegates this year openly shared their experiences on group chats and in informal meeting spaces.”

As a virtual parallel event to the official session of the CSW66, we hosted speakers from Pakistan, Honduras, Nepal, El Salvador, and Cambodia to raise the call for **‘Radical Solidarity’** to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change and disasters on women, children, the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.





CSW67

In March 2023 we sent our first in-person delegation of 10 youth and CSO representatives to the UN in New York for CSW67, focused on Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls.

Following CSW67, delegates presented their experience and key takeaways with their peers at a virtual share back session, alongside ICN CSW67 delegates.

Participant Reflections

"My participation at CSW allowed me to share with our attendees the realities of cybercrime and the role AI plays in further victimizing women and girls, in particular Black women and girls. We dedicated a segment on cybersecurity in an attempt to encourage active participation within the field so that we can be represented not only at senior management level, but also in the way that AI and algorithms are designed, developed, and ranked."

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"It was a meaningful opportunity for a young woman like me to learn more about some complex issues (e.g. social, environmental, etc.), hear presentations from people who are active agents of change in their communities, and build up my policy development and advocacy skills. My increased motivation will help me in my professional development, as I pursue the role of a public policy professional with the Ontario Ministry of Health."

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"I now have a more holistic understanding of the SDGs and their potential impact in gender equality, education, health care, and international development."



CSW68

We were back in New York for CSW68 in March 2024 with an 11 person delegation to join the discussion around accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

At CSW68, we also collaborated with World Renew, Act Alliance, UN Women, the Government of Senegal and the Government of Canada at the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations, to co-organize an official side event, **'Achieving Women's Economic Empowerment: Innovative Models to Addressing Unpaid Care Work'**. We examined how the disproportionate care work responsibilities of women lead to time and asset poverty, limiting their economic empowerment and public leadership opportunities as well as access to social protection services.



Participant Reflections

"Engaging in sessions on topics like trade, taxes, gender-sensitive parliaments and artificial intelligence at CSW deepened my understanding of how gender disparities permeate every sphere, enhancing my critical thinking skills and gender analysis lens."

– **Sarah Johnson**, CSW68 delegate



CSW69

In March 2025, OCIC brought 8 delegates to the 69th Session of CSW for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review included an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Following CSW69, a few of the delegates shared how they have connected their CSW experience with their local communities during our YPH Policy Matters session **‘Lessons from CSW69 and the Beijing Platform for Action’**.



Participant Reflections

“Participating in programs like CSW keeps my passion alive. It reminds me why I volunteer and why open discussions are essential. It also pushes me to learn about areas I might not have explored before. In my banking world, I’m starting to see more support for people from diverse backgrounds — especially women of color. There’s a growing recognition that skills aren’t the only measure—life experiences, like being a working parent or caretaker, also matter. That shift is exciting.”

Our Reach

Our communications efforts have continued to focus on creating and sharing actionable, engaging material to amplify the sector's work around key global issues, and to ensure we are including voices of diverse actors. OCIC's social media, email campaigns and other digital communications channels frequently feature members' and Ontario-based development partners' work towards sustainable development.

From April 2021 to March 2025

our communications directly reached over **198,000** people,
and indirectly reached over **1,500,000** people.

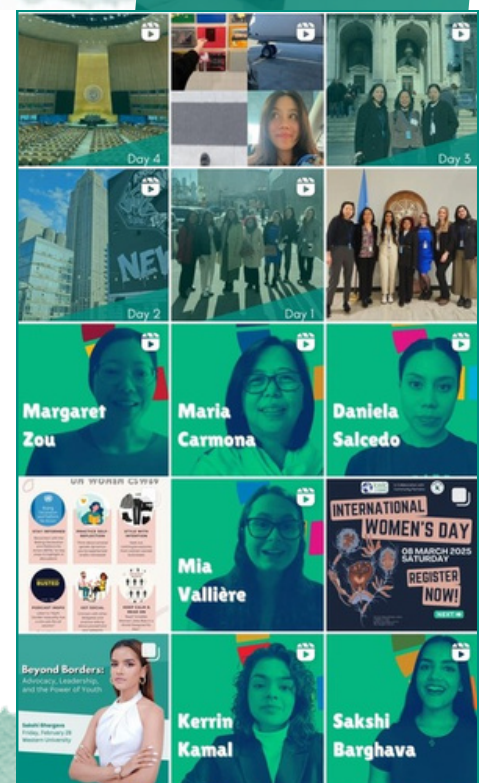
3,000+ Newsletter Subscribers

11,000+ LinkedIn Followers

900+ Instagram Followers

3,000+ Facebook Followers

as of March 31, 2025



Our Financials

2024-2025

ONTARIO COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 334,427	\$ 167,228
Term deposits (note 3)	42,607	41,762
Amounts receivable	17,196	36,643
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>9,149</u>	<u>1,446</u>
	<u>\$ 403,379</u>	<u>\$ 247,079</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 45,705	\$ 45,755
Deferred contributions (note 5)	<u>163,552</u>	<u>40,324</u>
	<u>209,257</u>	<u>86,079</u>
Net assets		
Internally restricted (note 6)	100,000	100,000
Unrestricted	<u>94,122</u>	<u>61,000</u>
	<u>194,122</u>	<u>161,000</u>
	<u>\$ 403,379</u>	<u>\$ 247,079</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Government grants (note 7)	\$ 832,093	\$ 702,810
Membership fees	26,338	29,915
Inter-Council Network (ICN) Spur Change Program	15,923	71,166
Investment income	1,526	1,866
Donations	830	2,876
Other	<u>4,194</u>	<u>2,725</u>
	<u>880,904</u>	<u>811,358</u>
EXPENSES (note 8)		
Program		
Global Affairs Canada	742,940	627,509
ICN Spur Change Program	16,424	66,360
Administration	<u>88,418</u>	<u>102,159</u>
	<u>847,782</u>	<u>796,028</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	33,122	15,330
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>161,000</u>	<u>145,670</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 194,122</u>	<u>\$ 161,000</u>

Our Community & Contributors

Surround yourself with good people. That's what we did.

Many individuals contribute to the Council. It can't be overstated how grateful we are to our community, and how much we have learned from each other.

Our Leadership Teams

Board Directors

2024-2025

Jacquelyn Wright - Kinvia - President
Bella Lam - Jane Goodall Institute of Canada - Vice President
Aysha Dawood - Secretary
Christina Muia - Treasurer
Emily Antze - Partners In Health Canada
Hyang Cho - Good Neighbours Canada
Kristin Parmera - World Accord
Molly Grove
Soofia Mahmood - Raising The Village
Alice Ng Bouwma
Efemena Stephenie Ozugha - Rooftops Canada
Helen Ray
Helena Shilomboleni - University of Waterloo

2023 - 2024

Jacquelyn Wright - Canadian Feed The Children - President
Bella Lam - Jane Goodall Institute - Vice President
Aysha Dawood - Associate Member - Secretary
Courtney Mollenhauer - Transforming Faces - Treasurer
Hyang Cho - Good Neighbours Canada
Martina Coraci - World Renew
Kristin Douglas - World Accord
Molly Grove - Associate Member
Soofia Mahmood - Raising The Village
Christina Muia - Associate Member
Alice Ng Bouwma - Associate Member
Charanya Thiyanavadivel - Results Canada

2022 - 2023

Kristin Douglas - World Accord - President
Jacquelyn Wright - Canadian Feed The Children - Vice-President
Aysha Dawood - Associate Member - Secretary
Courtney Mollenhauer - Transforming Faces - Treasurer
Nabil Ali - International Development and Relief Foundation
Martina Coraci - World Renew
Molly Grove - Associate Member
Bella Lam - Jane Goodall Institute
Christina Muia - TakingITGlobal
Alice Ng Bouwma - Associate Member
Ruth Taylor - Heart-Links I Lazos de Corazón
Charanya Thiyanavadivel - Results Canada

2021 - 2022

Jessica Ferne - Associate Member - President
Kristin Douglas - Ethiopiaid Canada - Vice-President
Aysha Dawood - Associate Member - Secretary
Nabil Ali - International Development & Relief Foundation - Treasurer
John Abraham - St Paul's University College, University of Waterloo
Martina De Ruyte - World Renew
Bella Lam - Jane Goodall Institute
Courtney Mollenhauer - Transforming Faces
Christina Muia - TakingITGlobal
Dr. Vida Shehada - Centennial College
Ruth Taylor - Heart-Links I Lazos de Corazón
Jacquelyn Wright - Canadian Feed The Children

Our Management, Staff & Intern Teams

2024-2025

Kimberly Gibbons - Executive Director
Lisa Swainston - Director of Operations
Eric Plato - Accountant (until Dec 2024)
Josiane Gomez + Team at Zivo Financial Services (from Dec2024)
Shehara Athukorala - Learning and Impact Specialist
Sarah Judd - Communications and Content Specialist
Pragya Tikku - Community Engagement and Gender Equality Specialist
Mishka Watin - Membership and Administration Specialist
Rob Vanderplas - IT Volunteer
Comfable - Website Support

Additional Staff 2021-2024

Arabelle Arcaina - Membership & Administration Coordinator (Aug 2022 - July 2024)
Vlad Góméz - Regional Retreat Coordinator (May 2023 - Dec 2023)
Shah Bano - Community Engagement & Gender Equality Specialist (Jul 2022 - Aug 2022)
Gladys Trinidad - Community Information Officer (Aug 2022 - May 2023)
Elizabeth Tuck - Special Events Coordinator (Dec 2021 - Mar 2022), Community Engagement Specialist (Sep 2022 - May 2023)
Marilyn Bastedo - Membership & Administration Coordinator (Oct 2020 - Jun 2022)
Eliana Fleifel - Communications & Content Specialist (Aug 2021 - Sep 2022)
Cari Siebrits - Communications Specialist (Dec 2020 - July 2021)
Aniqah Zowmi - Community Engagement & Gender Equality Specialist (Nov 2020 - Jun 2022)
Ruqaiyah Hassim - SDG Innovation Lab Coordinator (Dec 2021 - Mar 2022)
Jason Wong - SDG Innovation Lab Coordinator (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021)

Interns 2021-2024

Krishna Tessa Absin - Special Projects (2024)
Negin Kamvizi - Special Projects (2024)
Mishka Watin - Communications and Community Engagement (2023); Special Events (2023)
Arabelle Arcaina - Special Events Coordinator (Capacity Building) (2022)
Shanice Burton - Social Policy Analyst (2022)
Emmanuelle Kombora - Special Events Coordinator (Hubs) (2022)
Gladys Trinidad - Community Information Officer (2022)
Ruqaiyah Hassim - Innovation Lab Coordinator (2021)
Kyle Kirby - Administrative Support Officer (2021)
Leanne Leung - Customer Service Assistant (2021)
Maddy McCarville - Special Events Coordinator (2021)
Elizabeth Tuck - Special Events Coordinator (2021)
Serena Yuan - Administrative Support Officer (2021)

Members

In 2024, OCIC shifted from the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) to the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA). While three membership classes are listed below (Organizational, Individual Associate, and Network/Institutional), under the CNCA we now have just one class of Members.

Organizational Members

Acted Canada (member since September 2024)
Adventist Development & Relief Agency Canada (ADRA)
Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC)
Alongside Hope (formerly The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund [PWRDF])
Beautiful World Canada Foundation
Canada SOS: Students Offering Support (SOS) (until March 2023)
Canada-Mathare Education Trust (CMETrust)
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace | Caritas Canada (D&P)
Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)
Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)
CAP Network (until March 2023)
Casa - Pueblito
Catalyste+ (previously Canadian Executive Service Organization [CESO]) (until March 2024)
Centennial College (until March 2025)
Comdu.it (until March 2022)
Compassion Canada
Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (ratified September 2023)
Crossroads International
Cuso International
Emmanuel International Canada (until March 2023)
Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) (until March 2022)
Ethiopiaid Canada (until March 2023)
Firefighters Without Borders
Good Neighbours Canada (ratified September 2021)
Heart-Links | Lazos de Corazón
Helpage Canada (ratified September 2023 until March 2025)
Horizons of Friendship
Human Concern International (ratified September 2022)
Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning (Humber College) (until March 2025)
Inter Pares
International Children's Awareness (ratified September 2022)
International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)
Jane Goodall Institute of Canada (JGI)
Kawartha World Issues Centre
Kentro Christian Network
Kinvia (previously Canadian Feed The Children [CFTC])
Nexim International Development Organization (NIDO) (ratified in September 2023)
ONE Campaign (member since September 2024)
Partners in Health Canada (PIH) (until March 2023; member since 2024)
Plan International Canada (ratified September 2023; until March 2024)
Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D)
Raising The Village (ratified September 2023)
Rayjon Share Care of Sarnia Inc.

RESULTS Canada
Rooftops Canada Foundation Inc. / Fondation Abri International
SoChange Inc
TakingITGlobal
The Bhutan Canada Foundation (until March 2023)
Transforming Cleft (formerly Transforming Faces)
University of Toronto Scarborough Department of Global Development Studies (until March 2024)
Wateraid Canada (ratified September 2023; until March 2024)
White Ribbon (until March 2023)
World Accord - International Development Agency
World Renew
World University Service of Canada (WUSC)
YMCA of Greater Toronto, International Program
Youth Challenge International (YCI)

Network/Institutional Members (until 2024)

Compañeros Inc. Nicaragua (until March 2022)
Keys of Health Fellowship Program (until March 2023)
Oikocredit Canada (until March 2023)
United College (formerly St. Paul's University College) (until March 2024)
TESOL Canada (until March 2023)

Individual Associate Members (until 2024)

Adnan Said (ratified 2023)
Amal Smaili (ratified 2023)
Alena Khabibullina (ratified 2022)
Alejandro Murcia (ratified 2023)
Alice Ng Bouwma (ratified 2022)
Allan Lissner
Anabelle Ragsag (ratified 2022)
Andrew Horne
Ardra Reba Sam (ratified 2021)
Aysha Dawood
Babatunde Fakunle
Beverly Rodrigues (ratified 2023)
Bill Sparks
Brian Waters (ratified 2022)
Cassandra Griffin (ratified 2023)
Cherisse Diaram (ratified 2021)
Christina Muia (ratified 2022)
Christine Delormier (ratified 2022)
Cibelle Corbane (ratified 2022)
Claire Holloway Wadhvani (ratified 2022)
Daryl Mishka Watin (ratified 2022)
Danielle Paroyan
Diane Laakso
Diane O'Reggio
Dianna English (ratified 2022)
Dilesha Stelmach (ratified 2023)
Elena Bonicelli (ratified 2021)
Emily Gilfillan (ratified 2021)
Emmanuelle Kombora (ratified 2022)
Eric Meerkamper (ratified 2022)
Erick Carreras
Erik Rath
Farrah Seucharan
Farzona Nazrikhujaeva
Geetanjali Gill (ratified 2022)
Gelila Gebru (ratified 2021)
Genevieve Drouin

Individual Associate Members (cont.)

Homira Zaky (ratified 2021)
Iqbal Khan (ratified 2023)
Jesse Clarke (ratified 2022)
Jessica Ferne
Jessie Li (ratified 2021)
Jithya Danesh (ratified 2022)
Jo Rodrigues
Karen Tsang
Kavitha Kandiah (ratified 2022)
Kyle Kirby (ratified 2021)
Laura Martinez (ratified 2021)
Lian Marie Sayno (ratified 2022)
Maggie Zeng
Maria Carmona
Mark Blumberg
McKinley Charles (ratified 2023)
Megan Sieroka (ratified 2021)
Menaka Yerramilli De Rege (ratified 2022)
Mitra Manouchehrian
Md Mehedee Islam (ratified 2023)
Molly Alice Grove (ratified 2022)
Mykola Holovetskyi (ratified 2023)
Narinder Sharma
Nemanja Davidovic
Nikita Kapur (ratified 2021)
Nishat Kazmi
Nisrine El Amiri (ratified 2021)
Noel Millson
Nuha Dwaikat-Shaer (ratified 2022)
Peniel Rwendeire (ratified 2023)
Pida Popal (ratified 2023)
Precious Osadjere (ratified 2022)
Preetha James (ratified 2022)
Racha Abou Chakra
Racheal Kalaba (ratified 2022)
Rahul Balasundaram
Rajesh Pisharody
Randrara Rakoto (ratified 2022)
Rebecca Bishop (ratified 2022)
Regine Quilas (ratified 2022)
Rishan Sathasivam (ratified 2022)
Rishi Khan (ratified 2021)
Ron Cheong
Rukevwe Etikini (ratified 2023)
Runa Malawarair
Sarah Poulouse (ratified 2022)
Sarvathanan Jegatheesan (ratified 2023)
Sascha Priewe
Scott Fenwick (ratified 2022)
Semiu Ganiu (ratified 2023)
Siddhartha (Sid) Naidu
Stephanie Lemelin Bazinet
Stephany Ospina Coral (ratified 2022)
Sunny Aranguren (ratified 2021)
Sumeet Deol (ratified 2022)
Susan James
Sydney Piggott
Tamara Udugama (ratified 2023)
Tariq Bhanjee
Temisan Boyo Fanoi
Victoria Willes (ratified 2021)
Vida Shehada
Vidushi Sanghadia (ratified 2022)
Vongaishe Changamire (ratified 2021)
Yin Brown

Partner Organizations

Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC)
Association for the Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC)
Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC)
Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
Bhutan Canada Foundation
British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC)
Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP)
Canadian Feed The Children
Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH)
Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)
Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program
Can-RAC
CAP Network
Centennial College
Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto at Scarborough
Centre for Social Innovation (CSI)
Canada-Mathare Education Trust (CMETrust)
City of Toronto
Coalition of Coalitions
Community Foundations of Canada
Cooperation Canada
Crossroads International
Cuso International
Compañeros Inc. Nicaragua
Curio Studio
David Peck
The Dignity Network
Fluency Digital Media
Global Affairs Canada
Global Women's Network
Heart-Links | Lazos de Corazón
Horizons of Friendship
Innerspeak Media
Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN)
International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)
Inter Pares
Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)
Northern Council for Global Citizenship (NCGC)
Oikocredit Canada
Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
Noemi Weis
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Partners In Health Canada
Plato Training and Consulting
Platform
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)
Rayjon Share Care of Sarnia Inc.
Results Canada
Safa Shahkhalili
Salanga
Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC)
TakingItGlobal
Toronto Centre of Learning and Development (TCL&D)
University of Ottawa
University of Ottawa Student Association
World Accord
World Renew
Youth Challenge International (YCI)
YMCA of Greater Toronto

Contributors

International Development Week 2025 Gender Panel 2025

Elizabeth Kemigisha – The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA – Uganda)
Dr. Rubel Manivannan – Regions Beyond Medical Union Society
Marlen Mondaca – Vice President of Programs and Partnerships, Canadian Feed The Children
Gulnora Mukhamadieva – Global Lead for Gender, Aga Khan Foundation
Senator Paulette Senior
Shobha Shrestha – Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD) Nepal
Dr. Felagot Taddese – CPAR Ethiopia

Career Panel 2025

M. Bibeau-Leblanc – Global Affairs Canada
Madhuri Kibria – Nature United & BacharLorai
Christina Koikaran – Parliamentary Intern
Andron McKoy – Afrika Outbound
Sophia Mirzayee – Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Annual Symposium 2025

Muzhda Akbari – CodeGreen Afg & YPH
Kimberly Bowman – Planning, Learning & Evaluation Consultant
Guillermo Correa – Red Argentina para la Cooperación Internacional (RACI)
Aysha Dawood – Canada Forum for Impact Investment and Development (CAFIID)
Molly Grove – Salanga
Shannon Kindornay – Cooperation Canada
Bella Lam – Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
Allan Lissner – Praxis Pictures
Susan MacGregor – Humber Polytechnic
Namrata Mahboobani – Definity
Judyannet Muchiri – Inter-Council Network (ICN)
Kagwiria Muturia – World Renew
Andy Ouédraogo – Cooperation Canada
Efemena Ozugha – Rooftops Canada/Abri International
James Parsons – Global Affairs Canada
Dr. Helena Shilomboleni – University of Waterloo
Brian Tomlinson – Aid Watch Canada
Jacquelyn Wright – Canadian Feed The Children

International Development Week 2022 Gender Panel 2024

ENina Bianchi – International Secretariat for Water
Grace Oluwasanya – United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health
Dominic O'Neill – United Nations Sanitation and Hygiene Fund
Adnan Ibne Abdul Qader – WaterAid Bangladesh
Ann Turinayo – International Fund for Agricultural Development, Burkina Faso

Innovation Lab 2024

Ashley Anthony – Climate Reality Project Canada
Linda Debassige – M'Chigeeng First Nation, Independent First Nations Alliance

Thomas Johnson – Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission
Dr. Leah Jones-Crank – University of Waterloo
Sarah Kowalczyk – University of Waterloo
Dr. Kelsey Leonard – University of Waterloo
Ejiro Movoria – University of Waterloo
Justin Murgai – WaterAid
Lucas Shumaker – University of Waterloo
Dr. Larry Swatuk – University of Waterloo
Dr. Lina Taing – United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health
Likhitha Varikuti – University of Waterloo

Career Panel 2024

Ashley Anthony – Climate Reality Project Canada
Emilie Chiasson – Aga Khan Foundation
Keziah Oduro – Future of Good
Branavi Raveendran – UNICEF
Mada Dibs Wardeh – Global Affairs Canada

CSW68 Delegation

Yusra Ahmed – YPH Member
Rajaa Berry – YPH Member
Aysha Dawood – Associate Member
Sarah Johnson – Canadian Feed The Children
Laura Lortie-Maurel – Cuso International
Rachel Morrison – YPH Member, Good Neighbours Canada
Keziah Oduro – YPH Member
Fayez Sahak – YPH Member

International Development Week 2023 Gender Panel 2023

Dr. Lauryn Oates – Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
Jacqueline O'Neill – Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security
Dr. Raskhshinda Perveen – Gender Expert
Dr. Siham Rayale – Global Affairs Canada

Innovation Lab Part One 2023

Ashley Anthony – Climate Reality Project Canada
Emilie Chiasson – Aga Khan Foundation
Keziah Oduro – Future of Good
Branavi Raveendran – UNICEF
Mada Dibs Wardeh – Global Affairs Canada

Innovation Lab Part Two 2023

Joao Luiz DeFranco – Global Affairs Canada
Amanada Cupido – LeadPodcasting
Justin Murgai – WaterAid Canada
Sid Naidu – Sid Naidu Photography
Karen Natalia Villanueva – Muralist
Kasha Sequoia Slavner – 'The Sunrise Storyteller'

Career Panel 2023

John Abraham – United College, University of Waterloo
Léa Beaudry – Global Affairs Canada
Leslie Chan – University of Toronto, Scarborough
Rachel Morrison – Good Neighbours Canada
Tina Sweeney – Cuso International

CSW67 Delegation 2023

Arezo Najibzadeh – Oxfam Canada
Bill Lu – YPH Member, Indigenous Services Canada
Chelsea Bartosik – Human Concern International
Joelle Kabisoso Kapinga – YPH Member, Sisters in Sync
Kathryn Kalinowski – YPH Member
Linnaea Jasiuk – YPH Member
Martina Coraci – World Renew
Molly Grove – Salanga
Laura Perez-Gonzalez – YPH Member

CSW67 Delegation 2023

Alejandro Barrios – Instituto Politecnico Tomas Katari, Bolivia
Chris Dendys – Results Canada
Heather Dicks – Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador
Shirley Estévez – Canadian Feed The Children, Bolivia
Ekatha Ann John – Results Canada
Felipe Mamani – Municipio Poroma, Bolivia
Marlen Mondaca – Canadian Feed The Children
Andrea Paras – University of Guelph
Heather Smith – Rayjon Share Care of Sarnia Inc.
Renaud Thomas – Rayjon Share Care Haiti
Jacquelyn Wright – Canadian Feed The Children

International Development Week 2022

Global Citizens Forum 2022

Marilyn Bachmann – OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, France
Denis Côté – Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale
Anabel Cruz – Communication and Development Institute of Uruguay
Bart Dickinson – The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
Marisa Giraldez, Banco de Alimentos Argentina
Ramula Issa – EHALE Mozambique
Sophie Kiwala – The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
Brittany Lambert – Oxfam Canada
Nikki Martin – Nikki Possibilities Yoga
Witness Mushi – Diocese of Masasi Tanzania
Melchiade Nginganza – Village Health Works Burundi
Miselende Parisien – Fédération des Femmes de Haut-Saint-Marc
Susan Pereverzoff – Global Citizens Division, Global Affairs Canada
Farwah Qasim – Oxfam Canada
Theresa Rempel Mulaire – Canadian Foodgrains Bank
Safa Shahkhalili, OCIC Podcast Producer
Celeste Smith – Cultural Seeds
Heather Smith – Rayjon Share Care Canada
Geneviève Talbot – Solidarité Union Coopération
Renaud Thomas – Rayjon Share Care Haiti
Brian Tomlinson – AidWatch Canada
Carmen Zubiaga – Women with Disabilities Leap to Social and Economic Progress, Inc. Philippines

Innovation Lab 2022

Kath Clark – Inter Pares
Ray Saro – Expo 2020
Tristen Schneider – Indigenous Youth Advocate
Tina Sweeney – Cuso International

Career Panel 2022

John Abraham – St. Paul's University College, University of Waterloo

Stéphanie St-Laurent Brassard – Government of Canada
Allison Coady – Partners in Health Canada
Kumaran Nadesan – 369 Global Inc. and comdu.it
Kareen Wong – Kareen Wong Consulting

CSW67 Delegation 2023

Racha Abou Chakra – Associate Member
Hyang Cho – Good Neighbours Canada
Kaitlyn Gilham – YPH Member
Veda Jain – YPH Member
Sarah Kamau – Africa Climate Action Initiative
Bella Lam – Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
Harshini Ramesh – YPH Member
Farrah K. Seucharan – YPH Alumni
Celeste Smith – Cultural Seeds
Charanya Thiyanavadivel – YPH Member
Ray Njihia Veary – Beautiful World Canada
Serena Yuan – YPH Member
Shatabdy Zahid – YPH Member

Annual Symposium 2022

Zein Almoghaby – Journalists for Human Rights
Michelle Arvizu – 'One Small Visit'
Laura Barbosa – Canada SOS
Oriana Beltran Castano – Canada SOS
Jo Chim – 'One Small Visit'
Morgan Davidoff – 'One Small Visit'
Clarisse Esteban – International Development Institute, Humber College
Dr. Geetanjali Gill – University of the Fraser Valley
Bella Lam – Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
Rachel Levee – Spur Change Program
Catherine Liao – University of the Fraser Valley
Kathrina Loeffler – Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)
Mark Loewenberger – Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)
Christina MacIsaac – Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)
Judyannet Muchiri – Inter-Council Network (ICN)
David Myhre – My Oral Village
Sid Naidu – Scarborough Made
David Peck – SoChange
Elder Dr. Robert A. Phillips
Vinod Rajasekaran – Future of Good
Vidushi Sanghadia – IDI, Humber College
Anjum Sultana – Plan International Canada
Noemi Weis – 'Broken Courage'

Annual Symposium 2022

Alejandro Barrios Noya – Instituto Politécnico Tomás Katari
Leslie Chan – University of Toronto Scarborough
Deidre Chegahno-Millar – Kikendaasogamig Elementary School
Elizabeth Dyke – Canadian Feed the Children
Charlotte Kiddell – Inter Pares
Bella Lam – Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
Odette McCarthy – Equitas
Larry McDermott – Plenty Canada
Andréanne Martel – Spur Change
Judyannet Muchiri – Inter-Council Network
Gloria Novovic – Cooperation Canada
Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore – World Vision Canada
Aislynn Row – Cooperation Canada
Rob Shropshire – Presbyterian World Service & Development
Karen Villanueva-Paez – Toronto Centre for Learning & Development
Shaelyn Wabegijig – Kawartha World Issues Centre
William Ward – Kawartha World Issues Centre
Jacquelyn Wright – Canadian Feed The Children
Margaret Zou – Kawartha World Issues Centre

Youth Policy-Makers Hub

2024-2025 Cohort

Muzhda Akbari
Jennifer Amuah
Alisha Aslam
Sakshi Bhargava
Yagiz Boran
Dhanvi Gahlawat
Isabela Galindo
Jahm Guinto
Adrian Haasler
Kathleena Henricus
Yara Idris
Lucy Kazaanshiyi Jibro
Kerrin Kamal
Justin Langan
Christine Le
Celina Mankarios
Radia Mbengue
Mikee Mutuc
Eseosa Omoregie
Bavan Pushpalingam
Tashin Rodoshi
Ayesha Siddiqa
Mia Vallière
Muskaan Waraich
Aija-Simone White

2023-2024 Cohort

Yusra Ahmed
Rajaa Berry
Hudson Biko
Angelina Ding
Kendra-Lee Heney
Rae Jardine
Clementine Jarrett
Devon Jarovi
Iknoor Khaira
Madhuri Kibria
Rachel Morrison
Bernice Mwaura
Keziah Oduro
Charles Oulton
Branavi Raveendran
Anaïs Rezaigue
Fayez Sahak
Lian Marie Sayno
Shoffana Sundaramoorthy
Dael Vasquez
Sanya Vij

2022-2023 Cohort

Nora Afifi
Arooba Bari
Jessica Gooden
Abdiqani Hussein
Linnaea Jasiuk
Angelique Jeanty
Joëlle Kabisoso
Kathryn Kalinowski
Shimmi Kelly
Maheen Khalid
Mishika Khurana
Bill Lu
Laura Perez Gonzalez

Khalil I. Rantissi
Aisha Rob
Caylin Sun
Gladys Trinidad
Mishaal Yasir

Volunteers

Board Committee Volunteers

Agatha Dudzinski
Temisan Boyo Fanou
Susan James
Ruth Taylor
Brian Waters

Lead Volunteers

2024-2025

Krishna Tessa Absin
Favour Francis
Victoria Ho
Negin Kamvizi
Nishita Panwar

2023-2024

Sagarika Bose
Hilena Gebregiorgis
Srijain Shrestha
Mishka Watin

2022-2023

Nafisatu Bukari
Davina Gounden
Natalia Mercado Salazar
Neha Shrestha

Selection Committee Volunteers

CSW69 Selection Committee

Rajaa Berry
Favour Francis
Nishita Panwar
Aysha Dawood

CSW68 Selection Committee

Maria Carmona
Angelique Jeanty

CSW67 Selection Committee

Veda Alison Jain-Allington
Mada El Dibbs
Shatabdy Zahid
Bella Lam
Kristin Douglass

YPH Selection Committee (2023)

Nora Afifi
Jessica Gooden
Kathryn Kalinowski

Angelique Jeanty
Shatabdy Zahid
Laura Perez Gonzalez

YPH Selection Committee (2022)

Veda Alison Jain-Allington

Event Volunteers

Annual Symposium 2025

Hassan Abdi
Ngare Adul
Ekua Arthur
Karl Bleta
Yahya Duhulow
Dan Fenty
Hannah Nicole Frazer
Aisha Imana
Aweys Isak
Ria Khan
Naga Maheshwari Polepally
Aptidon Yacin Ali
Sandy Yang

Indo-Pacific Strategy Dialogue 2024

Zaina Aziz
Angelica Paola Briceno
Fonseca
Mike Macharia Karanja
Sasiaro Nyam
Damilare Odetunde
Eniola Sogbanmu
Sabhya Subedi
Pema Yashi

Innovation Lab 2023

Irish Dale Macolor
Tshering Pelzom
Lian Marie Sayno
Caylin Sun

Innovation Lab 2022

Tamanna Bazaz
Jo Ann Capoquian
Kritika Chopra
Gurleen Ghotra
Fariha Hoque
Elizabeth Intac
Irish Dale Macolor
Sarah Poulouse
Reg Quilas
Lian Marie Sayno
Ken Wong

Development Drinks 2022

Kritika Chopra

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[Innovation Lab 2022 Report](#)

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[Theory of Change](#)

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[YPH The Power of Solidarity: Young Feminist Activists Around the Globe Zine](#)

[YPH Youth Advocacy Guide: Blueprint for Change](#)



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