CCIC ○ CCCI

CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE

The Canadian Council
for International Co-operation
Actions and Achievements

Two principles define the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC). First, CCIC works for the benefit of the broader development community to reduce poverty and injustice around the world. Second, CCIC's work is collective in nature, creating a forum for diverse views and speaking in a single voice on behalf of the entire community. Below, we highlight some of our recent key achievements.

Dialogue:
Engaging with the Minister(s) of International Development

While dialogue at the political level has been challenging over the past few years, CCIC has maintained a positive relationship with senior DFATD staff on key files. To that end, CCIC has continued to advocate for a meaningful role for civil society in delivering Canadian aid and humanitarian assistance. At times, this has meant disagreeing forcefully, but courteously, with government policy and decisions.

With the arrival of Minister Christian Paradis, this "constructive engagement" approach has begun to bear fruit. Dialogue with senior political staff is regular and productive, and the Minister himself has been accessible and helpful. For example, CCIC worked closely with the Minister and his staff prior to the 2014 high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Development Co-operation in Mexico City, where the Minister issued a strong statement on the need for, and importance of a strong civil society.

Advocacy:
Calls for Proposals and Other Funding Mechanisms

As a result of DFATD's major changes to funding mechanisms, numerous smaller organizations have closed and others have downsized. CCIC has continued to engage both politicians and civil servants on this issue, strongly advocating for more diverse, predictable and transparent funding opportunities for Canadian civil society organizations (CSO).

Policy:
Monitoring, Developing and Responding to Changing Policy

CCIC plays a unique role in monitoring and engaging in Canadian policy dialogue related to international development and the CSO community. An illustration of CCIC's work in this area was the launch of DFATD's *International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy* in February 2015. This policy will affect every organization working with the department. CCIC produced a response on behalf of the broader community and worked closely with DFATD to influence and support the drafting of the policy and to shape the consultation process. Following extensive

consultations with members, CCIC was pleased to see a commitment to "establish predictable, equitable, flexible and transparent funding mechanisms" included in the final policy.

CCIC has also been analyzing changes resulting from the merger of CIDA and DFATD, and voicing the diverse concerns of Canadian CSOs in this regard. Moreover, it has been a strong and consistent advocate for ensuring the new department remains clearly focused on poverty reduction and development.

Campaigns:
Renewing the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) and the International Aboriginal Youth Internships (IAYI)

In June 2013, when CCIC learned that CIDA/DFATD would not renew the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) and International Aboriginal Youth Internships (IAYI) programs, it convened a working group of interested organizations – both CCIC members and non-members. Through media outreach, letter writing campaigns, a petition, MP visits, and consistent public messaging, CCIC's working group succeeded in protecting the programs from closure.

Global Representation:
Engaging in, and Contributing to, Global Debates

CCIC plays a global leadership role in defending the space for CSOs and engaging in critical discussions about international development. In early 2014, for example, Beyond 2015 selected CCIC as the national hub for its campaign, and the Council remains actively engaged in the post-2015 development agenda process. CCIC represents North America on the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), a civil society hub that engages with national and local governments, parliamentarians, international institutions and the private sector through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Global Partnership works to set international standards for all development actors and support the evolution of co-operation to respond to global challenges. In addition, CCIC is the Vice Chair of the Management Committee of the Reality of Aid, a Southern-led North/South network of organizations pushing for reform of aid policies and practices. CCIC is also a member of CIVICUS and the International Forum of National Development Platforms. Finally, CCIC led in drafting the *Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness* and ran workshops across the country to raise awareness about these new international standards for civil society.

Capacity Building:
Helping Members Respond to Legislative Obligations and Changes

CCIC has animated a number of interactive workshops and learning events with experts to help members understand their legal obligations as charitable or non-profit organizations. These have focused, for example, on Canada Revenue Agency's definition of political activities, as well as on the implications of anti-terrorist legislation. Participants have appreciated these workshops immensely for addressing challenging issues in a collective manner, with shared resources and expertise.

Convening:
Offering a Safe Place to Air Differences

CCIC offers a neutral space for Canada's broad and diverse development community to debate or discuss sensitive issues. For example, CCIC's membership includes organizations that favour closer collaboration with the extractive sector, and others strongly concerned by it. By convening candid but respectful discussions exclusively for organizations directly engaged in the issue, CCIC reinforced the notion that healthy communities can include a range of views, and that discussing those differences fosters a stronger community.

Building Bridges:
Bringing Sectors Together

CCIC's meetings and conferences have always been important gathering points for people working within the development community. Lately, CCIC has reached out to other organizations interested in international issues as well. In the spring of 2014, CCIC twinned its national conference with that of the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals. The Council has also hosted conferences with the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development. In every instance, the synergies make for a richer exchange. CCIC also represents international development organizations in broader civil society forums, such as Imagine Canada.

Forward-looking:
Supporting Emerging Leaders

In 2013, CCIC launched the Emerging Leaders Network (ELN), a collaborative community with the unique mandate to create space for future international development and humanitarian aid leaders to share ideas and develop expertise – with each other and across the sector as a whole. The ELN believes that investing in emerging leaders helps nurture a cohort of equipped, well-rounded and engaged individuals. Not only does the network offer support, mentorship and training for young professionals, it also embraces their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas.

Voice: Finding New Ways to Communicate and Quantify Development

It's an ongoing challenge to keep the story of development fresh and engaging. To that end, CCIC convened a group of communications professionals from the sector – the CCIC Communications Task Force – to improve and renew the way we tell our stories. The goal is to speak more with the same voice, developing a stronger narrative that will help Canadians understand and value our work and encourage them to engage as global citizens. In 2015, CCIC launched a Narrative Tool Kit to take this work to the broader membership. As well, CCIC's metrics initiative assembled a powerful set of data illustrating the importance of the international development sector among Canada's CSO community, as well as its effectiveness in supporting positive change around the world.