



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

*April 21, 2020*

Mr. Nicolas Moyer and Co-signatories  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Council for International Co-operation  
[nmoyer@ccic.ca](mailto:nmoyer@ccic.ca)

Dear Mr. Moyer and Co-signatories:

First, I would like to reiterate how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to exchange directly with all of you recently through the webinar facilitated by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals, the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health, and the Inter-Council Network. This is an unprecedented global crisis, and everywhere around the world, we are now grappling with the devastating economic, social and human toll of this pandemic. Canada's work in international development not only has important impacts on the well-being of communities all over the world, but also a direct and tangible impact on Canada's own health and safety.

As members of Canada's remarkable international assistance sector, I would like to thank you for your work and dedication in supporting the world's most vulnerable populations, as well as providing support to the global systems that help keep us all safe and healthy. I want to commend the work you have undertaken to mitigate risks and maintain effective operations at this difficult stage.

I welcome the detailed letter of April 3, 2020, that you sent to my colleagues and me following the webinar, summarizing comments and suggestions from the sector. As we respond to this crisis, it is important that we do not lose the gains we have made to date. We want to continue to drive forward Canada's contribution toward eradicating poverty and building a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world, while achieving tangible results.

This crisis will have secondary and tertiary effects that negatively impact the health, prosperity and opportunities of populations all over the world—in particular, Canada is committed to understanding and mitigating the gendered impacts.

Therefore, we need to continue to work toward our broader program objectives in line with the Feminist International Assistance Policy, while simultaneously addressing the pandemic directly.

On April 5, 2020, I announced an allocation of \$159.5 million in funding to support international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment includes \$50 million for the World Health Organization and other partners, as announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earlier in March as part of Canada's more than \$1 billion COVID-19 Response Fund. I am pleased that the humanitarian and development response as well as various measures the Government of Canada and Global Affairs Canada have put in place so far align with your own concerns, and that we will take your input in consideration as we keep moving forward.

Please be assured that my officials and I are committed to maintaining a space within which we can openly exchange on our response and measures. You can continue to count on Ms. Leslie MacLean, Deputy Minister for International Development, and Ms. Caroline Leclerc, Assistant Deputy Minister for Partnerships for Development Innovation, as well as their teams, to remain engaged with the sector.

For the latest information on questions and concerns specifically related to COVID-19 program costs, I encourage you to regularly consult [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/information\\_development\\_partners-information\\_partenaires\\_developpement.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/information_development_partners-information_partenaires_developpement.aspx?lang=eng).

I would be happy to participate again in a follow up town hall in the next month to continue to engage directly with the sector and to hear your concerns as we navigate through the crisis.

I wish you all to stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to continuing to work together as the situation evolves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karina Gould', is written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.