



Where Canada Stands

A Sustainable Development Goals
Progress Report



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The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation is a network of civil society organizations and individuals moving toward a better world based in British Columbia, Canada. Through coordinating this report, BCCIC hopes to contribute informed and reputable voices from civil society into the critical debate on Canada's role in developing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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ABOUT BCCIC



The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) is a coalition of international development and civil society organizations that has engaged in sustainable development and social justice issues for over a quarter century. BCCIC supports its more than 100 members in becoming more effective agents of change in their global cooperation efforts by disseminating knowledge gained through collaborative projects, building relationships across different sectors and networks, and developing the capacity of international development practitioners. BCCIC represents members' interests and advances policy recommendations on provincial, national and international issues and the enabling role of civil society in these areas. BCCIC's vision is to engage British Columbians in global cooperation for a just, equitable, and sustainable world; its mission is to provide members and others in BC with networking, information sharing, and learning opportunities that facilitate cooperation to achieve global development goals and increase public awareness of, and support for, global development. BCCIC is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and receives core operating support from the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs Canada, and from membership dues. The Council receives project funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Kenoli Foundation.

FOREWORD

By defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we can help all people to see it, to draw hope from it and to move irresistibly towards it.

- Former US President John F. Kennedy (1963)

Adopting the *2030 Agenda* and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was an historic moment for our global community. All 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously endorsed a broad, universal agenda to end poverty, fight inequality and protect the environment by 2030. Looking forward, the success of the 2030 Agenda depends on national action and international cooperation, where every country commits to achieving the goals through a set of measurable targets and meaningful indicators.

Where Canada Stands is the first step by Canadian civil society to assess Canada's progress toward fulfilling its *2030 Agenda* commitments. While Canada is not submitting a Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), this report aims to provide a national snapshot of the SDGs under review this year from a civil society perspective.

This multi-thematic assessment sheds light on the leadership that Canada has already shown, but also the difficulty inherent in translating a global set of goals to national and subnational action. Canada is the second largest country in the world and recognized as a peaceful and industrious democracy with a high degree of regional variability. Such conditions can make it difficult to capture progress toward a global goal intended to cover developed, developing, and transition economies.

This report takes into account the gaps between the global framework and the national and regional realities, but at the same time focuses on providing strategic recommendations for implementation of the SDGs in Canada. The report also provides practical suggestions for the development of national and subnational indicators to track progress toward the goals.

One of the unique features of this report is that it gives voice to a broad and diverse range of Canadians living and working with these issues. Such diverse representation brings with it diverse recommendations for solutions and you may therefore find expert advice that will seem at odds with each other. Whether it is changing individual values and behaviours, or focusing on systemic change and evolving cultural norms, we at BCCIC believe that all the recommended solutions presented in this report hold value and that together they can provide a multifaceted approach to sustainable development.

This report builds on BCCIC's publication of *Keeping Score*, which takes a BC perspective on the SDGs, and *Keeping Track*, which proposes a suite of indicators to track progress on the goals. It also builds on an extensive regional tour that involved 52 community roundtable meetings across the province and led to the publication of *The Invisible Mosaic* report of findings, as well as the development of a digital map that supports community engagement around the SDGs.

I am confident that *Where Canada Stands* is a timely and useful contribution that will provide guidance to the Government of Canada on their path toward a more sustainable future for all Canadians.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the “Global Goals”, are a framework of 17 goals that aim to address the world’s environmental, social, economic, and security challenges. Unprecedented in nature, these new goals are:

- **universal:** the goals apply in every country, including Canada
- **integrated:** achievement of any goal is linked to the achievement of all the others
- **aspirational:** acknowledging the need to move past business as usual and seek transformative solutions

Some say the goals are unrealistic, there are too many and the expectations are too high. Can we really eradicate poverty everywhere in all of its forms including extreme poverty in only fifteen years? They point to too many specifics and claim the agenda, estimated to cost trillions, will be too expensive. The entire process, they claim, is unrealistic. These critics fail to see the

point. The SDGs were developed from the bottom up, across the entire planet over a period of years, based not on what is realistic in our time but on what our species aspires to. When we first proposed walking on the moon it must have seemed unrealistic and expensive. The SDGs are a dream statement, not of what we can currently accomplish but what we must accomplish. Like a stretch goal it is a statement about imagination and hope and what our vision should be in its purest form. Anything less is a disservice to future generations. Worrying about cost is to miss the point. The original motivation for international cooperation and the UN itself is wrapped in the history of conflict. War is more expensive than peace and without the foundations of sustainable development we risk this more expensive option. We easily find the motivation today to spend trillions in regional conflicts. Finding trillions to solve our greatest challenges to life on this planet is a matter of perspective and motivation. The SDGs provide the visionary framework for us to move toward this better world.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Relative to the global context, Canada does well on most Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outcomes, ranking 13th out of 149 countries in the 2016 SDG Index. However, **Canada must develop nationally-appropriate SDG indicators better able to assess the Canadian context.**

BCCIC analyzed national quantitative data against the United Nations global indicators and interviewed 15 experts from 12 civil society organizations (CSOs) across Canada in an effort to provide a snapshot of Canadian performance on the seven SDGs under review at HLPF 2017. Combining this analysis with six case studies of individuals and CSOs living and working with these issues, our research shows that Canada has a long way to go before it can claim that “no one is left behind.”

There are 4.9 million people in Canada living in poverty. As of 2012, more than 4 million people lived in households that experienced food insecurity, which led to higher rates of chronic disease. In recent years, outcomes related to violence against women and women’s economic participation have not improved substantially. Canadian infrastructure is also aging and needs to be replaced with sustainable infrastructure, while Canada has achieved only 1% of the 10% target of conserving coastal and marine areas.

These aggregate findings mask the stark regional and demographic variation in progress toward SDG targets among Canadians. Rather, vulnerable minorities and those living in remote and rural communities face more adversity than the average Canadian, underscoring that **Canada’s SDG indicators must report at the sub-national level to capture the diversity of experiences within Canada.**

Exemplifying the stark inequalities within Canada, Canada’s national child poverty rate is 18.5%, while 19.8% of all children in the province of British Columbia live in poverty. This rate climbs to 60% for First Nations children living on-reserve nationally and 76% of First Nations children living on-reserve in Manitoba. On average, Indigenous people face higher rates of poverty and food insecurity, poorer health outcomes, and a lack of access to adequate infrastructure. Further, LGBTQ2+ people, refugees and immigrants, people with disabilities, children and youth, and individuals struggling with mental illness continue to be particularly vulnerable.

Understanding this regional and demographic inequality highlights that **all governments in Canada must implement policies and programs developed to ensure equitable outcomes**, not only equality of access. This will require improved data collection, monitoring, and evaluation on social, economic, and environmental indicators.

Yet, even national rates of poverty remain unacceptably high, especially as poverty fundamentally hinders attaining the other SDGs. Experts explicitly linked poverty to food insecurity, poor health and wellbeing, continued gender inequality, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of access to vital marine resources. Making these connections, it is apparent that **all policy action and programing must be developed through an integrated approach.** Only in breaking down departmental silos and jurisdictional delineations can discontinuity in care and differential spending that structurally under-resources the social safety net for some be overcome.

Despite these challenges, there is cause for cautious optimism with Canada’s commitment to implement the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, the National Food Policy, the National Housing Strategy, the National Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence, and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.

All of these plans are required to incorporate a gender focus with the new Gender-Based Analysis + lens. This progressive framework builds upon Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, which considers all policy and programming through a lens that promotes the rights of women and girls. Moreover, the recent passing of Bill C-16, which makes illegal discrimination against transgender people, shows that Canada is making progress towards attaining equality for all.

These national strategies and commitments are also being developed through extensive consultation processes, exemplifying Canada's commitment to building meaningful and deep partnerships among all governments within Canada, the private sector, and stakeholder citizens. These plans and processes illustrate that the Trudeau government is **already making an effort to integrate the SDG framework into a Canadian agenda in order to achieve the global goals**. With this step, there is promise that Canada is, in fact, 'back' as a leader in ensuring equality and sustainability on the global stage.

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Toward an SDG Strategy for Canada

We urge the government to create a comprehensive strategy to measure Canada's progress on the SDGs. In addition to the goal-specific recommendations outlined within this report, the indicator strategy should include the following intersecting elements:

- Quantitative indicators specific to Canada's context that go beyond the scope of the UN indicators and qualitative indicators that capture diverse experiences and contextual information.
- Community-level measurements that reveal a fuller picture of regional and demographic variation in Canada, with specific attention to collecting data about the unique challenges faced by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
- Indicators to track progress on implementing the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP. See these resources from Indigenous Navigator on [UNDRIP indicators](#) and [connecting UNDRIP to the SDGs](#).
- Indicators relevant to Canada's most marginalized groups, including: LGBTQ2+ people (extending goal 5 beyond the gender binary); refugees and immigrants; individuals with disabilities; children and youth in government care; individuals in the criminal justice system; and individuals struggling with mental illness.
- Consultation with stakeholders on the development of indicators, including marginalized peoples.
- A sound monitoring and evaluation framework, so that we can fully understand the impact of government decisions. This should include evaluation of individual programs and policies, but also track inter-policy outcomes through an integrated, complex systems lens. Please see IIED's [series of policy briefings](#) on effective evaluation for the SDGs.

Report Limitations

Our report is limited by a lack of standardized data. Much of the data we do have is aggregated such that it does not reflect the diversity of regional and demographic situations in Canada. We have supplemented UN indicator data with data more specific to the Canadian context, but we recognize that there may be omissions and inconsistencies in measurement.

Included in these omissions, we acknowledge that the scope of the report is curtailed by the limitations and global nature of the SDGs themselves. Notably, the SDGs presume a binary notion of gender, developing targets that monitor discrimination against women and girls. However, gender equality must be inclusively defined across all genders, recognizing progress towards attaining equality, such as the recent passing of Bill C-16 that amends the criminal code to "add gender identity and gender expression to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination."

Other areas where the SDGs are lacking include - but are not limited to - emphasizing the importance of providing services for good mental health, ensuring the rights of internally and externally displaced persons, and evaluating supports for youth in care. As Canada develops its own indicators, these limitations of the SDGs must be addressed and incorporated in a national reporting strategy.

We approached Indigenous experts to speak on each of the SDGs we reviewed, keeping in mind the consultation principle "nothing about us, without us." However, while we talked to Indigenous experts for goals 1, 3, and 14, we were not able to arrange interviews with Indigenous experts for goals 2, 5, 9 and 17 within our timeline.

Further, many of the views expressed in the report are the opinions of the experts we interviewed. As such, some expert views may omit certain perspectives or appear to contradict one another. However, at BCCIC

we acknowledge the value of a plurality of approaches to sustainable development.

SDG Progress Requires Reconciliation

We would be remiss if we did not outline that the lagging outcomes for Indigenous people are largely a product of Canada's colonialism. The Canadian government created a systematic plan to assimilate indigenous peoples, including taking indigenous land without permission, banning traditional culture and languages, and placing children in residential schools

where they were abused physically, emotionally, and sexually. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) declared that Canada's treatment of indigenous peoples amounted to a cultural genocide.

The federal government has expressed a commitment to moving toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, which is an improvement over previous governments. There are a few clear steps to making progress; namely, the government must expediently implement the TRC's Calls to Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Across the goals, the report addresses three cross-cutting themes: Indigenous rights and issues, youth voices, and climate change. We chose these because they highlight the intersectional component of the SDGs and emphasize three aspects of Canadian society that deserve attention and focus. For these three themes, our findings centred around empowerment, engagement, and action.



Indigenous Communities

Canada must build true nation-to-nation relationships between the federal government and Indigenous communities, affirming self-governance structures for community-led change.



Youth

Youth must be recognized as a vulnerable population and their voices universally included in decision-making.



Environment

All levels of government must consider the climate impacts of each policy to ensure long-term resiliency and sustainability.



1 NO POVERTY



NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Targets

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

- 1.A Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

- 1.B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Overview

The first of the UN SDGs aims to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.” This is an ambitious, multifaceted goal, as exhibited by its comprehensive aims “to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”.

This integrated approach to poverty complements the calls from the experts interviewed for a holistic understanding of poverty in Canada, while the goal’s universality emphasizes the vitality of addressing the uneven distribution of poverty within Canada. In order to address these inequalities, poverty - and its related social impacts - must be framed as issues of human rights, understanding poverty reduction as justice.

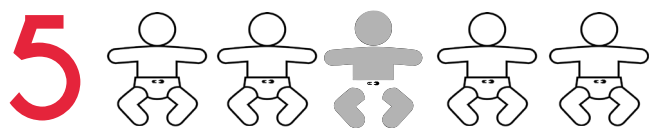
Factsheet

- According to the ILO, it would cost 249 million USD to eradicate poverty in Canada, which is only 0.01% of the GDP.
- Although Canada does not have a National Poverty Line, a household is at the threshold of poverty if it is expected to spend 20% more of their income on basic necessities than the average household. By this measure, 8.8% of Canadians live below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). Canada Without Poverty, basing its estimates on the Low Income Measure, finds that 1 in 7 or 4.9 million Canadians live in poverty.
- Only 40.5% of the unemployed population is covered by social insurance, falling behind countries like Germany, where 88% of the unemployed population receive benefits. For workers with disabilities, the process to receive a disability pension can be lengthy and there is a high denial rate. It is estimated that only 52.3% of those who file a disability pension application receive approval, often after several dispute resolutions.



Data Source: Canada Without Poverty

1 in



are children

- 99% of Canadians have access to reliable and affordable electricity, water and sanitation. However, 200,000 people living in remote communities, mainly First Nations, still lack these services.
- Under formal treaties, Indigenous Peoples own only 7.09% of Canada's land (community-based tenure) and 36.7% of the country's area is considered "designated". On designated land, Indigenous Peoples have some level of control, but lack the full legal means to secure land claims. With regard to full ownership, Canada is below most countries with sizeable indigenous populations.
- Public Social Spending in Canada is 17% of GDP, which is significantly below the OECD countries' average of 22%.

How are we doing?

Introduction

Even with the many challenges associated with defining poverty in Canada experts Erin Dej of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Megan Hooft of Canada Without Poverty, and Daniel Wilson, Special Advisor to the Assembly of First Nations and research associate with the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives, are cautiously optimistic for the fruits of Canadian efforts to end poverty nationally. Collectively, they draw attention to the need to re-frame poverty and homelessness, shifting our understanding of its causes and effects to a more integrated and comprehensive definition.

on reserves in Manitoba, 76% of children live in poverty, states Wilson.

These staggering rates of poverty, coupled with its disproportionate demographic and geographical distribution, may begin to explain why the experts interviewed on health, hunger, gender equality, and infrastructure all cited poverty as a root cause of the issues they are working to address. But, with poverty embedded across the Sustainable Development Goals, it is difficult to even know what poverty is.

Where is Poverty?

Hooft states that nearly five million people in Canada live in poverty, representing one out of every seven Canadians. But, for Indigenous children, this rate rises to 50%, a number that only grows to 60% for status First Nations children living on a reserve. For status First Nations living

Poverty as a Human Right

In answering the question of what poverty is, Hooft states that "poverty is a violation of human rights," but one that often goes unrecognized. Dej and Hooft respectively argue that Canada is slow to recognize poverty and homelessness through a lens of human rights. Dej highlights that homelessness needs to be directly linked to the right to housing. This rights-

based discourse moves the conversation away from poverty reduction as charity, and towards poverty reduction as justice.

Explaining the connection between poverty and rights, “when people live in poverty, they lack basic necessities required for an adequate standard of living,” including income, housing, food, health, education and political freedoms. Therefore, poverty is fundamentally interconnected with these universally accepted as human rights aspects, highlighting that poverty must be addressed in economic terms and in a holistic framework.

Taking poverty in this interconnected frame, Hooft argues that poverty arises from a lack of systematic integration, which silos services such that individuals leaving hospitals, prisons, and foster care lack continuity of care, as these institutions reach the extent of their designated responsibility.

A Broken Social Safety Net

The consequence of segmenting care and failing to consider poverty as an interconnected human right, leads to, in Hooft’s words, “a broken social safety net,” one which is predicated on provinces determining their own welfare rates that keep people in poverty. Exemplifying this broken safety net, in British Columbia, “incomes for those on social assistance are not just below the poverty line, but thousands of dollars below it” finds a 2017 report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and United Way. This contributes to the findings in the annual homelessness count that 3,605 people were homeless in Metro Vancouver on March 8, 2017. In Nunavut, overcrowding rates are disproportionately high, with 38% of social housing tenants living in overcrowded conditions.

Yet, as Dej highlights, even this number is too low, accepting Single Room Occupancy (SRO) options as adequate housing, despite their

insufficiency and insecurity. Moreover, a common failure to recognize the signs of rural homelessness due to the use of an urban understanding, coupled with youth homelessness that rose with vanishing housing affordability in the 1980s, only serve to make the issues of poverty more invisible. Intensifying the national statistics that 35,000 Canadians are homeless on a given night and, over the course of a year, at least 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness, Dej draws attention to the fact that the federal government has not yet committed to ending homelessness.

Likewise failing to commit to change, Hooft draws attention to the fact that the province of British Columbia is the only one that has yet to table a vital poverty reduction strategy, despite having the second highest rate of poverty of any province in Canada. In British Columbia, one of the wealthiest provinces, 13.2% of people live in poverty, with rates of working poverty rising. As a result of this broken social protection system, Hooft states that the province’s population faces cycles of poverty and housing crises.

Re-defining Poverty: Abuse and Lack of Self-Government

Also, highlighting the failure of the social protection net for all, Wilson states that federal government funding of education on a per student basis is lower for Indigenous children than for their non-Indigenous peers. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has also issued three decisions ordering Canada to address the disparity in child welfare funding to children on reserve. Wilson links this with poverty, emphasizing the universal interconnectedness implicit within an Indigenous perspective.

But, for Wilson, UN and federal understandings of poverty are not only narrow in their economic emphasis, but also in their focus on the individual, masking the lived experience of communal poverty for Indigenous communities. Emphasising this

communal experience in rejection of the SDG's individualistic one, Article 1 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights..." This article exhibits an interconnected understanding of rights-based issues that take the community and individual in equal parts.

Therefore, Wilson states that poverty not only afflicts the individual, but is also a denial of rights to the collective resulting from intergenerational trauma and "ongoing abuse of communities through the denial of rights and self-determination... [associated with] the illegal taking of land." Resultantly, Indigenous people are distanced from decision-making, hindering the mechanisms of accountability. Evidently, connecting communal alienation from land and economic hardship, in 9 of 10 provinces, it is illegal to sell hunted meat, despite its traditional and continued cultural and livelihood significance.

Consequently, Wilson argues that Indigenous poverty must be understood distinctly, requiring "specialized systems for First Nations that are different from those of other Canadians because of the unique history and the situation that that unique history has created for people."

Self-governance and Accountability

Despite these challenges in defining poverty and its deep roots within the colonial experience of Canada, Wilson notes the now common rhetoric of nation-to-nation relationship building used by the federal government. He hopes that, if implemented, this approach will allow for more localized responses that return self-governance and accountability to First Nations communities.

Moreover, the 2016 and 2017 Federal Budgets invested \$11.8 billion over six years in First Nations communities, with education taking a big proportion of the funding. Investments in improved housing, infrastructure, water and many other programs are also included.

This targeted funding moves to deal with the historical imbalance and discrimination against Indigenous people, taking the lens of substantive equality that is codified in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms under Section 15. Substantive equality, in contrast to 'formal equality' wherein all laws and programs are "applied in a similar manner to all," recognizes that "differential treatment may be necessary in order for certain groups to achieve equal status in a society."

Federal Progress and Hope in Plans

Both Dej and Hooft also express a hope for poverty reduction in Canada with the promised national Poverty Reduction Strategy that is currently in its public consultation stage and the federal government's commitment to releasing a comprehensive National Housing Strategy before the end of this year. Supporting the housing strategy, the federal budget for 2017 committed \$11.2 billion over 11 years to addressing homelessness by increasing housing affordability.

This builds on the federal government's commitment to almost double funding from 2015/16 to 2021/22 for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a program that provides direct funding to 61 designated communities and organizations. This funding focuses on an increased investment in Housing First initiatives following the At Home/ Chez Soi project that provided evidence for the success of Housing First. Exemplifying this success, Medicine Hat in the province of Alberta, has almost eliminated homelessness by focusing on Housing First programming.

Provincial Leaders

These recent federal initiatives build upon ambitious provincial commitments to end homelessness in Alberta and Ontario, with the 2008 Alberta government's declaration to end homelessness in 10 years and Ontario's 2015 target to end chronic homelessness in 10 years. Supporting the realization of these commitments, the Alberta's Seven Cities on Housing and Homelessness have been working to centralize funding and efforts to end homelessness since 2001 and Ontario announced the upcoming launch a three-year Universal Basic Income Pilot trial.

Discussions are ongoing in Newfoundland and Labrador around commitments to end homelessness, which would further the successes of its provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy. Since its launch in 2006, poverty in the province has dramatically fallen from among the highest rates in Canada to the lowest. In 2015, 38,000 fewer people lived in poverty than had a decade previously (2003).

But, no level of government can act alone to end poverty and its impacts, one of which is homelessness. Dej sees a federal government listening more to its public and Civil Society Organizations, but cautions against tokenistic consultations that merely slow down action. Yet, with new tools accessible to advocates, there is reason to hope for increasing openness and transparency. As Hooft states, the increasing tools and spaces for stakeholder participation enable CSOs to perform their vital role of holding governments accountable for a poverty rate that remains unacceptably high.

Comments on the Indicators

Indicators of poverty need to start by creating a definition of poverty based on a rights-based approach, leading to the creation of a holistic set of indicators that look beyond narrow, individualistic economic measures. These indicators must be consistent and reliable, but allow the flexibility to see the different local expressions of poverty. Notably, Wilson argues that metrics of poverty must look at collective poverty by measuring self-determination and self-governance of Indigenous communities, while Hooft states that "[identifying quantitative] indicators is only half the battle." Instead, indicators must be based on having conversations with those experiencing poverty.

Cross-Cutting Themes




LGBTQ+ youth make up approximately 25-40% of the total homeless youth population¹.



On average, Indigenous-identifying individuals made an income of \$20,060 after-tax in 2010, compared to \$27,622 for non-Indigenous-identifying people, representing \$7,562 annual income disparity².

Recommendations

- Frame poverty and, one of its impacts, homelessness, as issues of human right, incorporating this framing within the upcoming national Poverty Reduction Strategy. Moreover, any definition of poverty should recognize of the unique histories of populations across Canada that alter the expressions and severity of local poverty.
- Make a national commitment to ending homelessness.
- Create definitions of poverty with associated resourced, consistent, and reliable indicators. Indicators must include both quantitative targets and qualitative metrics predicated on sharing the experiences of those living in all forms and stages of poverty.
- Introduce an integrative system that focuses on homelessness prevention by breaking down departmental silos in order to support continuity of care and reduce redundancy through cooperation.
- Ensure the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as nations, recognizing the unique histories within Canada and implementing full legal rights based on localized systems. This approach should move governance towards a model of accountable authority at the community level, ensuring that those impacted by decision-making have a voice in how decisions are made.
- Implement fully the articles of the UNDRIP, which Canada officially adopted in 2016. Specifically, Canada must ensure the implementation of Article 4, which states that “Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.”



Case Study

Organization/Community:
Canadian Observatory on
Homelessness
Sector: Academic Research/Poverty
Reduction/Indigenous Rights
Region/country of impact: Nation
Wide (Canada)

Historian Jesse Thistle Defines Indigenous Homelessness in Canada

Canadian Challenge that is being tackled

Current policy and funding initiatives that prevent and respond to homelessness define the issue within a universal, cross-Canadian lens. While these initiatives are beneficial for certain communities, they have not addressed the needs of many Indigenous groups, despite Indigenous people being eight times more likely to experience homelessness than non-Indigenous Canadians.

Community Response

Jesse Thistle, a Metis scholar at York University, was previously homeless on and off for ten years, finding housing then losing. Thistle underwent a journey from homelessness to academia that has encouraged him to analyze how he became

cyclically homeless and to understand what it means to be homeless and Indigenous.

While researching at York University in 2016, Thistle began working with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) as the Indigenous Partnerships Lead to define Indigenous homelessness and to create more meaningful policy and practices. He had worked with the COH since 2013 on other projects. In drafting the definition, Thistle recognised that strong Indigenous communities were already providing the support and prevention services needed to counteract homelessness, including drum circles and programs for relearning traditional languages.

Thistle's goal became to share Indigenous knowledge, which led him to creating an extensive consultation

process for his definition in collaboration with and support of COH. In 2013, he worked with 10 housing/homelessness experts to build the framework of the paper and, in 2016, consulted with over 50 regional Indigenous and housing scholars. In the past year, Thistle has lectured in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Toronto, and Ottawa to deepen trust and understanding of his definition. Currently, Thistle is now seeking consultation and approval with Indigenous Elders across the country.

While the traditional definition of homelessness in Canada is composed of four typographies: Unsheltered, Emergency Sheltered, Provisionally Accommodated, and At Risk of Homelessness, Thistle's research defines 12 varying types of homelessness for Indigenous people, 8 of these categories involve displacement. Several underlying themes of his research convey the impact of colonialism and the consequences of a disconnection from land, culture, and community. As Thistle continues to share his personal experiences and Indigenous knowledge, policy makers, local organizations, and potentially other nations will have the tools

to recognize the unique defining characteristics of homelessness experienced by Indigenous people.

The Benefits

- Thistle has been able to share Indigenous knowledge of homelessness with the consent of Indigenous communities.
- Defining Indigenous homelessness and the causes for homelessness, from an Indigenous perspective, will empower Indigenous communities and the civil society sector to recognize the causes of homelessness and how to counter it.
- Academic circles in Canada can conduct further research based on the provided definition.
- Thistle's work highlights Indigenous women's homelessness that is associated with higher rates of violence than for their non-Indigenous counterparts.
- This research counters the one-solution-fits-all attitude in tackling poverty and homelessness in Canada.
- Federal and provincial policy and practices should have a clearer understanding of the specific strategies needed to combat Indigenous homelessness.

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2 ZERO HUNGER



ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Targets

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

2.A Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.B Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.C Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Overview

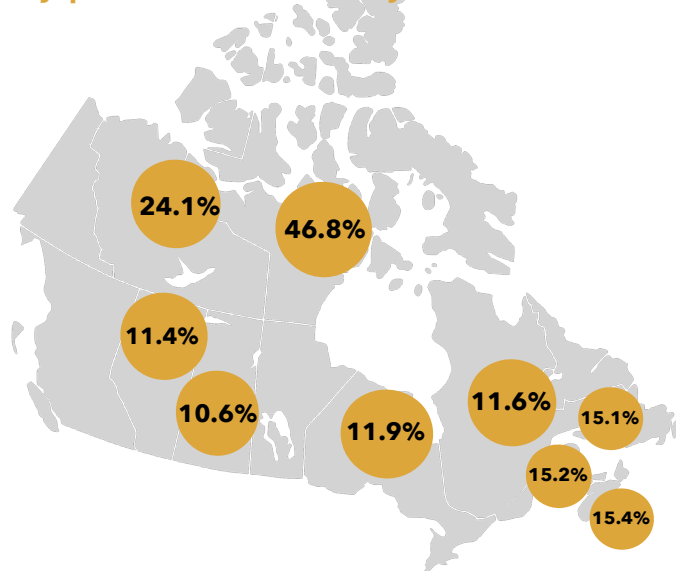
SDG 2 “aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets and international cooperation on investments in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.”

In Canada, goal two pertains to two main dimensions: food insecurity and sustainable agriculture. A product of poverty in Canada, more than 4 million people experienced household food insecurity in 2012. With regard to agriculture, Canada’s strong agricultural sector has a role to play in sustainably feeding the world’s growing populations.

Factsheet

- The most recent national estimate reveals that, in 2012, 8.6% of Canadian households were moderately or severely food insecure. However, a more comprehensive estimate indicates that 12.6% of households experience food insecurity. Undernourishment is considerably higher in Northern Canada, especially in Indigenous communities. 70% of Inuit preschoolers live in food insecure households and 60% have gone a day without eating.
- In Canada, several indicators are used to assess the sustainability of agriculture. The latest report shows two recent trends in Canadian agricultural production: consolidation of farmland into fewer farms, and increasing intensity of production on those farms. In addition, soil quality has improved over the last 30 years, primarily due to improvements in land management practices. However, the Wildlife Habitat on Farmland Indicator has deteriorated since 1986, primarily due to the loss of natural and semi-natural land dedicated to crop production.

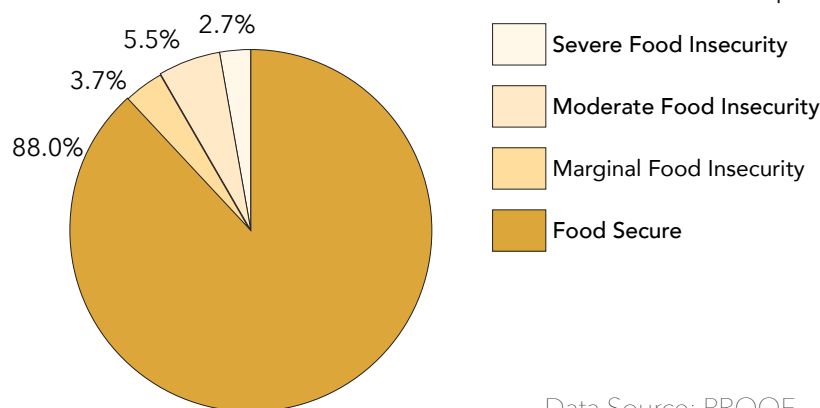
Household food insecurity by province & territory



Data Source: PROOF

- Since 2006, beef herd size has been declining, thereby increasing the sustainability of farming, linked closely to the steady decline in the number of dairy cows between 1981 and 2011. Over the three decades, there was a 46% drop attributed to the dramatic increase in milk production per cow.
- Total official flows (Official Development Assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector reached US \$273.1 million (Total ODA) in 2015. In terms of GDP percentage, Canada contributed 0.018% of GDP, compared to the US, which contributed 0.0082% of its GDP.
- In 2015, Canada directed \$81.2 million USD towards the subsidy of agricultural exports. In the same year, WTO members agreed that developed countries should eliminate agricultural export subsidies, as they allow export countries to gain market share in developing countries and diminish the competitiveness of local producers.
- The national indicator for evaluating the cost of a market basket of consumer goods is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In March 2017, the CPI indicated a decline of -1.9% in food prices compared to March 2016. The average CPI change for the last five years has been +2.2% per year, indicating an overall increase in food prices. According to Oxfam, "on average, Canadians spend less than 10% percent of their income on food. However, people living in poverty spend 50% and the poorest as much as 75% of their income on food."

Household Food Insecurity in Canada



Data Source: PROOF

How are we doing?

Introduction

Discussing the goal of "zero hunger," all three experts interviewed emphasize the vitality of policy-making as a tool for increasing food security and resiliency. Dr. Valerie Tarasuk - a Professor at the University of Toronto and the Lead investigator at PROOF, an interdisciplinary research team that investigates food insecurity in Canada - states that to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition" requires understanding food insecurity as a structural

problem, addressed only through increasing incomes and centering food security in all policy-making.

Addressing the goal's call to "promote sustainable agriculture," both Drew Black - the Director of Environment and Science Policy at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) - and Scott Ross - the Director of Business Risk Management at CFA - state that agricultural policy must incentivize carbon sequestration and emissions reduction to prevent further climate change.

Food Insecurity as a Structural Problem

PROOF defines food insecurity as “inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints.” In 2012, the Canadian Community Health Survey found that 12.6% of households in Canada were food insecure. This percentage represents more than 4 million people, a number that increased by 600,000 from 2007. However striking these numbers, they are underestimates as the survey did not include homeless individuals or those living on First Nations reserves or Armed Forces bases.

Analysing these statistics, Dr. Valerie Tarasuk, PROOF’s lead investigator, states that there is a common misconception that food banks and community initiatives can solve hunger. Rather, she notes that food insecurity is a structural issue that must be addressed through policy interventions targeting inadequate incomes. Stressing that the primary predictor of food insecurity is household income, Tarasuk states that social assistance programs can help people living on a low income become more food secure. However, she stresses that these programs are usually based on inadequate income rates. As a result, two-thirds of households on social assistance remain food insecure.

Despite the large scale and increasing severity of food insecurity, Canada has no policy to directly target the issue at the provincial or federal level. Dr. Tarasuk would like to see government policies include explicit targets to address food insecurity. Notably, the Canada Child Benefit is a policy that should have included a food insecurity dimension to ensure that families receive enough and adequate food. A policy designed to consider food insecurity would ensure that people receive sufficient money to purchase food and would need to be monitored regularly to track and ensure its effectiveness. Due to the industrial scale of most Canadian

agricultural production, the agriculture component of Goal 2 relates less directly to national hunger than it may in other countries. However, the FAO has identified that there will be more than 9.2 billion people on Earth to feed by 2050, with fewer resources owing to the increasing impacts of climate change. A study anticipates that climate change will reduce global harvest productivity and predictability in the future especially in areas near the equator. Conversely, as global temperatures warm, more cultivable land will be freed up in Canada. Thus, as Drew Black notes, Canada is well placed to supply more food to the world during future times of uncertainty.

Canada’s Role in Climate Change Mitigation Through Agriculture

As Canada’s agricultural sector grows, so will its greenhouse gas emissions. Drew Black, considers necessary to incentivize agricultural practices and invest in innovative technologies -- such as CO₂ sequestration -- that will reduce GHG emissions. Moreover, he emphasizes the importance of ensuring that Canada’s carbon pricing will not disincentivize the growth of the agricultural industry as the cost of production rises. The world will need more food and so we should be looking at the carbon intensity when it comes to agricultural products, not total emissions as with other industries. As such, Black advocates for support for farm producers to adjust to carbon pricing. For example, in BC, greenhouse growers get a yearly 80% rebate on the carbon tax element of natural gas use. Black would like to see similar programs rolled out in other provinces to maintain the competitiveness of the Canadian agricultural industry. If the Canadian agricultural sector does not remain competitive, agricultural production could move to other countries, where its carbon lifecycle could be more damaging to the world on average.

Regional and Demographic Variation

The most severe rates of food insecurity are found among individuals on social assistance. The majority of people on social assistance experience some level food insecurity, which indicates that social assistance programs are not providing sufficient income for their recipients to access adequate food. Indigenous peoples, especially members of First Nations, are also at higher risk than the average Canadian of food insecurity.

In Nunavut, 46.8% of households experienced food insecurity in 2014 - the highest rate in Canada. In 2014, 60% of children in Nunavut were living in food insecure households. The rest of the territories and the Maritimes also have relatively high rates of food insecurity.

With regard to agriculture, Scott Ross believes there is potential to see more young people and women entering the industry. The agricultural workforce is aging, with an average age of 55 for farmers. This average parallels that of the self-employed workforce, indicating that an aging workforce is a general population trend in Canada. Scott also notes that there is \$100 billion in farm debt to be transferred between generations, which presents a barrier to entry that could place particular pressure on younger generations if interest rates were to rise.

Incremental Progress

Dr. Tarasuk cites an increase in food insecurity as proof that Canada has not progressed on addressing Goal 2. However, she underscores that a few specific programs have made incremental improvements. For example, the Canada Pension Plan has partially mitigated the risk of food insecurity among seniors, though it was not designed with food insecurity in mind. Further, Newfoundland and Labrador saw a

drop in food insecurity after the introduction of their provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, although levels have started to increase again.

Canada is currently in consultation for a National Food Policy (NFP), which aims to “set a long-term vision for the health, environmental, social, and economic goals related to food.” The NFP provides the opportunity to strategize on addressing food insecurity at the national level.

On the food production side, Drew Black emphasizes the need to align across government departments in order for the NFP to meet targets for growth in the agricultural sector.

Canada has also adopted the Federal Sustainable

“The National Food Policy will provide a broader mandate surrounding agrifood to coordinate across government departments with a common vision to avoid obstacles to agricultural trade and growth.”

- Drew Black

Development Strategy comprising a number of sustainable food and agricultural initiatives such as funding for agricultural genomics research and the expansion and reshaping of the Nutrition North program which subsidizes food purchases in remote Northern communities.

The government is implementing several other sustainable agricultural programs, including roundtables for sustainability analysis of commodities and information for agricultural producers on the environmental impacts of their operations. Black describes ‘no-till’ technology as having high potential for carbon sequestration, erosion reduction, and water quality improvement.

The Barton Report, as Drew Black points out, identifies promising economic sectors in Canada, as good news for the agricultural sector. The report highlights Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as a key area for strategic investment.

Comments on the Indicators

Dr. Tarasuk outlines the need for greater conceptualization around how the SDGs pertain to affluent countries. In efforts to compare food insecurity issues on a global scale, we cannot become dismissive of our significant food insecurity problem.

Dr. Tarasuk does not see the UN indicators for targets 2.1-2.2 as relevant to measuring hunger in Canada. Undernourishment, stunting, and wasting are not prevalent health problems in Canada. Moreover, she believes the Household Food Insecurity Module is a more robust measure than the Food Insecurity Experience Scale. She notes that we must also pay attention to marginal rather than only moderate and severe food insecurity, because individuals experiencing even marginal food insecurity have different socioeconomic and health outcomes than food secure individuals.

Scott Ross, the Director of Business Risk Management at CFA, is concerned with how Producer Support Estimates (PSEs) are calculated for target 2.B in the OECD data. He notes that 70% of Canada's PSEs are tied up with supply management, largely in the dairy industry. Thus, the PSE would suggest that a disproportionately high subsidy is taking place, whereas in reality an inaccurate factoring in of supply management leads to a skewed figure relative to other support programs that exist. Ross also notes that he would like to see more data on labour productivity, especially at the sub-industry level.

Cross-Cutting Themes



Approximately 850,000 Canadians turn to a food bank at some point each month - more than a third are children & youth¹.



"Aboriginal households in Canada are more likely than non-Aboriginal households to experience the sociodemographic risk factors associated with household food insecurity (e.g. extreme poverty, single-motherhood, living in a rental accommodation, and reliance on social assistance)²."

Recommendations

- Make household food insecurity reduction an explicit policy priority.
- Integrate food insecurity reduction targets into all new federal and provincial social policies, including the upcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy and National Food Policy.
- Prioritize funding for equitable social assistance over funding expansions of food banks.
- Ensure that the National Food Policy's consultations are meaningful, incorporating the views of all stakeholders, including industry leaders, CSOs, provincial governments, Indigenous groups, and researchers. Consultations must not be confined to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- Encourage a strong Agri-Food growth agenda by considering findings of the Barton Report.
- Mitigate climate change by using sustainable agricultural practices, such as reducing emissions, sequestering carbon, managing carbon pricing, and ensuring continued access to global markets.
- Increase funding to climate adaptation interventions domestically and abroad.

Case Study



Organization/Community:
Brantford Sheep Farmers
Sector: Food Donations
Region/country of impact:
Ontario, Canada

Brantford lamb farmer, Rob Scott, provides the first fresh protein option for his local food bank, encouraging other farmers to follow suit

The Challenge:

11.6% of households in Ontario, Canada's most populous province, experienced food insecurity in 2014. In 2016, 360,000 people in Ontario used food banks to obtain food monthly; 33% of these were children. Food banks rarely receive fresh produce and protein, leaving Canadians malnourished. Food banks will not solve the issue of food insecurity. However, since Canadian social assistance programs have increased minimally in the last 20 years, food banks have become, and will continue to be, a necessary resource for impoverished Canadians.

Community Response

Rob Scott, a lamb farmer of Brantford, Ontario, is the chairman of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Association. During a board meeting in 2014, Scott was approached by the Ontario Association of Food Banks to donate lamb. At this meeting, food bank organizers highlighted the financial feasibility for Scott and other farmers to donate, which lay in a newly introduced provincial bill that provides a significant tax credit to all farmers who donate to food banks and other charitable organizations.

Scott now donates 500 pounds of lamb annually to his local food bank. He also donates the heads of his lambs since the skulls are a traditional ingredient for practicing Muslims and other minorities. Scott's

discovery of the dietary needs within his multicultural community provides him with a unique perspective on the Canadian provincial and federal food regulation laws. Currently, the federal laws continue to force his processor to throw away lamb heads while the provincial laws do not. Scott now lobbies politicians to address these food wastage concerns that are based on arbitrarily written policy.

Scott's food bank donations have inspired others in his community to donate. The Ontario Sheep Marketing Association donated an entire lamb and created a permanent partnership with the Ontario Association of Food Banks to help local farmers donate their lambs via delivery and awareness services. Additionally, another farmer in Scott's community has started a lamb fund for Syrian refugees who have relocated to Ontario.

The Benefits

- Foodbank users consume more nutritious food that caters to a variety of dietary restrictions.
- Family sheep farmers across Ontario have experienced an increase in exposure and market access for their product.
- Ontario lamb farmers experience economic opportunity by receiving tax breaks for donating to the food bank.
- The demand for locally sourced lamb has increased as Syrian refugees and other communities become loyal customers to Ontario farmers.

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3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



GOAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote
well-being for all at all ages

Targets

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.A Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.B Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.C Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.D Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Overview

Sustainable Development Goal 3 “seeks to ensure health and wellbeing for all, at every stage of life. The Goal addresses all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health; communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. It also calls for more research and development, increased health financing, and strengthened capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management.”

Exemplifying progress made on achieving health and wellbeing in Canada, the maternal mortality rate in Canada was only 7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015. But, the experts interviewed emphasize that health cannot be siloed neatly into a standalone goal, discrete from poverty eradication, gender equality, or food security, to name only three. Rather, health must be measured both in terms of primary health care provision and preventative social change.

Factsheet

- The estimated maternal mortality rate in Canada for 2015 was 7 deaths per 100,000 live births, a low rate even when measured against the majority of other OECD member states. For comparison, the United Kingdom had a maternal mortality rate of 9 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- In terms of infant mortality rate, 3.2 newborns and 4.9 children under the age of 1 die for every 1,000 live births per year. Considering that, the global under-five mortality rate is 43 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate is 19 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015, Canada is well ahead in protecting and improving infant health.
- Canada has a low HIV rate, with only 0.07 cases of HIV per 1,000 people. However, HIV prevalence remains disproportionately high for vulnerable communities. For example, the HIV rate among IV drug users in the Downtown Eastside of the city of Vancouver is 27%, and in Ahtahkakoop 104, a Cree First Nations reserve in Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, the rate is 3.5%.
- For non-communicable diseases, cancer remains the number one cause of death with 150.8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. B.C. and Alberta have the lowest rates of cancer deaths in the country while Nunavut, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories represent the highest, ranking below the worst-performing country, Denmark.



\$5

For every
spent on drug
rehabilitation by the
Canadian government

\$95

is spent on incarceration
of drug users



Data Source: Teen Challenge

- 11% of Canadians struggle with alcohol or substance abuse. But, substance abuse is more prevalent in the western provinces with rates ranging between 14-12.8%. Demographically, males have higher rates of substance use disorders than women and, in terms of age, youth aged 15 to 24 have the highest rate of substance use disorder (11.9%). Despite these high rates, between 2013 and 2014, only 5% of people who met the criteria for a substance abuse accessed publicly funded treatment. This is related the fact that “for every \$5 spent on drug rehabilitation by the Canadian government, \$95 is spent on incarceration of drug users.”
- Primary health care services in Canada cover all “medically necessary” services, but this accounts for only 70% of health care costs. Prescription drug, vision and dental services are covered only by private insurance or out-of-pocket spending, resulting in 13% of low-income Canadians having “unmet healthcare needs,” while 10% of the population had no prescription drug coverage in 2014.
- Canada is among the countries with the highest density of physicians. There are 2.2 physicians per 1,000 people, of which 8.2% are located in rural areas and 91.8% in urban areas. Nova Scotia has the highest proportion of physicians with 2.6 per 1,000 people whereas Prince Edward has the lowest, 1.8 per 1,000.

How are we doing?

Introduction

Amanda Meawasige – Senior Health Policy Analyst with the Assembly of First Nations and Health Policy Analyst/Researcher with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – states that health has a fundamentally interconnected nature within Indigenous worldviews, a perspective increasingly shared by public health professionals.

Dr. John Millar – Clinical Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia School of Population and Public Health and former Executive Director of the PHSA in B.C. – lists the socioeconomic determinants of health as the largest contributors to sustainable wellbeing. The socioeconomic determinants are the factors outside the healthcare system that influence population health. They include prevalence of poverty, economic inequality, food insecurity, housing adequacy, environmental wellbeing, early childhood development, education, employment, social connection and access to effective healthcare.

While it may be easy to silo the attainment of “good health and well-being” into the conventionally narrow box of health service provision, experts Meawasige and Millar both tackle health from an integrated perspective that is complex, but uniquely able to understand the deeply varied health outcomes across Canada.

Universal Health Outcomes

Underscoring the disproportionately worse health outcomes faced by First Nations, Meawasige notes that Indigenous children are overrepresented in government care. As she states, there are more Indigenous children in care today than there were at the height of residential schools. The 2011 census showed that 48% of children in foster care are Indigenous, while Indigenous people constitute only 4.3% of the population of Canada. Among Indigenous adults, the prevalence of cancer and chronic diseases are high, with Indigenous people “twice as likely to get cardiovascular disease than other Canadians.”

Likewise, the prevalence of tuberculosis in Indigenous populations was 32 times than that for the Canadian-born non-Indigenous populations, a disproportion

reaching staggering rates for Inuit. With “incident rates of active TB disease for Inuit [...] almost 400 times higher” than for their non-Indigenous counterparts. First Nations face rising HIV rates, which drove doctors in the province of Saskatchewan to call for a state of emergency in 2015. Overall, the picture is decisive: “health outcomes are worse for First Nations,” which “all goes back to the socioeconomic determinants of health,” states Meawasige.

Echoing Meawasige’s words, Millar emphasizes that the socioeconomic determinants of health shape 80% of health outcomes and, rather dismally, the prospects for these determinants remain gloomy. In the province of British Columbia – the only province remaining without a poverty reduction strategy – 19.8% of children live in poverty, while income inequality remains stark at a national scale. In Canada, the top 1% earned a average total income of \$466,700 in 2014, holding 10.3% of total income nationally. With the resulting disparity and decreased intergenerational social mobility associated with rising inequality, Millar highlights that the poor are faced with constant stress, causing measurable chemical and even genetic changes to the body that can lead to worsening overall health outcomes.

“There is no question in my mind that the biggest challenge is reducing the growing socioeconomic inequity”

– Dr. John Millar

As people lose hope in the ability for life to improve, the prevalence of “diseases of despair” – tobacco-use, alcohol-use, drug-use, suicide and others – grow, states Millar. If continued, these trends foreshadow a future of declining life expectancy, as has already been seen amongst the non-hispanic, white population in the United States. Evidencing this trend in Canada, the overdose crisis was named a provincial public health emergency in British

Columbia. Moreover, Meawasige identifies a “mental health crisis” among First Nations and particularly those living on remote reserves, one that has been linked to a lack of “cultural continuity.” Rather, cultural continuity – marked by land claims, self-government, education services, police and fire services, health services and cultural facilities, all impacting young people’s construction of identity – is a “protective factor against suicide” for Indigenous people in Canada.

Emphasizing the need for protection, Meawasige sees poor health outcomes as stemming from a “lack of upstream prevention,” exemplified by health programs administered by the Federal government that require that individuals be sick before accessing services and supports. As Meawasige states, this system is set up to be “reactive, not proactive,” placing emphasis on primary care and leaving little space for a more comprehensive public health approach that has the capacity to incorporate education for longer term prevention.

However, even within primary healthcare, health coverage is incomplete. For First Nations communities, ongoing jurisdictional ambiguity and a lack of resources, intensify inadequate service provision, argues Meawasige. Notably, the *Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health* program is only available to 14 of 48 First Nations in Manitoba, while the *Canadian Prenatal Nutrition* program and *Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve* Program for babies and toddlers are not available in every community. Even where resources are adequate, healthcare providers and recipients criticize the operation of programs such as the *Non-Insured Health Benefits* program (NIHB). Critiques of the NIHB program include problems with “inadequate communication of policy changes, lack of standardized scope of practice and compensation models, lack of clarity regarding patient coverage benefits, inadequate travel arrangements and many others.” In response, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) launched a joint review in 2015 following the release of the Auditor General of Canada’s report on healthcare service provision to remote First Nations communities.

Even within the federal Medicare program for non-Indigenous Canadians, only 70% of services are included, according to Millar. Dental care, vision services, and prescription coverage are all excluded from provincial coverage.

Intensifying this coverage deficit, Millar states that governments have taken little action to hold corporations accountable for the health impacts of their products and advertisements. Notably, unlike tobacco companies, for whom taxation seeks to internalize the products' negative health impacts, food and beverage companies face no such taxation, despite being linked to increased rates of obesity and diabetes. In response, Millar believes that governments should take a role in holding food and beverage corporations accountable for the long-term health outcomes of production.

"Have corporations that look beyond strictly profit motives and think not only about shareholder value, but about stakeholder value... so it's a dramatic shift from only shareholder value to stakeholder value"

- Dr. John Millar

There is a deficit in the data necessary to better understand health trends, which makes it difficult to increase corporate or government accountability for health outcomes. This is partially a product of the *Canada Health Transfer* program initiated in 2014, which focuses on provincial service provision instead of community-based primary healthcare. The program failed to build in appropriate accountability and monitoring mechanisms, which leaves uncertainty around the impacts of the billions of CAD transferred into the program, according to Millar. As a result, little temporal evidence exists to map trends in health and well-being in Canada.

Positive Impacts of Localizing Care

This is not to say that progress has not been made for First Nations and non-Indigenous care

provision and health outcomes alike. The newly-elected federal government made a renewed commitment to mitigating the socioeconomic determinants of health. The *National Poverty Reduction*, *National Housing* and *Early Childhood Development* strategies hold potential for a preventative public health framing of wellbeing that addresses the socio-economic indicators that dramatically shape disproportionate health outcomes.

Moreover, in a move to ensure equal access to services, *Jordan's Principle* (JP) prevents the refusal of services for children based on jurisdictional disputes over financing. The Principle requires that "where a government service is available to all other children ... the government department of first contact pays for the service and can seek reimbursement" later. However, Canada has not lived up to its commitment to JP in several instances.

This move to ensure comparable service provision for First Nations peoples is furthered by the *Brighter Future initiative* and *National Native Drug and Alcohol program*, which re-locate healthcare provision to local communities. Respectively, the two programs fund First Nations- and Inuit-run initiatives that increase awareness, enhance skills, and provide treatment programs that blend culturally specific and mainstream approaches. Together, these programs allow for both localized, proactive, and reactive programming that is culturally responsive.

This combined approach to improve health outcomes is increasingly prevalent across Canada. Millar draws attention to lifestyle improvements as simple as increasing daily exercise with the creation of bike lanes and the maintenance of hiking trails. Moreover, tobacco and smoking rates have decreased strikingly with education, programs for quitting smoking, legislation against smoking in indoor spaces, and the implementation of high taxes on tobacco products.

These preventive measures are coupled with dramatic advances in medical science, which cannot be understated. Medical procedures that were only being thought of a few decades ago are now

common practice and widely performed across the country. Further, corporate motives are beginning to shift with the introduction of the triple bottom line business practices.

So, while there is an undeniably long way to go to achieve health and wellbeing for all in Canada, there remains space for optimism. There is increasing recognition of the need to adopt a holistic approach to healthcare, steps have been made to localize health provision for First Nations populations with unique histories and cultures, and there is a growing wave of pressure to hold corporations accountable for negative health outcomes.

Comments on the Indicators

The indicators for good health and wellbeing must start from the vantage of

health as an outcome of its socioeconomic determinants, states Millar. Data collection and evaluation must consider poverty rates, economic inequality, food insecurity, housing inadequacy, early childhood development, education, employment, social connection, access to effective healthcare and environmental protection. Meawasige further states that special attention must be paid to generating measures to track health outcomes for youth in care. This, and all, data should be collected at the community level, producing data specific for Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous populations to enable a comparative analysis. Meawasige continues that indicators must move beyond a pan-Indigenous approach, addressing the unique histories and styles of governance while evaluating the co-management of programs.

Cross-Cutting Themes



According to Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, "Youth who [age out of government care] report worse health and less access to healthcare than their same age peers¹."



British Columbia's healthcare model features a tripartite council between the federal government, provincial government, and First Nations leaders. This gives First Nations communities a "seat at the table" in determining how they receive care.




A changing climate can increase the frequency, intensity or duration of extreme weather conditions which increases risks for vulnerable populations and communities in areas exposed to natural hazards.... Extra pressure is placed on healthcare services by increased demands resulting from weather-related natural hazards².



Recommendations

- Support the creation of an integrated, interprofessional health care team at the community level that acts across departmental silos to ensure a preventative and proactive approach to health care provision.
- Comprehensively provide health care programs and services for all populations, incorporating coverage for dental care, vision services and prescription drugs into the medicare system.
- Increase investment in health care for the First Nations peoples under federal jurisdiction on- and off-reserve in order to ensure that services provided come to the standards of the provinces. This will require a long-term investment in primary and public health programs whose resources are provided based on need.
- Make health programs available early in life, so that all children have a good start to life. This includes ensuring a universal adoption and implementation of Jordan's Principle: A Child-First Initiative.
- Increase resourcing to mental health service programming, linking this to both the suicide and opioid crises.
- Return the responsibility for health care to local communities for community-based decision-making and service provision.
- Systematize and prioritize tracking, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of health outcome

Spotlight



Organization/Community:
Canadian Partnership for
Women and Children's Health
Sector:
Sexual and Reproductive Health
Region/country of impact:
Developing countries
worldwide

Canada's Global Leadership on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

Reaching beyond our borders, Canada has a history of demonstrating leadership on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) starting with the Muskoka Initiative in 2010, in which the Canadian government launched the G8 countries into an ambitious financial commitment to MNCH under Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. Most recently, in 2017 the government announced a new 'Feminist International Assistance Policy,' which includes a funding commitment of \$650 million CAD for reproductive health and rights. This movement has been driven largely by Civil Society Organizations, working in partnership with the government.

CanWaCH: A Network for MNCH Leadership

Helen Scott, Executive Director of the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH), works within this local-global nexus. Established in 2010 after the Muskoka Initiative,

CanWaCH unites over 100 Canadian organizations that support women and children's health in developing countries to work together and share their knowledge. It also aims to increase the capacity of monitoring and evaluation in MNCH development programs.

CanWaCH has seen many successes, including data tracking through its 'Metrics Portal,' its involvement in the UN General Assembly, and its ability to unify multiple organizations within Canada. In order to continue on this path, Helen believes that the government and organizations need to be culturally sensitive when assisting countries. She sees a need to engage men in the conversation on women's and children's health, too.

Helen commends Canada's strong leadership in MNC health, but notes that without sufficient funding for Overseas Development Assistance, it will not reach its full potential for impact on the SDGs. Helen states that if the government were to contribute as much funding toward aid as it did towards military spending, "millions of lives could be saved."

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5 GENDER
EQUALITY



GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.C Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels




Overview

Goal 5 aims to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Its outcomes focus on eliminating discrimination, ending violence, recognizing unpaid care work, ensuring economic participation, promoting representation in leadership, providing economic empowerment, and ensuring access to reproductive rights.

With its Feminist International Assistance Policy, a gender balanced federal cabinet, increasing labour force participation for women, and high educational outcomes for girls, Canada is seen as a global leader in achieving gender equality. However, there remain persistent challenges with women’s economic compensation, representation in leadership, and violence against women. These challenges are especially amplified for indigenous women, who are also more likely than the average Canadian woman to live in poverty.

Factsheet

- In 2015, 478.3 women per 100,000 were victims of intimate partner violence. Rates of spousal violence and homicide were highest for women aged 15 to 24.
- Statistically, 10% of Indigenous women have a “high chance” of being victimized by their partner, compared with 3% of non-Indigenous women. Recently, the rate for spousal violence has remained unchanged for Indigenous People, whereas the rate for non-Indigenous Canadians has fallen. A factor often associated with spousal violence is child abuse, of which 40% of the Indigenous population have been victims.
- Women self-reported 553,000 sexual assaults in 2014. However, it is estimated that 91% of cases of sexual assault are not reported to the police.
- Despite the gap reducing, on average, men spend 2hr 29min per day on unpaid domestic and care work, while women spend an average of 3hr 53min. In terms of provincial statistics, the gap is smaller in British Columbia, where women do 36 percent more unpaid work than men. In comparison, women do 52 percent more unpaid work than men in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- Men earn on average 18.97% more than women, which is above the OECD average of 15.46%.
- 26.04% of seats in the federal parliament are held by women and, at the provincial level, 26% of Members of the Legislative Assembly are female. These values are 3% above the global average, but represent a stark inequality. At the municipal government level, the number is slightly higher, with 28% per cent of municipal councillors being women. However, just 18% of Canadian mayors are female, according to 2015 statistics from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The FCM has set a goal for municipal councils to be 30% female by 2026

 **91%** of sexual assault cases 
are not reported to the police 

Data Source:
Statistics Canada (2013)

Women are protected from discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, marital status and more by the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canada has launched a new Feminist International Assistance Policy which demonstrates Canada's efforts to position as a leader in gender equality and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The new policy will include:

- "investments in programs that will specifically target gender equality and the empowerment of women," representing "15% of Canada's \$2.6 billion bilateral development assistance, up from 2% in 2015-16".
- An integration of "gender equality and women's empowerment" for "all projects, in all sectors" 6.
- A \$150 million allocation to "the new Women's Voice and Leadership Program" that will to "support women's organizations in developing countries that are working to advance the rights of women and girls".

How are we doing?

Introduction

Focusing her research on women and the economy - including the wage gap, the labour gap, jobs, violence, and unpaid work - Kate McInturff is a Senior Researcher at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Anuradha Dugal is the Director of Community Initiatives and Women's Equality Project at the Canadian Women's Foundation, which works to end poverty, prevent violence against women, and empower women & girls. Together, these experts emphasize continued gender inequality in Canada, despite the progress of introducing a Gender-Based Analysis+ (GBA+) lens to public policy making and the ongoing National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Specifically, they draw attention to a deficit of investment in female-dominated sectors of the economy and a lack of government policies to enable women's participation in the workforce.

Challenges

According to Kate McInturff, Canada has not made progress on reducing rates of sexual

violence recently. Sexual and domestic violence impede women's access to employment and leadership roles. In terms of economic participation, women still lag behind men on earnings, even in the same job and with the same qualifications. In 2011, women made up 47% of the workforce, yet their share of income earned was only 38%. Dugal states that the attempts by the federal government to work toward pay equity have been limited to federally regulated industries, which reach part of the workforce, but do not go far enough.

To improve outcomes, McInturff notes that targeted economic stimulus packages can affect progress in sectors where women work. However, stimulus packages introduced by previous governments have had a poor track record for increasing women's economic participation because they tend to focus on infrastructure investments, which predominantly affect male-dominated labour sectors such as the trades. The provinces can affect women's economic participation through their funding of programs in the health and social services sectors, in which there is a higher concentration of women. For example, the Parkland Institute attributes Alberta's wage gap, the largest of any province, to its lack of investment in the health and social services sectors.

Canada also lacks a federal child care program, which disproportionately impacts women as they take on the majority of unpaid childcare work, relating to the overrepresentation of women in part-time work due to their time spent caring for children.

“Without a more equal sharing of unpaid work and adequate access to affordable childcare, there is an absolute limit on the extent to which women can participate in paid work or leadership at any level”

– Kate McInturff

In the political sphere, there is no federal policy that would support or deter women’s participation in formal politics. However, McInturff notes that women wishing to enter politics face the same challenges as women in other demanding jobs: a lack of access to childcare coupled with non-traditional hours of work and a ‘boy’s club’ atmosphere in which they experience harassment and slower rates of promoting to high ranking positions within their own political parties. The Canadian parliament itself also lacks labour codes to address harassment faced by female MPs.

Demographic and Regional Variation

Racialized, immigrant, disabled, and Indigenous women do worse than non-racialized women across all socioeconomic indicators. These indicators include the wage gap, the employment gap, poverty, and levels of violence. McInturff notes that this discrepancy cannot be explained solely by factors other than demographic status. Single senior women and single mothers also have higher levels of poverty than single men. Women with disabilities face high rates of violence, but not always from men - female caregivers can also be perpetrators of abuse.

Moreover, lagging outcomes for Indigenous women are largely a product of Canada’s

history of colonialism, which put in place systems that continue to marginalize them. Dugal notes that Indigenous women face discrimination in the justice system as well as in child and family services. The RCMP reported that about 1,200 Indigenous women were murdered or went missing between 1980 and 2012. However, due to underreporting and challenges with data collection, the number could be closer to 4,000. Further noting the need for qualitative data collection, Dugal emphasizes that no decisions should be made on behalf of Indigenous women; rather, Indigenous peoples should be brought to the table to work in partnership with non-Indigenous decision-makers.

Further highlighting the unevenness of challenges to escaping violence, Dugal notes that women living in rural areas do not always have the same access to services as those living in cities. Rural individuals may lack confidentiality when they need to escape violence, while recent changes in immigration law took away protections for refugee and immigrant women from their sponsors. In the past, when a sponsored woman faced difficulties, she could file to separate from the sponsor. Now, however, if a woman leaves her sponsor, she loses her immigrant or refugee status unless she provides proof of violence.

“When a woman flees violence on a farm in rural Saskatchewan, there’s only one road and there’s only one car on that road, and that’s her going, and everyone around can see that she’s leaving the farm.”

– Anuradha Dugal

Progress

McInturff and Dugal are hopeful that policies brought in by the new government will deliver on reducing rates of violence, increasing economic participation, and enhancing representation of women in leadership. A number of promising new policies could lead to progress in improving women’s outcomes.

The federal government now boasts its first gender-balanced cabinet and has introduced the Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), a lens through which they can understand “the ways in which public policies affect women and men differently,” taking into account the various demographic factors that intersect with gender. GBA+ is integrated across every government department. For example, in its 2017 budget, the government included a Gender Statement for the first time, which outlines many of the issues facing Canadian women today and how different budgetary decisions will affect them. Despite this progressive framework, Dugal and McInturff question how effectively GBA+ has been implemented in practice due to a lack of accountability measures.

The government has recently released a Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence, which will dedicate \$100.5 million CAD over five years to preventing gender-based violence, supporting survivors and their families, and promoting responsive justice systems. This includes the establishment of a Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre and the re-launching of a national survey on violence against women that encompasses all violence types. The recent passage of Bill C-16 gives transgender people legal protection against discrimination and hate crimes. The government has also committed to tabling proactive pay equity legislation by 2018.

Moreover, the government is conducting a National Inquiry into the thousands of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada. This progress was prompted by the advocacy of Indigenous People, as well as international mechanisms such as reports from the Inter-American Committee and a UN ombudsman. Some participants in the inquiry are critical of its seemingly prescribed structure and a lack of communication from the inquiry to the families affected.

Civil Society Working for Justice

McInturff notes that, “against the odds, and despite extremely meager funding, women’s organizations have made a huge impact in the last decade.” In particular, she highlights their work to keep women’s issues in the public eye. That childcare was a major issue in the 2015 federal election campaign, for example, was in no small part due to the work of civil society. Both McInturff and Dugal provided input into *A Blueprint for Canada’s National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Girls*, a collaboration between CSOs to present unified recommendations to the government.

Dugal is interested in building the strength of big-picture movements to bring conversations about women’s issues from the small scale into the mainstream. She stresses the need to create space for detailed conversations, and sees potential in campus activism and media campaigns.

Comments on the Indicators

In the Canada-specific SDG indicators, Dugal and McInturff would like to see indicators that capture the demographic and regional discrepancies among subpopulations of women in Canada, particularly to measure outcomes for transgender and other LGBTQ2 populations.

McInturff stresses that data on violence against women must be self-reported to be credible, and at present the government does not collect this data widely enough to understand rates of violence at the sub-national level. She would like to see data collection annually and at the provincial and municipal levels.

Cross-Cutting Themes



"[Indigenous] women (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) are six times more likely to be killed than non-[Indigenous] women. [Indigenous] women are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violence than non-[Indigenous] women¹."



"New research shows that domestic violence rates increase following natural disasters like floods, wildfires and hurricanes.... Women are particularly vulnerable during times of crisis, when women's shelters may have to close, and social services are stretched by increased demand²."

Recommendations

- Implement a universal national childcare policy to provide affordable and adequate childcare to families.
- Increase funding to Status of Women to 1% of total federal program spending and ensure more money is going directly to women's organizations.
- Follow through on the federal government's commitment to putting forth proactive pay equity legislation by 2018.
- Improve data collection of self-reported violence against women at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.
- CSOs should continue to collaborate on making progress on the SDGs.
- Provide CSOs which a chance to provide feedback on policy related to women's issues, including the voices of marginalized women.
- Work toward meaningful reconciliation between the federal government and Indigenous Peoples, taking into account the need to protect Indigenous women from violence.



Case Study

Organization/Community:
Hollaback! Ottawa
Sector:
Women's and LGBTQ+ Rights
Region/country of impact:
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Hollaback! Ottawa, lobbies local transport authorities to increase the safety of individuals on public transit and in public spaces.

The Challenge

Women and LGBTQ+ individuals in Ontario, and throughout Canada, are targets of harassment and discrimination in public spaces. Whether it be in the local community or on social media, women and those belonging to the LGBTQ+ community are physically and emotionally harassed based on gender, sexuality, and appearances. A recent survey of women found that 97% had experienced street harassment; yet, only 10% of respondents actually reported it. The stigma associated with harassment and the ineffectiveness of local authorities has left many victims feeling hopeless.

Community Response

Julie Lalonde, a proponent of women's and LGBTQ+ safety, is the director of the Ottawa chapter of Hollaback!, an organization and international movement aiming to eliminate harassment and discrimination in public spaces, such as streets and transit. The most

active chapter in Canada, Hollaback! is allowing those who experience public harassment to have an online platform to report their experiences and also receive support from individuals online. Through the online platform, HeartMob, which was launched in 2016, users can support those who experienced harassment online by sending them caring and supportive messages.

Julie has consistently lobbied OC Transpo, the Ottawa transit authority, to increase the training of transit officials and drivers on issues of gender-based violence. Hollaback!'s report on street harassment in Ottawa has also allowed Julie to engage the city in a conversation about public transit violence. She has successfully used the public exposure associated with report to pressure the transit authority to implement an anonymous reporting mechanism to collect data on incidence of violence. Additionally Hollaback! now meets monthly with OC Transpo to address concerns voiced in the reporting mechanism.

In 2016, Julie presented to the Federal Standing Committee on the Status of Women on behalf of

Hollaback!, which then released a report stating that violence against young women and girls in public spaces would be a priority of the Committee. This was a milestone for Hollaback!, which was referenced numerous times in the report.

With Julie's hard work, Hollaback! Ottawa has been gaining prominence. That the organization is not publicly funded allows them to be provocative, speak their minds, and critique public actors who are downplaying the problems of street harassment.

The Benefits

- Women and LGBTQ+ individuals have an online platform to report and discuss their cases of harassment; they are able to receive support from an online community of caring

individuals when they need it the most.

- With an anonymous reporting mechanism, individuals can see exactly where harassment has occurred, and if it was in their immediate vicinity. Based on an interactive map on the Hollaback! app, individuals can anonymously submit their stories of harassment.
- HeartMob provides immediate support, thereby reducing the trauma of online harassment.
- Increases the safety of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in public spaces by avoiding harassment hotspots.
- Established a Women's Safety Group comprised of women's organizations who are able to liaise with OC Transpo and increase women's participation in decision making with regards to harassment on public transit.

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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive
and sustainable industrialization and
foster innovation

Targets

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
-
- 9.2** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
-
- 9.3** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
-
- 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
-
- 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
-
- 9.A** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
-
- 9.B** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
-
- 9.C** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Overview

SDG 9 “encompasses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. Infrastructure provides the basic physical systems and structures essential to the operation of a society or enterprise. Industrialization drives economic growth, creates job opportunities and thereby reduces income poverty. Innovation advances the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and prompts the development of new skills”.

Canada is a highly industrialized country with strong infrastructure relative to the rest of the world. However, much of its infrastructure is reaching the end of its service life, affording Canada the opportunity to use new infrastructure developments to build a more efficient, connected, and sustainable society. Special attention should be paid to improving infrastructure in remote and rural areas, including in First nations communities.

Factsheet

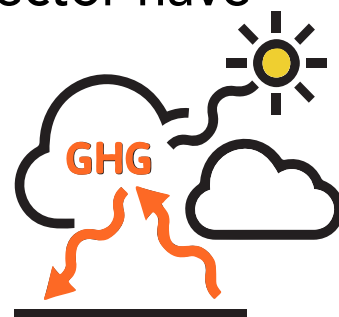
- 70% of Canada’s landmass is inaccessible by year-round roads, mainly affecting the 194,281 Canadians living in remote northern communities. Due to the lack of all-season access, moving resources in and out of these areas is nearly impossible, especially during summer when ice roads melt. Consequently, communities are “essentially cut off of the[...] North American economy,” raising the prices of goods.
- “35% of all municipal infrastructure is in :fair, poor or very poor” condition, increasing the risk of service disruption. Roads, municipal buildings, sport and recreation facilities, and public transit are most in need of attention.”
- Manufacturing is a principal driver of economic development, employment and social stability in Canada. Manufacturing employment accounts for 9.37% of total employment and the value added to the national economy by manufacturing represents 9.7% of GDP.
- On average, 97.9% of Canadian enterprises are considered small businesses. Small businesses contribute 30% to the total GDP of Canada, and 41.9% to the business sector’s GDP.
- 0.39 kg of CO₂ is emitted per each dollar of GDP. The oil and gas sector is the largest GHG emitter in Canada, accounting for 26% of total emissions. Emissions of GHG from this sector have increased by 76% from 1990 to 2015.

Emissions of GHG from the oil and gas sector have increased

76%

between

1990 to 2005



Data Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada

- Innovation is essential to Canada's economic growth and quality of life. 1.61% of the country's GDP is spent on Research & Development and there are 4518.5 researchers per million inhabitants. Canada ranks among the top ten countries in terms of the number of researchers. However, the government's expenditure on R&D is between 1 and 3% lower than that in most developed countries, such as Denmark (2.9%), Finland (2.7%), Japan (3.4%) and Korea (4.2%).
- 99% of Canadians are covered by a mobile network (2G and 3G).
- Globally, Canada ranks 16th in terms of Internet access with 88.47% of individuals using the Internet. Yet, while 95% of Canadians in the highest income quartile are connected, just 62% in the lowest income quartile have internet access. Nunavut has the lowest levels of connection, where only 27% of the population has internet access.

How are we doing?

Introduction

A significant portion of Canadian infrastructure was built in the 60's and 70's and consequently has reached the end of its service life; it is also now facing new performance requirements due to a changing climate, increased population and population density. This is, therefore, a time of opportunity, notes Shannon A. Joseph, the Director of the the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program*.

According to Joseph, the renewal of these assets can be approached in innovative ways including through developing infrastructure across Canadian cities that supports goals related to resilience and environmental sustainability. As Canada looks to address these challenges, it will be important for decision makers to think about the diversity of needs, including those of rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

Opportunity to Green Infrastructure

Joseph notes that Canada faces an infrastructure deficit, in which the infrastructure we have does not meet the needs of Canadians and levels of investment in infrastructure renewal are not always adequate. Municipalities own and operate 60% of infrastructure in Canada, this gives them a significant role influencing opportunities for mobility, patterns of energy use and the resilience of the places where Canadians live. How they go about doing this presents an opportunity to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of Canada's aging infrastructure, but also to better protect water quality and achieve other environmental, social and economic objectives.

An FCM study found that municipalities have direct or indirect influence over 44% of Canada's GHG emissions by way of their control over infrastructure and their role in services such as waste management, land-use planning, mobility planning, road design, transportation, and public transit. This influence can help Canada achieve its GHG emission reduction objectives.

Infrastructure Deficits Unevenly Distributed

Infrastructure in rural and remote communities, including on First Nations reserves, tends to be more vulnerable to performance failures than that in other Canadian communities. There are 133 drinking water advisories in First Nations communities in Canada, and this does not include communities in British Columbia, Saskatoon Tribal Council, or the territories. With regard to housing on reserve, many communities face a shortage of affordable and safe housing. Housing is often overcrowded, lacks heating, and is contaminated with mold. The Assembly of First Nations estimates that between 2010 and 2031, “there will be a backlog of 130,000 [housing] units, 44% of the existing units will require major repairs, and 18% will require replacement.”

Some First Nations communities have been directly displaced due to infrastructural issues. In 2011, for example, the province of Manitoba diverted flood waters headed toward Winnipeg to the Lake St. Martin First Nation, leading to the evacuation of 1,000 people. As they wait for their community to be rebuilt, community members have been living in hotels and apartments in Winnipeg for the past 6 years.

“When a community lacks adequate infrastructure, they can face issues of inadequate services and related affordability and accessibility challenges, which ultimately reduce their quality of life.”
– Shannon A Joseph

Highlighted Progress on Goals

The federal government has committed \$186.7 billion CAD to infrastructure improvements over the next 12 years in its *Investing in Canada Plan*,

which allocates funding for public transit infrastructure, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation infrastructure, and rural and northern communities infrastructure. They have also allocated funding to research in standards development, a Smart Cities Challenge to use technology and data for livability, and a National Housing Strategy which aims to make housing more affordable and accessible.

To address infrastructure challenges in First Nations communities, the federal government has committed \$4 billion CAD to improve infrastructure such as water and wastewater, solid waste management, education on reserve, housing on reserve, a First Nations Infrastructure Fund, and cultural and recreational facilities. The government has committed to ending all drinking water advisories on First Nations by 2021. Parallel to these federal initiatives are ones that focus on partnerships that support better service delivery and more resource efficiency. For example, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has a program that focuses on partnership development for shared services, such as water infrastructure, and local economic development between municipalities and neighbouring First Nations. These partnerships can support better long-term service outcomes for both municipalities and local First Nations.

Civil society can play a role in bringing partitioners’ expertise to bear on supporting better infrastructure, especially in the most marginalized communities. Joseph outlines a number of NGOs and networks of infrastructure professionals, such as the Canadian Network of Asset Managers, who work with municipalities and their partners to share best practices and provide policy recommendation insights across different levels of government.

Regional Variation

The regions lagging behind Canadian averages on SDG 9 tend to be rural and remote. Many Northern communities, for example, need improvements in port infrastructure and winter roads. They also face

changing weather patterns due to global warming. Accessibility challenges have driven up the cost to food in many Northern communities and pose an ongoing risk to food security. Rural and remote communities with declining populations also lag behind larger Canadian cities on infrastructure outcomes. Joseph notes that it can be rural infrastructure operations and lack of adequate operator training that lead to service problems, rather than an issue with the infrastructure itself. Enhancing the availability of training for infrastructure operators in remote or rural communities, including through communities of practice, can help to address this issue.

Joseph emphasizes the need to measure the impact of Canada's infrastructure, industry, and innovation programs, rather than simply noting how much Canada is investing since levels of spending are not a proxy for the results being sought through that spending. It is important for Canada to define what success on Goal 9 looks like. As a starting place, Canada could focus on outcomes like new patents, innovative green businesses, and access to services for rural and remote communities.

"Communities with few job opportunities tend to have more poverty, which poses a challenge to local governments in predicting revenues and being able to plan for infrastructure over the long term. National programs that focus on capacity building provide important help for communities that struggle with this; helping them navigate these challenges in a better way."

- Shannon A Joseph

Comments on the Indicators

With regard to the UN indicators, Joseph believes Canada has unique challenges that require more issue-specific measurement. For example, some Northern communities are so isolated that it is not feasible for them to be within 2 kilometers of an all-season road, so other types of infrastructure becomes more important including airport and port infrastructure. Moreover, Canada's First Nations reserve system has specific jurisdictional issues that are not addressed in the UN indicators.

Cross-Cutting Themes



Though 99% of Canadians are covered by a mobile network (2G and 3G), the CRTC recently declared broadband-Internet access a “basic service” mandating telecommunications companies to provide service throughout the country. Indigenous groups welcomed the decision as it will allow many of their communities expanded access and connectivity to the world¹.



Municipalities have direct influence of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada – waste management, land planning, mobility planning, road design, public transit, and other components of infrastructure are all areas in which municipalities can direct their influence.

Recommendations

- Continue to make long-term funding resources available for municipalities to plan over a longer-term horizon.
- Upgrade standards for infrastructure, while maintaining flexibility such that Canadian cities can control decision-making, and disseminate information about these standards.
- Ensure greater accountability of aid provision for infrastructure aid, ensuring links with local, on-the-ground practitioners to inform decision-making in development.
- Collect more data on the state of First Nations housing on-reserve.
- Continue to increase funding to services on First Nations reserves until infrastructure conditions match those of non-First Nations communities.

Case Study



Organization/Community:
CESO
Sector:
Economic Development
Region/country of impact:
Ontario, Canada

Supporting the creation of small- to medium-sized enterprises, CESO, partners with Matawa First Nations Management to create resilient and diversified economic infrastructure.

The Challenge

In 2011, the employment rate among Indigenous people was 9.1 percentage points below the non-Indigenous rate in Canada. The effects of unemployment are especially burdensome for Indigenous communities because their employment opportunities frequently depend on government funding. Statistics Canada's research concludes that "among Aboriginal people, the top employer of core-age workers (aged 25 to 54) in 2009 was the health and social assistance industry, followed by trade, construction and manufacturing." High levels of unemployment and lack of opportunity for First Nations entrepreneurship are significant barriers Canada faces while facilitating sustainable industrialization.

Community Response

For over 50 years, CESO has focused on "economic development by engaging private sector advancement and strengthening governing

structures nationally and internationally". Their national programs encourage private sector development and growth within Indigenous communities across Canada by supporting Indigenous-led initiatives. Whether supporting individual entrepreneurs or local institutions, such as band or tribal councils, CESO's model is always community-driven, and focuses on a holistic approach to supporting the key economic goals within a given community. Once priorities are determined, CESO works in partnership to build local capacity to support private sector growth, and to strengthen institutional governance. CESO then sends a "Volunteer Advisor" to support innovation within and across small businesses through a short-term mentorship assignment. CESO Volunteer Advisors typically possess decades of experience in their respective industries. Once the assignment is complete, the expert volunteer typically stays in contact with the business owner for months to years via digital communication and periodically visits in-person for follow-up assignments, despite the limited accessibility of some of the more remote communities.

An example of CESO's work is their current partnership with the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM), a tribal council with nine Ojibway and Cree First Nations members. MFNM are currently negotiating the terms of operation with a mine in their region. While it is an opportunity for economic growth, MFNM recognizes that the mine is temporary. Consequently, they have been awarded funding from the Ontario Government's poverty reduction strategy to diversify and stabilize the local private sector through entrepreneurship and stabilizing community-owned businesses. MFNM partnered with CESO to train local entrepreneurs. This process has included facilitating workshops on innovative business practices for 300 people in local languages and broadcasting sessions over the local radio. CESO hopes that those trained

will then pass on these practices to others in the community, allowing the community to prosper long after the mine stops operating.

CESO's work with MFNM also includes contributing to business models for 60 small businesses. Since the entrepreneurs they work with generally do not have financial collateral, CESO also helps business owners in obtaining micro-loans, offered through the program's third partner, RISE Asset Development. Throughout this process, each business can rely on their expert volunteer to answer questions and help solve problems, as well as to support the RISE Asset's loan qualification process.. CESO's work ultimately diversifies local economies and provides the foundation for future infrastructure.

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LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets

- 14.1** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
-
- 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
-
- 14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
-
- 14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
-
- 14.5** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
-
- 14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
-
- 14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
-
- 14.A** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
-
- 14.B** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
-
- 14.C** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

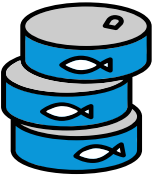
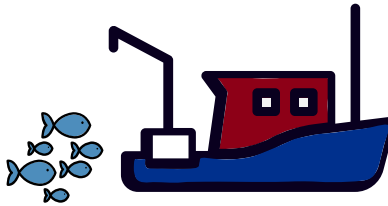
Overview

Sustainable Development Goal 14 calls for states to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” It highlights that the “adverse impacts of climate change (including ocean acidification), overfishing and marine pollution are jeopardizing recent gains in protecting portions of the world’s oceans.” In response, the goal’s targets range from minimizing ocean pollution and acidification to ensuring the sustainable management of marine ecosystems through the careful regulation of commercial and small-scale fishing.

Bordering on three oceans - the Atlantic, the Arctic and the Pacific - and with the longest coastline of any state in the world, Canada has a major role to play in ensuring global marine sustainability. Its vital position increases pressure for Canada to live up to its commitment to protect 10% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by 2020, as well as implementing effective regulations to manage intensifying seabed resource exploration and extraction. But, all management techniques must consider Indigenous values and fish stock management practices, ensuring sustainable access to marine resources for Indigenous communities without conflict.

Factsheet

- Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shows evidence of increasing marine acidity (pH). Over the past 300 million years, ocean pH has been slightly basic, averaging about 8.2. But, in the Atlantic, pH has decreased notably by 0.2 to 0.3 pH units over the past 70 years. In the Pacific, the oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO₂ has increased the acidity such that for brief periods, the pH has reached levels below 7.7. In the Arctic, the uptake of CO₂ from the atmosphere is accelerated due to the cold water temperatures, making it particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification.
- Marine plastic pollution is present on all three Canadian coasts. Evidence shows that increasing marine debris has affected several species, particularly seabirds, due to plastic ingestion. However, Canada lacks a plastic debris monitoring system. Therefore, the extent of pollution and how it has impacted different habitats and species is largely unknown.
- Of the 159 major fish stocks assessed in 2015, 152 (96%) were harvested at levels considered to be sustainable and seven stocks (4%) were harvested above approved levels. Salmon, groundfish and swordfish have been heavily affected by unsustainable fishing which is reflected in the loss of population and damaged marine ecosystems.

In 2015  **7** major stocks were  harvested above approved levels

Data Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2015)

- Canada helped to create and signed the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 2010. But, to ratify the agreement, Canada must first make amendments to national fisheries regulations. To enter into force, the agreement requires three more countries to ratify it, including Canada.
- The government has committed to “ensure that small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities have secure, equitable and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources” under the FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries. Nonetheless, Indigenous Peoples’ fishing rights are constantly undermined by industrial projects, such as the Site C dam in British Columbia which is expected to cause significant adverse effects to local fishing, trapping and hunting.
- The extent and significance of marine eutrophication (excessive plant or algae growth) in Canada is still largely unknown. However, Environment Canada has conducted extensive research that shows increasing levels of eutrophication in 21% of the country’s water bodies, particularly in the Great Lakes. One of the reasons is the fact that over 180 non-native aquatic species have been either intentionally or accidentally introduced since 1840. In February 2016, Canada and the US set a target to reduce by 40% the eutrophication in the Great Lakes by 2025.

How are we doing?

Introduction

Dr. Kim Juniper – Chief Scientist with Ocean Networks Canada and a Professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences and in the Department of Biology at the University of Victoria – underscores the vitality of understanding changing oceanic conditions in Canada’s coastal and deep sea waters for implementing appropriate management practices. This need for data to develop new monitoring frameworks and environmental regulation is exacerbated by increasing human impacts in the deep seas.

Protecting Deep Ocean Seafloors

The deep sea floors of the High Sea Areas beyond the 200 mile limit of national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) make up 50% of the

planet’s total surface area and were once considered pristine natural environments. But, states Juniper, the human impacts on deep sea environments must now be analyzed, as, for example, 30m wide nets of deep sea trawlers – previously operating at depths down to 1000m but now regulated to a maximum depth of 800m – scour the deep seafloor.

Moreover, off the coast of the province of British Columbia, there are ten marine disposal sites, each complying with international regulations. Internationally, waste disposal is regulated under the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter. The convention, signed by Canada, takes a “precautionary approach,” requiring that measures are taken to prevent pollution by all waste disposed, including waste for which there is no causal link between inputs and environmental harm.

But, last year alone, Environment Canada permitted 204,923m³ of material to be dumped at the oldest of Canada marine disposal sites, which lies 6 miles from the coast at a depth of 240m.

The sheer volume of waste approved raised concerns about the sustainability of the dump and its potential impact on the Pacific seafloor.

Concerns for the protection of deep sea environments have been further rising, as terrestrial resources deplete. Depletion, associated with globally passing peak oil, increases pressure for exploration in the deep sea due to the potential for mineral, oil and natural gas extraction.

In response, Juniper states that scientific research and governments must work together to manage the environmental impacts of inevitable extraction. This work must move beyond the "mining code" of the International Seabed authority (ISA), which was established by the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Implementing Agreement relating to deep seabed mining. Now, the ISA regulates extraction in the Area, but is limited in its capacity by its narrow mandate and its operation beyond the jurisdiction of states.

A Data Gap and Marine Protected Areas

Instead, working within the bounds of states to increase protection within Exclusive Economic Zones, Canada committed to setting aside 10% of EEZ by 2020 at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. Despite this commitment, just over 1% of Canada's EEZ is currently protected. Of the total EEZ, only 0.01% is considered to be "highly protected," meaning that regulation bars fishing and oil and natural gas extraction in the area. These low rates, coupled with the fact that Marine Protected Areas can only be created by acts of parliament, make it challenging for Canada to meet its interim target of protecting 5% of EEZ by the end of 2017.

Making the task of protecting Canada's marine environments yet more challenging, Juniper states that the remoteness of sites for potential protection render data collection costly; historical data records are also lacking. Consequently, it is hard to attribute identified changes to either natural variation or long term anthropogenic climate change. This lack of data further challenges the creation of meaningful indicators, which must be habitat-specific.

Changes and Climate Change

Adding yet another layer of complexity, Juniper draws attention to the mobile frontal zones of ocean environments that migrate in accordance with climatic conditions. With seasonal changes, the location of upwelling - the process of deep water rising to the surface, which bring up large quantities of plankton - shifts, creating new foraging areas with high biodiversity. Having the capacity to adopt new technologies faster, commercial fishers are able to identify these zones faster than the regulatory agencies that could work to protect them. These patterns of geographic flux are only likely to become more erratic as oceanic changes associated with climate change increase the duration and intensity of upwelling.

Climate warming, caused by increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations, is also warming the oceans and increasing stratification of the surface ocean. Greater stratification can slow mixing of atmospheric oxygen into the upper layers of open ocean, thereby impacting species that live at depth down to 1000m. Increased atmospheric CO₂ is also increasing CO₂ concentrations in the oceans, producing carbonic acid that dissolves carbonate shells of invertebrates, especially endangering early life stages of shellfish.

New Protection Coming

But this is not to say that progress has not been made in ensuring ocean conservation and protection. Notably, the federal mandate letter for Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of the Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, centered Canada's commitment to "increase the proportion of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected - to five percent by 2017, and ten percent by 2020." In response, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has proposed the largest Marine Protected Area off the coast of the province of British Columbia.

The DFO is also committed to employing a "Science Framework" to inform decision-making and policy, enabling it to make progress towards establishing meaningful indicators for different species and habitats across Canada's EEZ, states Juniper optimistically. Notably, DFO's Five-Year Research Plan (2008-2013) sought to increase scientific knowledge of seven ecosystems across Canada's oceans in order to better advise the development of ecosystem-based management of human interactions with marine species. This initiative, coupled with monitoring of ocean acidification and the Climate Change Science Initiative that sought to predict the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on the oceans, underscores that movement is being made to ensure that the sustainable conservation of Canada's marine environments.

Fishing Access and Management in the Atlantic

However, the example of the the Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet nations' struggles for access to Atlantic and freshwater resources shows the challenges of implementing policies to manage sustainable fishery practices, and highlights

Sustainable Development Goal 14's limited focus on conservation. Rather, the goal does not address continuing issues around access to marine resources that make conservation a luxury.

Until 1999, people from the Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet nations were excluded from commercial fisheries. Rights to accessing marine resources, as defined by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship signed prior to 1779, were limited to recognized hunting grounds. After the precedent set by the Sparrow decision of 1990, these bounds were broadened to include access for all "food, social, or ceremonial" purposes.

But, it was only with the Marshall decision, and its clarification Marshall 2, that rights to fish stocks were guaranteed for the purposes of obtaining a "moderate livelihood," a decision that sparked conflict between non-Indigenous and Indigenous fishers. Today, disputes continue over the definition of "moderate," despite the agreement supposedly only being an interim measure for 5 years.

Moreover, with treaties signed between the DFO and 16 of 17 First Nations communities that provide access to marine resources through licensing diminish Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet authority over fishing practice and management. Under the licensing agreements, the regulations for First Nations engaging in commercial fishing are regulated by the federal government, coming into conflict with Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet values.

Notably, the regulations requiring fishers to put even edible bycatch from lobster fisheries back into the ocean conflicts with the Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet shared value of 'taking only what you need.' Consequently, the bycatch rules for Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet are seen to force fishers to discard a life taken from the ocean that could otherwise be used for food by those in the community who are hungry.

This discarding of fish is seen to go against management practices, a conflict in conservation furthered by discrepancies in appropriate eel catch size. Notably, recreational fishers take eel that are 1-5

years younger than or Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet practice would allow. As a consequence, few are left for First Nations, endangering fish stocks and human livelihoods alike.

The ongoing decline in abundance associated with human impact and climate change, impacting coastal livelihoods, are described by elders and monitored by the Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet Nations. This combination of scientific monitoring and learning from the lived experiences of elders tracks change and informs conservation efforts, providing evidence for an alternative indicator framework for sustainable management based in listening and qualitative assessment.

Comments on Indicators

Indicators to evaluate protection of marine resources and conserve the oceans must incorporate both indigenous knowledge and scientific findings to monitor fishing practices. This will require extensive and reliable data collection through qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Juniper emphasizes that this data should be used to fill the data gap in remote areas, enabling meaningful indicators that are habitat-specific to be generated. Only in gathering consistent baseline data can indicators evaluating the long-term changes associated with climate change be reported on.

Cross-Cutting Themes



Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 protects the rights of Indigenous peoples to hunting and fishing on their traditional territory. Thus, if Indigenous people are unable to practice these rights, it is unconstitutional¹l.



Currently, ~1.3% of Canada's coastlines are under Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); the goal is to get to 10% by 2020. MPAs help ensure sustainable fishing by allowing ecosystems to flourish and build up resiliency. They are also vital to the conservation of numerous marine species along Canada's coasts².



Recommendations

- Work with stakeholders to develop and enforce stronger regulatory frameworks to ensure that deep sea resource exploration and extraction occurs in an environmentally responsible way
- Increase investment in data collection, which allows the federal government to establish habitat-appropriate indicators for monitoring ocean health. With the transparency of data, government and non-government actors can be held accountable for ensuring ocean conservation.
- Recognize the value of Indigenous knowledges in understanding oceanic and fish stock changes, moving to base indicators in a combined listening- and science-informed approach to data generation.
- Establish programs that increase public literacy on the sourcing of food comes and its impacts on oceans.

Case Study



Organization/Community: Ecotrust Canada
Sector: Ocean conservation & sustainable fishing
Region/country of impact: Eastern & Western coastal areas of Canada

Ecotrust Canada supports local communities to fulfill their goals of sustainable fishing while increasing economic stability

The Challenge

Small, coastal, and Indigenous communities historically reliant on fishing now face cultural, environmental, and economic instability due to many shifts in fisheries management and governance. These shifts include changing regulations, declining/changing fish stocks, increasing transferability of fishery access rights, and the resulting dispossession of that access for coastal communities and local fishermen. Few resources exist to support them in assessing opportunities to invest in solutions and rebuild local commercial fisheries which can provide meaningful work and sustainable local income. In order to increase sustainability and improve livelihoods, communities face the barrier of limited access to reliable resources including data, capital, and support services.

Community Response

For over 20 years, Ecotrust Canada (EC) has been supporting rural and Indigenous communities, organizations, and industry partners in all stages of developing their fisheries and aiding them in achieving their cultural, social, environmental, and financial objectives. As one of the organization's four main focus areas - fisheries, forests, energy, and local knowledge - EC strives to help local communities develop sustainable fisheries initiatives for current and future generations. This includes supporting fundamental aspects of a healthy community fishery such as intergenerational knowledge about fishing practices, ties to local food security, and fair and equitable access to fish promoting positive livelihoods for all. In this work, EC keeps cultural appropriateness, local needs, and environmental and economic sustainability at the forefront, bringing community concerns not only into local planning,

but also where useful to larger national and international audiences through reports, maps, and data visualization.

Most recently, EC has developed an online fisheries planning and decision support tool, the Fisheries Diversification Model, for groups on the coast of British Columbia. Using up to date data, EC is able to assess the needs of each community or region and then determine community-specific courses of action. EC's model allows communities to create 'fishing scenario' simulations and receive feedback on the outcomes and performance from their specific input combinations. This is just one of the initiatives EC has developed to provide much needed resources for fishing communities. Other initiatives include:

- their electronic monitoring program (EM), which provides a more cost effective solution to collect reliable data through video recordings and GPS sensors, and engages fishermen as shared stewards of the resource, and
- ThisFish an online consumer facing traceability tool that traces seafood from boat to plate.

EC supports communities to participate in the decision-making processes that affect them and their livelihoods. By helping fishing plans and operations succeed while improving economic and environmental sustainability within specific cultural contexts, EC's programs improve community wellbeing. Ultimately, EC's programs

help create "a society where all people are able to enjoy good lives, are culturally grounded, connected to their environment, and working for the collective benefit of both current and future generations."

The Benefits

- Supporting local initiatives to increase awareness around sustainable fishery practices for current and future generations.
- Regulating harvesting, increasing scientific knowledge, and developing knowledge capacity and marine technology through electronic monitoring systems on fishing vessels.
- Providing community-specific advice based on large amounts of high-quality data to help local actors make decisions on economic and environmental sustainability, all the while increasing employment and income stability.
- Allowing communities and fishermen to access historical fisheries data and current costs of business, which can build a more sustainable source of income for those who are most at risk of facing challenges (rural and Indigenous communities).
- Increasing transparency in seafood value chains bringing benefits to responsible fish harvesters, helping consumers to make more informed choices, and enabling information flow and connections between fisherman and those who love seafood.
- Provide access to knowledge and modern fishing practices to isolated and indigenous communities that in the past have been marginalized voices in developing industry policy.

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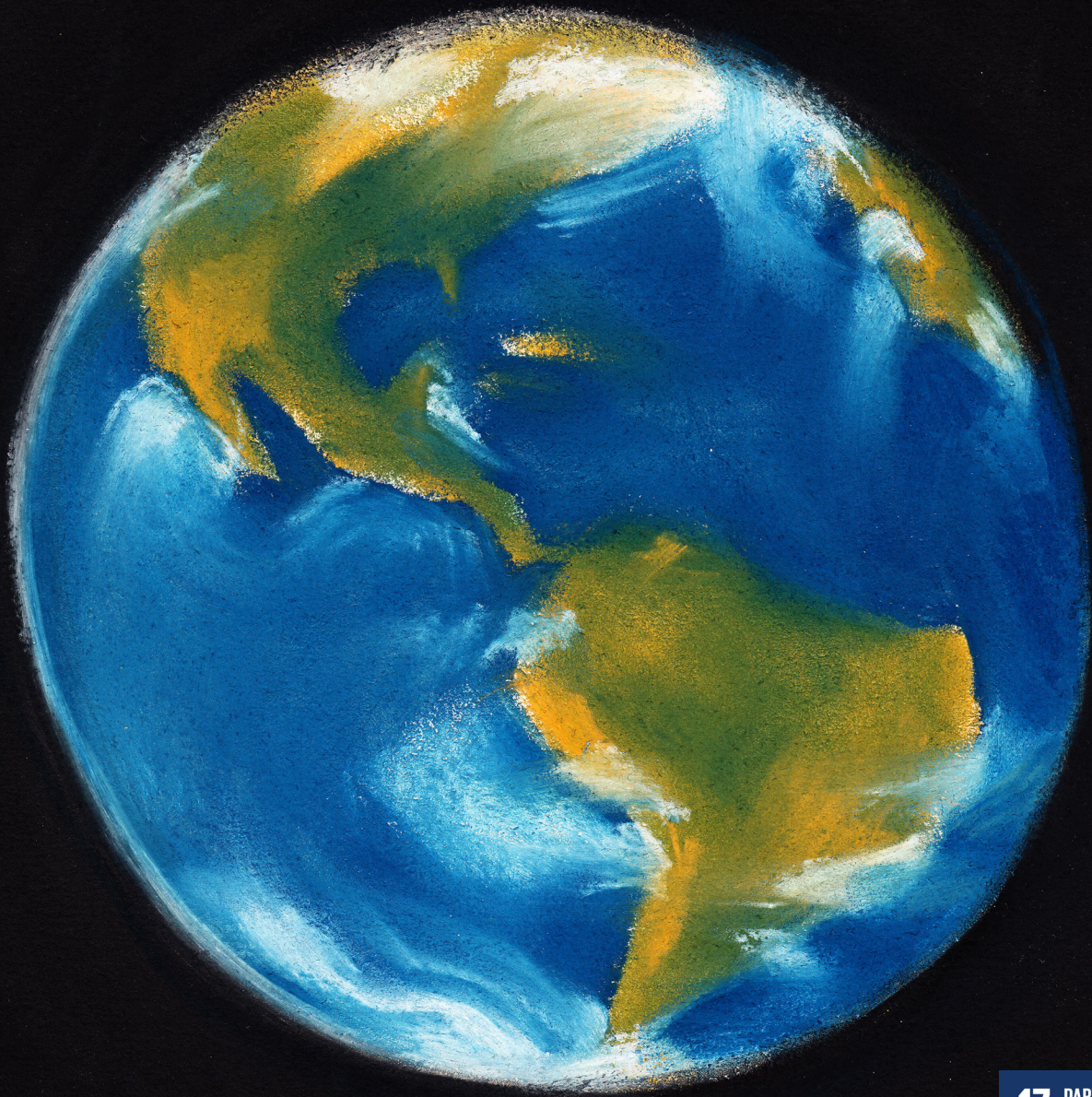
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17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and
revitalize the global partnership
for sustainable development

Targets

Finance

- 17 . 1** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
-
- 17 . 2** Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
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- 17 . 3** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
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- 17 . 4** Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
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- 17 . 5** Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- 17 . 6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
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- 17 . 7** Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
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- 17 . 8** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity - Building

- 17 . 9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

17 . 10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17 . 11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17 . 12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic Issues

17 . 13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17 . 14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17 . 15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

17 . 16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17 . 17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17 . 18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17 . 19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Overview

Goal 17 aims to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development.” This “will require coherent policies, an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and a reinvigorated Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”.

Taking steps to establish partnerships to achieve the SDGs, Canada is increasing stakeholder involvement domestically in the development of sustainability strategies and has introduced its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Working abroad and domestically, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), have also built successful coalitions to progress on the SDGs. The government should continue to consult with CSOs as they develop new policies, as well as increasing spending on Overseas Development Assistance from 0.26% of GNI to the target level of 0.7%.

Factsheet



Canada's net official development assistance
is **0.26%** of GNI which is far from the target
of **0.7%** adopted by the OECD in 1970

Data Source: AidWatch
Canada (2016)

- The mobilization of financial resources to developing countries is an important aspect of the Partnership for the Goals. Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) has never reached the target of 0.7% of GNI adopted by the OECD in 1970. Between 2015 and 2016, Canada contributed only 0.26% of its GNI in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- In 2016, Canada concluded a five year project called Strengthening National Statistical Systems in Developing Countries, a skills training project. As of 2013, “39 heads of statistical offices and senior statisticians from 21 African and Caribbean countries” had completed the training program.
- Canada has 13 formal bilateral agreements for science and/or technology cooperation including the Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP) and the NATO Science and Technology Organisation (NATO STO).
- An estimated 36.6% of the total government expenditures are funded by tax revenues.
- The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) is Canada's primary vehicle for sustainable development planning and reporting. The FSDS has established 13 aspirational goals for a more sustainable Canada, including targets and key priorities as well as taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals. However, these indicators are mainly focused on environmental aspects.

How are we doing?

Introduction

There are many opportunities for growing and deepening partnership states Fraser Reilly-King - a Senior Policy Advisor at the Canadian Council for International Cooperation. Community organizations, all three levels of governments and the private sector are increasingly working together to achieve sustainable development. But, as Erin Gilchrist - the Parliamentary Advocacy Officer for RESULTS Canada, a grassroots network working to end extreme poverty globally - emphasizes, "we need to work to make sure that Canada's financial commitments match its level of ambition when it comes to international development."

"We need to work to make sure that Canada's financial commitments match its level of ambition when it comes to international development."

- Erin Gilchrist

Challenges

In its report *World Investment Report 2014*, the UN Conference on Trade and Development highlights a funding gap of \$2.5 trillion USD for developing countries to make substantial progress on the SDGs. However, due to financial constraints, wealthy countries have been cutting back on Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of Gross National income (GNI).

Fraser Reilly-King sees fiscal austerity, sustained levels of low growth, the uncertainty of US leadership under President Trump (and the implications that has for Canada's own economy), and a lack of political will as some of the obstacles G7 countries like Canada are giving for falling short on their investments in the SDGs.

Canada's ODA as a percentage of GNI (the standard measure for aid) has been declining since the 1980s, with a brief period of sustained increases following the 2002 Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development. Canada's International Assistance Envelope, the main component of the ODA, saw cuts in 2012. Under the current Liberal government, ODA has flatlined at 0.26% of GNI, far from the 0.7% target outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As it stands, the current government is set to have the lowest ODA to GNI ratio on average during its first mandate of any previous governments. According to Erin Gilchrist, Canada's largest challenges with regard to Goal 17 lie in collaborating across sectors. As other experts have mentioned, Canada will need an integrated approach in order to progress on the SDGs. Gilchrist also cites a lack of public knowledge of the SDGs as a barrier to making progress on them. If the public is not aware of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, then there will be low impetus for the government to take action on it.

Progress on Goals

The SDGs are a more realistic reflection of the broad and complex challenges that face the world, than the Millennium Development Goals, states Reilly-King. While ambitious, the Sustainable Development Goals represent a strong framework not only for the actions already underway by many organizations and governments in Canada, but also for meaningful collaboration. Community foundations are working in partnership with municipal governments, provincial governments, and the private sector, state both Gilchrist and Reilly-King, but more and deeper partnerships need to be built for multi-stakeholder movement building.

With pressure from civil society, these relationships are beginning to form. The Government of Canada is also conducting ongoing consultation processes for many of the new large policies, such as the National Housing Strategy, the National Food Policy, the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the recently released Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Despite these new opportunities for partnership, Reilly-King emphasizes the need to understand where we are lagging: issues of poverty, inequality, climate action, and Indigenous rights, to name but a few. While Canada may appear to be doing well on the SDGs relative to many other countries, we still need strong leadership from the Federal government to protect the rights of vulnerable people, while looking to the local level for high implementation and evaluation.

Looking to the international scale, Gilchrist views consultations as an opportunity for CSOs to use their expertise to inform decisions. A number of CSOs have formed working groups to present a unified voice with regard to their areas of knowledge and are actively participating in consultation processes.

The government's new Development Finance Institute (DFI) is noted by Gilchrist as having the potential to be a valuable means of strengthening government and civil society work via the private sector. However, she notes, the government must ensure that the DFI will not replace ODA, but rather exist in addition and complement it. To this end, Helen Scott, the Executive Director of the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health, highlights the \$650 million CAD Canada pledged for sexual and reproductive rights worldwide was not an addition to Canada's ODA; rather, it was repurposed from other parts of existing ODA.

Comments on the Indicators

Fraser Reilly-King sees all the targets for goal 17 as necessary and relevant to Canada, but notes that many of the indicators will need to be adapted to the Canadian context. He notes that CSOs and governments will need to work together to understand how much of Canada's international development aid can be administered by CSOs and how much will be contingent on federal and provincial funding. Moreover, Reilly-King is concerned that the quantitative measures for the SDGs can only tell one part of the story; they need to be complemented by essential qualitative information. On this front, CSOs can collect qualitative information that complements the data collected by the government.

Cross-Cutting Themes



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for a Reconciliation Council to oversee the implementation of its 94 final recommendations, which the federal government established in 2016. As the government moves toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, it must keep in mind the consultation principle of “nothing done about us, without us”¹.

Recommendations

- Implement a ten year timetable to expand its ODA to 0.7% of GNI. CSOs and the Government should inform Canadians about the SDGs in order to create understanding of the goals and pressure for governmental accountability.
- Create cross-sectoral and -departmental partnerships to build policy surrounding the SDGs. The Government of Canada should maintain strong partnerships with international multilateral initiatives, drawing on local expertise to inform decisions.
- Disaggregate regional and demographic results to develop a robust set of Canada-specific SDG indicators that will to fully understand who is being left behind on the SDGs.
- Convene a multistakeholder, national roundtable on the SDGs to understand what organizations are working on SDG-related initiatives.
- Focus on strengthening tax administration in developing countries, including cracking down on illicit capital flows and tax evasion.
- Expand Canada’s philanthropic community, including encouraging high net worth individuals to invest more in realizing the SDGs at home and overseas, creating incentives to attract philanthropic foundations, and encouraging Canadian foundations to invest internationally.

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