

ANNUAL REPORT  
A YEAR IN REVIEW

2014-15



ACIC  CACI  
ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



A stylized world map in a light orange color, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, serves as the background for the entire page. The map shows the continents of North and South America, Europe, and Africa.

ACIC  CACI

ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
CONSEIL ATLANTIQUE POUR LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

ANNUAL REPORT  
A YEAR IN REVIEW

2014-15

# ACIC ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).



Foreign Affairs, Trade and  
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce  
et Développement Canada

---

## ACIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation is a coalition of individuals, organizations, and institutions working in the Atlantic region, which is committed to achieving global sustainability in a peaceful and healthy environment, with social and economic justice, human dignity, and participation for all.

ACIC supports its members in international cooperation and education through collective leadership, networking, information, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others.

---

## ACIC VISION

Atlantic Canadians engaged as global citizens to create a just world.

## ACIC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

---



**NADYA LADOUCEUR**

Chair and Director-at-Large,  
Renaissance College, UNB



**BRIAN TOMLINSON**

Treasurer and Director-at-Large,  
AidWatch Canada



**MARC GIONET**

New Brunswick Representative,  
Falls Brook Centre



**SONIA HO**

Director-at-Large,  
Marine Institute International, MUN



**IRENE NOVACZEK**

Director-at-Large,  
Cuso International



**NORA DIDKOWSKY**

Nova Scotia Representative,  
GPI Atlantic



**DEBBIE PANTIN**

Secretary and Newfoundland &  
Labrador Representative,  
Centre for Nursing Studies



**NOUHAD MOURAD**

PEI Representative,  
WUSC Student Refugee Program

## ACIC STAFF LIST

---

**Jennifer Sloat** Executive Director  
**Carolyn Whiteway** Acting Executive Director  
**Janelle Frail** Communications & Program Officer  
**Stephanie McAnany** Membership & Program Officer  
**Jackie Dowling** Program Officer (as of August 2014)

**Iara Aguilera Riera** Communications Assistant (summer 2014)  
**Paige Munro** Program Support Assistant (summer 2014)  
**Jessica Barry** Provincial Coordinator-NL (since January 2015)  
**Selvi Roy** Provincial Coordinator-PEI (since January 2015)  
**Huan Hong Xie** Financial Administrator (contractual)

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**NADYA LADOUCEUR** CHAIR



**CAROLYN WHITEWAY** ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of ACIC. We've been thinking a lot lately about where we've been, what we've accomplished, but also where we're headed. The year ahead provides us with an opportunity to reflect on four decades of international cooperation here in the Atlantic region. We've begun to collect stories and research important events and initiatives that have had a significant impact. We look forward to connecting with our members and key individuals over the next year to piece together even more of our rich collective history.

We're not the only ones taking stock – this year also marks the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and with it the establishment of a new 15 year sustainable development framework. Interestingly, it has been proposed that these new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be universal, applying to all countries, not just developing ones. In working towards a set of common goals, we are therefore blurring the lines between 'us' and 'them,' and have the opportunity to be part of a global process that can make a real

difference in addressing challenges, both within and outside of Canada. Furthermore, in adopting a universal approach, the SDGs recognize that many of the urgent issues they seek to address, such as climate change, transcend borders. Globally, we share many of the same challenges, and must work together locally, nationally and internationally if we are to achieve real progress.

ACIC is in a strong position to support this process, as a coalition committed to achieving global sustainability in a peaceful and healthy environment, with social and economic justice, human dignity, and participation for all. Our own goal is to continue to create the space that is so necessary for people to come together, share ideas and resources, and plan the best path forward for a sustainable future. In fact, in the current environment of shrinking space for civil society, it is imperative that we strive to maintain and expand upon a strong network of individuals, organizations and institutions in the Atlantic region that will help contribute to this larger vision.

So, with one eye on the past and another on the future, we forge ahead. And, as ACIC begins the second year of our five-year strategic plan, we have much to be excited about. We have completed a successful first

year of a DFATD-funded program to increase Atlantic Canadians' engagement in international development and key global issues, effectiveness of development partners, and knowledge sharing. In collaboration with six ACIC member organizations, we will provide international internship opportunities to 40 post-secondary graduates hosted by 11 different Southern partner organizations in nine countries over two years. We have maintained strong relationships with other provincial and regional councils across the country, and work closely with the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC). We are fortunate to have an engaged board of directors and competent, committed staff. And, perhaps most importantly, we continue to attract new members to our network while maintaining existing ones who see value in what we do.

We wish to acknowledge and thank our staff, board members, volunteers, ACIC members and funders for your support and efforts over the past year. You have all contributed greatly to making our collective work a resounding success!

# ENGAGING

ACIC works with our members to increase Atlantic Canadians' awareness of key global issues and engagement in international cooperation. Together, we hope to:

Increase public awareness of the work of the Council, its members and other stakeholders on international cooperation and global issues

Increase access to resources, knowledge and opportunities to engage actively in international cooperation activities in the Atlantic Region



# COMMUNICATIONS

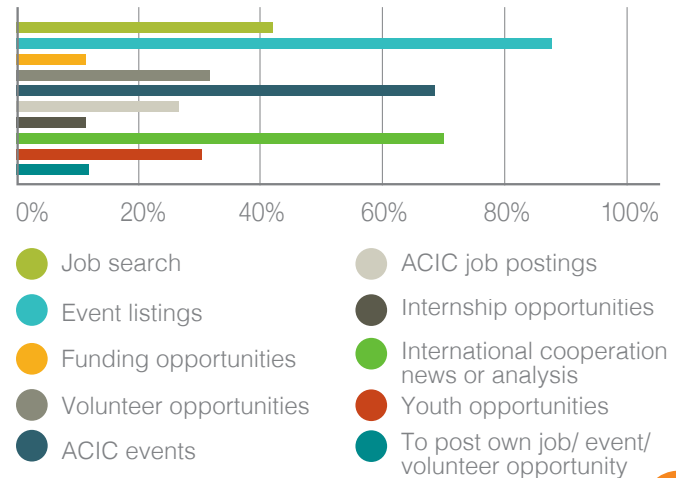
ACIC uses a variety of communication platforms to reach a wide audience. We use Twitter (@ACIC), Facebook, bi-weekly e-bulletins, a print newsletter published three times a year, and two websites ([www.acic-caci.org](http://www.acic-caci.org) and [act4globalchange.ca](http://act4globalchange.ca)) to communicate with our members, youth participants and the general public. We strive to increase public awareness of our work, the work of our members and like-minded groups in the international cooperation sector. With social media, websites and direct emails we are able to connect youth, members and the general public with opportunities, resources and knowledge on global issues and activities.

We have a wide reach with these platforms and a high level of user satisfaction, based on surveys and anecdotal evidence. More and more people 'like' our Facebook page (a 50% increase over the past year), follow us on Twitter (a 41% increase), visit our websites (a 21% and 264% increase for the ACIC website and the ACT4GlobalChange website respectively) and subscribe to our e-bulletin (a 24% increase).

As we feature more events, jobs and opportunities from our members' and our own programs we reach a wider and wider audience. This is clearly demonstrated in the increase in number of visitors to the [act4globalchange.ca](http://act4globalchange.ca) website.

We're currently working on a new communications strategy to increase our ability to reach our desired audiences and connect ACIC and our members' resources, knowledge and opportunities to more Atlantic Canadians.

## REASONS PEOPLE USE ACIC COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS



*“Short, concise descriptions of events/job opportunities. Well written notices. Colourful. Easy to focus in on what interests me. Very relevant articles.”* – **Communications survey respondent**

*“Your use of the various forms of technology is a real strength.”* – **Communications survey respondent**

---

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

This year marked the 25th anniversary of International Development Week (IDW). IDW aims to encourage Canadian women and men—especially youth—to learn more about and contribute actively to international development. It also highlights what Canada and Canadians are doing to make a better world. ACIC used the opportunity to organize and support events in the Atlantic by hosting one event in each province to showcase our members’ work. Prince Edward Island members showcased their organizations for the entire month of February at a local café and New Brunswick members were able to showcase their work to a large crowd that attended an event featuring Craig Kielburger. Members in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador hosted evening events to present opportunities for involvement with their organization or institution. Due to the large turnout for Craig Kielburger’s

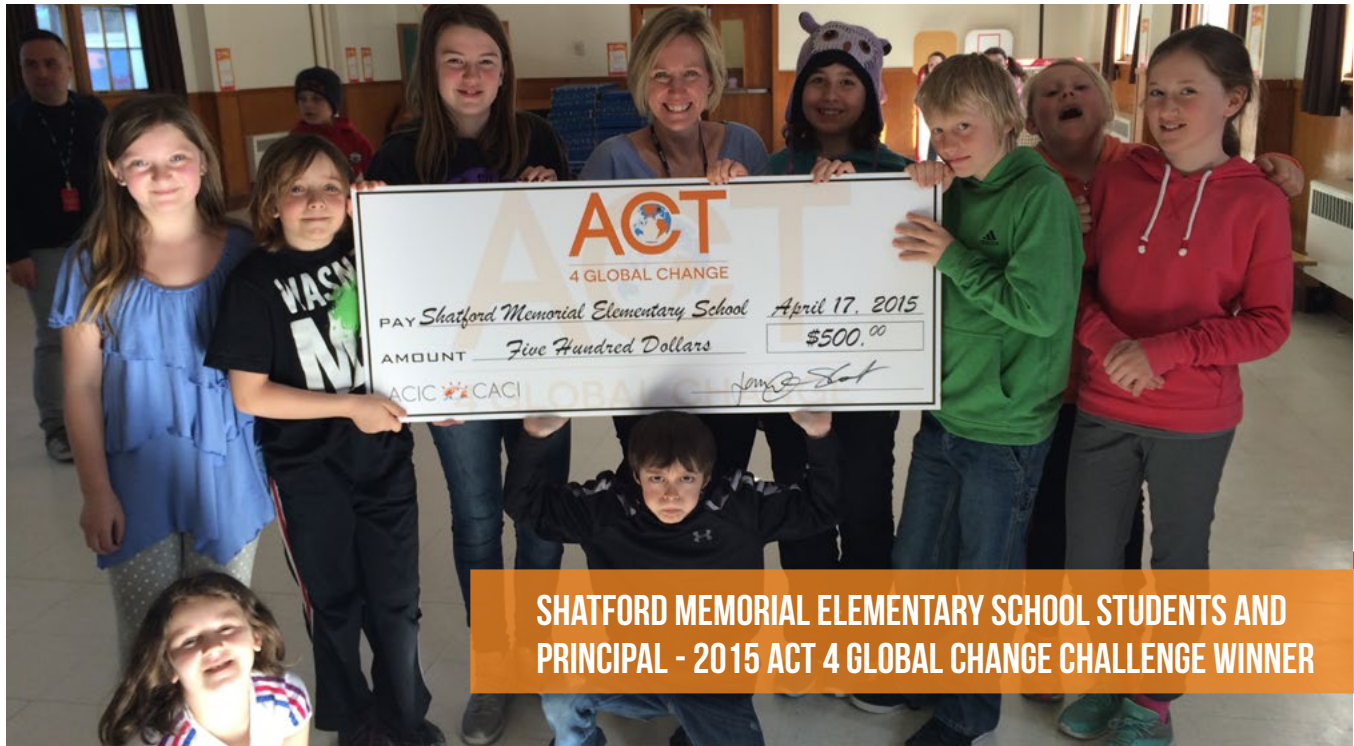
talk “One Person Can Make a Difference,” close to 1,000 people attended ACIC’s member events that showcased over 20 organizations.

This year, ACIC also launched its first annual ACT 4 Global Change Challenge during IDW 2015. The ACT 4 Global Change Challenge is a competition for schools, elementary through high school, from across Atlantic Canada. Schools competed to log the most ACTivities for global change during the month of February. The ACT 4 Global Change Challenge is a way to encourage students to be ACTIVE global citizens, while providing teachers with activities to complement curriculum that help meet learning outcomes.

Overall, the first Challenge was a success, with the participation of three schools and 5,175 ACTIONs logged

on the ACT 4 Global Change website. The winner of this year's ACT 4 Global Change Challenge and the \$500 prize was Shatford Memorial Elementary School, a small (pop. 74), rural elementary school, located in Hubbards, NS. Great job, Shatford, for proving that the little can be mighty! For information about future ACT 4 Global Change Challenges visit [www.act4globalchange.ca](http://www.act4globalchange.ca).

*"I think it is important for students to participate in things like the ACT 4 Global Change Challenge because it is a stepping stone to being an active adult citizen and they need to feel like they have power, that they can make a change in the world."* – **Educator participating in the ACT 4 Global Change Challenge**



**SHATFORD MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PRINCIPAL - 2015 ACT 4 GLOBAL CHANGE CHALLENGE WINNER**

# MEMBERS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FUND

This year was the first call for our Members Public Engagement Fund. This new fund emerged out of ACIC's previous Members Collaboration Fund based on needs articulated by our members across all four Atlantic Provinces. The fund provides financial support to ACIC members for small public engagement projects. Ten applications were received and five projects were funded. This process was facilitated by a selection committee, comprised of board and staff members of ACIC, who reviewed the applications and made the final selections.

In New Brunswick, a project aimed to inform, educate and engage youth to change the world, was funded and contributed to a larger event on the UNB Fredericton campus to have Craig Kielburger, Founder of Free the Children, come speak to a large group of engaged youth. Many of these children and youth were from other ACIC members in the area, most notably, CHAT to the Future, based out of Saint John. A member showcase also took place before the event, showcasing

ways that children and youth can think global, act local, in their communities across Atlantic Canada.

The following five projects received funding in 2014-15:

- > Making the Connections: Movement Building Across Borders and Nations
- > Southern Partner Engaging Nursing Students and Faculty
- > Peace Film Festival - Peace & Prosperity not War & Austerity
- > Global Volunteers Make a Difference
- > Inform, Educate and Engage New Brunswick youth to change our world

All of these projects were successful in mobilizing assets and diversifying opportunities, while sensitizing over 1,400 Atlantic Canadians to a range of global issues. Another call for proposals for this small fund will be issued in 2015.

*"Thanks to the contribution of the ACIC Public Engagement Fund, our school was able to bring in two Southern health experts to engage with students, faculty and the public on health issues in their country in a way that lectures and hand-outs never could."* – **Members Public Engagement Fund Recipient**



**ACIC YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND CRAIG KIELBURGER**

# ACT 4 GLOBAL CHANGE



This year marked the further development of ACIC's ACT 4 Global Change initiative. ACT 4 Global Change was born out of ACIC's previous Active-8 program. During past Active-8 programs it was noted that Atlantic Canadians could benefit from a year-round program to bring people together to increase understanding of international cooperation and strengthen capacity to take action.

As a new program, there were many 'firsts' – one of the most exciting being the selection of four ACT 4 Global Change Youth Ambassadors. Youth Ambassadors will stay in their roles for one full year and during that time they will connect their schools, communities and provinces to the larger global community. These engaged, inspiring young people also created a workshop focused on global citizenship, entitled 'Peace by Piece,' which they were able to deliver to just over 300 students.

*“This is a good fit with our grade six social studies curriculum and built upon understanding that the students have been developing all year.”* – Educator commenting on ACT 4 Global Change workshop

As well, through connection with various members in each province the ACT 4 Global Change Youth Ambassadors were able to add to their knowledge, and in turn share with others, of member organizations doing important work in the Atlantic around global

cooperation. The current youth ambassadors will remain in their roles until October 2015. Recruitment for new ACT 4 Global Change youth ambassadors will begin in September 2015. Take a look at our website for more information: [www.act4globalchange.ca](http://www.act4globalchange.ca).



**Yael Gazit, Claire Chilton, Mick Jefferies and Emma Graham during the ACT 4 Global Change Ambassador Training Weekend**

*“As a youth ambassador, I’ve begun to feel more connected to my province and community. Before this experience, I had little knowledge of the many diverse and amazing local organizations that are helping make a difference here at home.”*

– ACT 4 Global Change Youth Ambassador

*“My favourite thing about being a youth ambassador was having the opportunity to not only share my ideas and passions, but to have the support and resources to act on them.”*

– ACT 4 Global Change Youth Ambassador

MOVE YOUR WORLD



MOVE YOUR WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



ACIC hosted its ninth annual Move Your World Youth Conference from October 10th-13th, 2014. The conference brings together a diverse group of Atlantic Canadian youth aged 15-18 years in a rural setting to learn about global issues and develop skills in an interactive, exciting educational environment. Thirty-nine conference participants were supported by five volunteers (some of whom were past conference participants) and ACIC staff.

During the conference a variety of workshops were held on topics such as creating a culture of consent, planning successful events, the triangle of oppression, ethical volunteerism, using poetry as a means for social movement, creating sustainable communities and more. Workshops were hosted by staff, member organizations, past ACIC interns and volunteers. A primary focus was to provide skills that participants could take home to their communities to effect change locally and internationally.

A highlight of the conference for staff, volunteers and participants was an experiential learning activity called 'The Blanket Exercise' presented by representatives from KAIROS Atlantic. The Blanket Exercise aims to

create a dialogue for reconciliation through exploring the history of treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in the nation we today call Canada.

To close the conference, a 'Moving Beyond Move Your World' session was held to reflect on learning and continue momentum by making commitments for effecting change. As well, an 'Opportunities Fair' highlighted information from ACIC and members, along with a sharing of resources (websites, books, blogs, etc.) from staff, volunteers and participants to provide conference participants with tangible ways to get involved with both local and global issues in their home provinces.

*"It changed my perspectives on a lot of things and I'm going to use the knowledge I gained at MYW for positive impact on my community."*

**– MYW participant**


*"This was one of the best conferences I've attended! The overall experience was exquisite."* – **MYW participant**

# STRENGTHENING

Whereas ACIC strives to strengthen and build capacity for increased effectiveness within our membership, our strategic plan outlines the following goals:



Improve awareness and understanding among Canadian development partners for effective, sustainable international development



Increase opportunities for peer learning and access to expertise by ACIC members and other stakeholders

# SECTOR LEADERSHIP

By working in collaboration with councils across the country, ACIC is able to add value to what we can provide to our members and other stakeholders in the sector. The Inter-council Network (ICN) is made up of eight provincial and regional councils for international cooperation, including its newest member, the Northern Council for Global Cooperation. Together, the ICN represents over 400 international development organizations in Canada. This national network provides a forum in which to collaborate for improved effectiveness, learn from each other, troubleshoot challenges, and identify common priorities for collective action.

In response to a call for submissions, the ICN produced a paper outlining our collective recommendations to DFATD's International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy, which was later adopted in February 2015. Additionally, the ICN has ardently worked to represent the needs of our sector, particularly in regards to the need for funding mechanisms for small and medium-sized organizations



**MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL  
AND REGIONAL COUNCILS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN  
EDMONTON, JANUARY 2015**

in Canada conducting international development work. It is our hope that our efforts over the past year will bear fruit in the coming months.

ACIC has also continued to collaborate with the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC). A highlight this year has been the launch of the “We Can Do Better 2015” Campaign, a joint effort from our

sector to mobilize Canadians around the post-2015 agenda and Canada's role in the world, in the context of the global discussions at the UN and upcoming federal election in Canada. ACIC will continue to support this campaign by sharing materials and information with our members. Over the past year, ACIC was also represented on the board of directors of CCIC.

---

## MEMBER TRAINING

Throughout the years, ACIC has always prided itself on offering valuable workshops and capacity building events for our members in all four Atlantic Provinces. These workshops have served to strengthen ties between and amongst ACIC and its member organizations, as well as provide training in order to build capacity in staff and volunteer teams across the region.

This year, two capacity-building workshops were provided: one in Nova Scotia and the other, in New

Brunswick. In New Brunswick, members gathered in Fredericton to learn about financial management within an international context. Eric Plato, a skilled facilitator who had offered a similar workshop for the Ontario Council for International Cooperation, led members through a full-day workshop. Because it was a small group, it allowed for many questions and lots of interaction between the group and the facilitator.

In Nova Scotia, members gathered on the Dalhousie University campus to learn more about how to better

engage the public in international cooperation issues. ACIC was fortunate to be able to partner with John Cameron, Chair of the International Development Studies Department at Dalhousie, and Sean Kelly, individual member and consultant with Skism Communications, to share some of the latest global and Canadian research on public engagement in global issues. Members explored strategies on how to communicate their development message and how to further engage their supporters in their work. Over 30 participants took part in both of these workshops, reaching over 10 member organizations, non-members and students.

At ACIC's 2014 Symposium, nine training opportunities were provided. Workshop topics ranged from water conservation and women's rights, to indigenous issues and the current context for Canadian civil society organizations. Overall, post-conference evaluations demonstrate that in overwhelming majority, participants have a very high level of satisfaction with capacity building workshops.

*“The workshop presented a small group environment with knowledgeable presenters and a host of ideas that will help me initiate dialogue.”*

**– Workshop participant**



# 2014 SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

# ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

ACIC hosted another successful symposium at the University of PEI in Charlottetown in June 2014. The theme was “Making Connections: Cooperating for a Sustainable Future.”

Over 100 people attended the keynote speech by Joanna Kerr of Greenpeace Canada on “How to be courageous on a planet in crisis.” Joanna’s speech inspired attendees to take actions towards constructing a better future.



**JOANNA KERR, GREENPEACE CANADA**

*“We live in a world of great volatility, disparity, inequality, and disruption.” – Joanna Kerr*

She called for the participants to take action and be courageous, to believe in their goals, get organized and creative, and put their drop in the vast ocean of change. Joanna believes that “courage is the most important of characteristics and it is what makes all other aspects constant.”

The panel discussion and workshops were also great opportunities for capacity building for the 45 individuals who attended. The panel discussion focused on the question “How do we communicate and organize towards taking action locally to contribute to global concerns?” and featured Dr. Adam Fenech, Dr. Jennifer Taylor and Vicky Schreiber.

ACIC uses a peer-learning model and organizes workshops to enable participants to learn about the work of each other. Workshop topics included:

- > The Story Water Tells Us with Laurie Sutor (NSEN)
- > Our Vote, Our Voice: Making Women Count by Kelly Bowden (Oxfam)
- > Livable Income: Enabling Democratic Engagement by Ann Wheatley (Cooper Institute)
- > Environmental Issues Focus Group with Joanna Kerr (Greenpeace Canada)
- > KAIROS' Blanket Exercise: Exploring Canada's history of treaty-making, colonization and resistance by Jackie McVicar (Breaking the Silence) and Christina Farnsworth (MCC)
- > Empowering Mutual Partnerships for Women's Economic Resilience – Florence Naah Bamora and Vicki Schreiber (Coady International Institute)
- > Strategies for Public Engagement: From Transactions to Transformations by John Cameron (Dalhousie IDS) and Janelle Frail (ACIC)
- > The Agriculture Value Chain Model as a Development Tool by David Mackay (ISCA)
- > Current context for Canadian International CSOs – Brian Tomlinson (AidWatch Canada); ACIC's new five year program – Carolyn Whiteway (ACIC)

Participants were pleased with the event and enjoyed the networking opportunities as well. Having a high-profile keynote speaker, well-facilitated panel and insightful workshops created a fruitful and inspiring symposium.

*"I thought it was excellent to have three such different perspectives looking at the same issues from different angles."*

**– 2014 symposium participant**





**ABDOU A. KANTEH, NATIONAL  
PROGRAM MANAGER, NSGA**

## SOUTHERN SPEAKERS SYMPOSIUM FUND

Thanks to the inaugural ACIC Member Southern Speakers Symposium Fund, Mr. Abdou A. Kanteh, National Program Manager of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) in The Gambia, will attend ACIC's 2015 symposium "Sacred waters: The future of human cultures and livelihoods in a sea of change" from June 11-13th, 2015 in St. John's, Newfoundland. The purpose of the Southern Speakers Symposium Fund is to provide opportunities for Southern partners to dialogue with Atlantic Canadians on issues and demonstrate impact of efforts in international cooperation.

We are confident that providing opportunities such as the Southern Speakers Symposium Fund to our members will strengthen partnerships while adding valuable perspective and significant contributions to an annual event.

# CONNECTING

ACIC provides opportunities for member engagement through networking, collaboration, information sharing, representation and outreach. By facilitating better knowledge sharing among ACIC members and other stakeholders, we hope to:

Increase understanding and analysis of international development issues and related Canadian public opinion

Increase consultation and information exchange between ACIC, DFATD and key stakeholders

Strengthen our network of members and strategic partners in the Atlantic Region

# NETWORKING

Every year, ACIC holds numerous networking events across the Atlantic region. Overwhelmingly, ACIC members continue to indicate that networking activities are the primary reason for joining ACIC (81.8% in our annual member survey). The purpose of these networking events is to facilitate better knowledge sharing among ACIC members and other stakeholders. Members in PEI like to gather over morning breakfast meetings, whereas in NB, lunch and learns have been a more popular networking time. In NS, members continue to gather for Development Drinks and in NL, we have gathered members at some local watering holes to network and talk about storytelling for social justice.

In January 2015, the hiring of new provincial coordinators in PEI and NL, has increased support and energy for provincial networking events. Jessica Barry, located in St. John's, and Selvi Roy, in Charlottetown, have been instrumental in keeping ACIC members engaged over the last year. PEI has been the most active province, due in large part to the strong leadership that occurs within this province from ACIC

members, volunteers, and now with our dedicated provincial coordinator. We strive to replicate this level of engagement in other provinces, particularly where distance and geographic present barriers. ACIC continues to try to overcome these barriers by offering travel subsidies and accessing technology needed to take part in these networking meetings. In total, there were nine provincial networking events held in the last year, drawing over 100 individuals from over 30 member organizations, as well as individual associates.



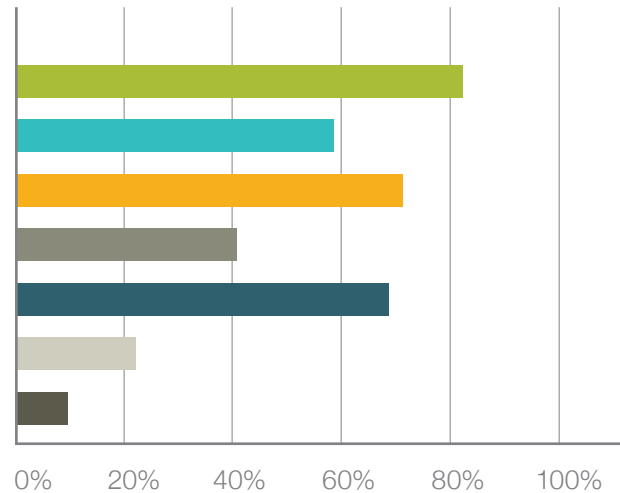
**PEI MEMBERS BREAKFAST NETWORKING MEETING**

*“As a member of ACIC, I’ve had the opportunity to learn about and connect with many organizations across Atlantic Canada that are working towards similar goals. I’ve left all the networking opportunities I’ve attended with new vision, new ideas for my work, and the seeds for potential future partnerships.”*

– **ACIC member**

## MEMBERS’ PRIMARY REASONS FOR JOINING ACIC

- Networking opportunities
- Professional development/  
Capacity-building opportunities
- Opportunities for collaboration (e.g. internships)
- Attending events and conferences
- Sharing information and resources
- Funding opportunities
- Other



# OUTREACH & EVENTS

Participating in various sectoral and cross-sectoral events has helped to strengthen our network of members and strategic partners. For the third year in a row, the NS Provincial government asked ACIC to speak at its International Volunteer Day event. It is apparent that ACIC is seen as a 'go-to' resource on the topic of international volunteerism. Staff also attended the Community Sector Council of NS's capacity building conference which increased ACIC's exposure and reach to a diverse audience. Attendance at CCIC's Leadership Forum in February 2015 facilitated valuable discussion and exchange with sector leaders at a national level.

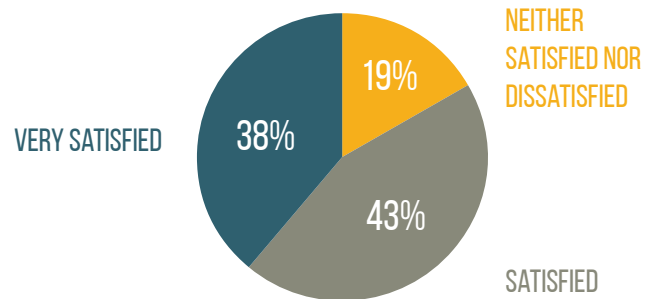
With over 70 members in the Atlantic region, ACIC works determinedly to keep members engaged and involved. Our annual member survey continues to indicate that the greatest barriers to active member participation are lack of time, distance to travel, and lack of funds. ACIC has sought to address these challenges by offering training opportunities in all four Atlantic Provinces, conducting outreach visits to members, and providing travel subsidies to encourage participation.

ACIC staff have made renewed efforts to conduct outreach activities to support our members in various ways. With ACIC staff now located in all four Atlantic Provinces, ACIC has attended member events and brought members together more than ever. Thank you, yet again, to the University of New Brunswick and the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture Campus for continuing to host ACIC staff.

*71% of members reported strengthened relationships with ACIC and its members*

---

## OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH ACIC'S SERVICES





**KRISTA STEEVES** (YMCA Global Initiatives Committee), **SHELLEY SWIFT** (YMCA Global Initiatives Committee), **CHRISTINA FARNSWORTH** (Mennonite Central Committee), **REBEKAH SEARS** (Mennonite Central Committee), **STEPHANIE MCANANY** (ACIC) AT A NB NETWORKING EVENT

# CONSULTATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

ACIC was represented at a roundtable meeting with the Hon. Christian Paradis, Minister for International Development and La Francophonie, as part of the consultation process on the Draft Civil Society Partnership Policy in Gatineau on July 31, 2014. During face-to-face meetings of the Inter-Council Network (ICN) in Vancouver, ACIC was again present at a key stakeholder consultation, convened by the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation, with Parliamentary Secretary Lois Brown on August 12, 2014. On September 8, 2014, ACIC participated in a consultation on issues related to Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) via teleconference.

ACIC has been working hard to reach stakeholders to share information that may prove valuable. This has included using a variety of methods, from social media to direct email and posting news releases on our website. In April 2015, we participated in the launch of the poll results report “Canadian Perspectives on International Development,” a joint effort by the

Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) and Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB). The report is based on a public opinion poll commissioned in February 2015 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This poll builds on similar polls conducted in Canada, such as the 2012 Canadian Engagement in Global Poverty Issues poll by the ICN, and those conducted in other G7 countries through The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Narrative Project.

Many interesting webinars have been held jointly with the other councils, on topics such as the Ebola crisis, maternal, newborn and child health, and the poll mentioned above. ACIC has also made efforts to distribute funding calls and other materials of interest to ACIC members from DFATD.

# THE SHIRLEY CASE LEADERSHIP AWARD IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

This award was created in the spring of 2009 by the Board of Directors of ACIC to honour the life of Shirley Case, who was killed in Afghanistan on August 13, 2008 while working with the International Rescue Committee. Shirley worked as an intern with ACIC in 2004/2005. She spent four months in Halifax, and five months working with our partner organization the NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE) in Calabar, Nigeria.



**SHIRLEY CASE**

The Shirley Case Leadership Award for Global Citizenship has four objectives:

- > To officially recognize leaders in Atlantic Canada that are actively involved as global citizens;
- > To draw public attention to the full scope of global citizenship and engagement activities;
- > To inspire individuals to continue their involvement in the international cooperation movement; and
- > To honour the memory of Shirley Case



The Shirley Case Leadership Award for Global Citizenship is presented annually to an individual or group in Atlantic Canada who has demonstrated this spirit of global citizenship in a local, national or international capacity and who has helped create a more just and sustainable world through engaging in meaningful global citizenship activities.

The 2014 winner of the Shirley Case Leadership Award for Global Citizenship was Irene Novaczek. An original 'global citizen' with experience working on three different continents, speaking three languages and volunteering locally and globally, Dr. Novaczek demonstrates leadership, community involvement and positive impact. She is a mother of two daughters, a farmer, a small business owner, a community activist, and a Marine Botanist. She studied at Dalhousie University, received a PhD in New Zealand, volunteered with Cuso International in Indonesia, worked at the University of Prince Edward Island and currently works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Dr. Novaczek has been active on the Breadalbane Community Council, as a Cuso International volunteer (1996-1998) then as a board member, as a founding

member of ECOPEI (Environmental Coalition of PEI) and Earth Action, and as a current member of the Prince Edward Island Women's Network. She is a well-known Island activist who challenges power provincially and federally on environmental issues. She was a candidate in politics for the Green Party on numerous occasions and is seen as an expert by Islanders of all political stripes.

Her work as Director at the Institute of Island Studies (IIS) at UPEI saw the development of a linkage between Prince Edward Island and Chiloe, an island off Chile. She mentored numerous students and youth interns that left a lasting impact on their lives. During her time with the Institute, she was instrumental in organizing a conference of Small Island States that attracted delegates from around the globe.

Irene's long-standing commitment and passion for creating positive global change at home and abroad garnered unanimous consent to recognize her contributions as winner of the 2014 Shirley Case Leadership Award. We applaud her continued efforts as we look ahead to who will be honoured in 2015.



**IRENE NOVACZEK, WINNER OF THE SHIRLEY CASE LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP 2014, WITH PREVIOUS WINNERS (L-R) JACKIE MCVICAR, JOAN CAMPBELL AND MARIAN WHITE**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a coalition, it is imperative that we continue to strengthen our governance processes to ensure that decisions are being made that reflect the priorities and needs of our membership. ACIC's Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers that represent a diversity of our membership, including geographic regions, types of membership and diversity of age, gender and language.

To prepare board members for this work, ACIC hosted its board orientation as part of an overall board/staff retreat in Cap-Pelé, NB from October 23-25, 2014. The orientation included information about ACIC programs, its history, roles of board members and role of the executive committee. Information was provided on various aspects of not-for-profit governance within the context of ACIC's current programming and structure, and a plan was laid out for the year ahead.

ACIC's Board met seven times throughout the year to ensure that decisions of the organization, including all financial and policy decisions were made according to ACIC's by-laws and policies. ACIC is incorporated

federally and, having taken the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Canadian not-for-profit Corporation Act, including review of member classes and organizational by-laws passed at ACIC's 2014 AGM, was granted continuance under the Act in July 2014. Also significant this year was the establishment of a restricted reserve and operational fund, which will provide security in exceptional circumstances, as well as flexibility where required or deemed appropriate.

ACIC also hosts a number of committees, contributing to member engagement while at the same time sharing responsibility for decision making around key activities. Members of committees include at least one board member and other individuals solicited from the membership. Thanks to the leadership of committee chairs and the participation of ACIC staff and member volunteers, this past year has been both focused and productive. Committee reports can be found in the following sections.



**BOARD & STAFF RETREAT, OCTOBER 2014, CAP-PELÉ, NB. BACK (L-R): JENNIFER SLOOT, SONIA HO, IRENE NOVACZEK, JACKIE DOWLING, STEPHANIE MCANANY, NOUHAD MOURAD, DEBORAH PANTIN, CAROLYN WHITEWAY; FRONT (L-R): NADYA LADOUCEUR, MARC GIONET, JANELLE FRAIL, BRIAN TOMLINSON; MISSING: NORA DIDKOWSKY**

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Marc Gionet (Chair-NB), Nadya Ladouceur (NB), Irene Novaczek (PEI), Deborah Pantin (NL) and staff member Carolyn Whiteway (Acting Executive Director)

The newly formed Governance Committee has been able to accomplish a number of outcomes since forming at the October 2014 Board & Staff Retreat. Over the course of four meetings, the Committee has:

- > defined its terms of reference
- > drafted and had approved by the Board the Role of ACIC Board of Directors policy
- > redrafted and circulated the ACIC Board of Directors Self-Evaluation
- > constructed a board training workshop on the new Conflict of Interest Policy to be delivered during the June 2015 Board meeting
- > determined our Board recruitment/ nomination process and established current needs

The Committee also assisted in the drafting of a new *Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy* which was approved by the Board. The Committee has worked very well together and looks forward to carrying

out a holistic evaluation of Board governance policies as well as developing a comprehensive recruitment strategy for board membership.

# PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Brian Tomlinson (Chair-NS), Nora Didkowsky (NS), Nadya Ladouceur (NB)

The Personnel Committee oversaw the implementation of a new salary scale and benefits package for staff in 2014, which was integrated into the budget for the five year funding agreement with DFATD. The personnel

committee continues to support the Executive Director who is transitioning from leave, as well as the Acting Executive Director. The Committee continues to review and update personnel policy as the need arises.

---

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Nouhad Mourad (Chair-PEI), Louise Webb (NL), Bill Chislett (NL), Anne Wheatley (PEI) and staff member Stephanie McAnany (Membership and Program Officer)

ACIC continues to thrive as a regional network of organizations and individuals working in the international cooperation sector. With an incredibly supportive member base, ACIC continues to expand by increasing the number of organizations and individuals that join our

network across all four Atlantic Provinces. Over the past year, the committee has focused on drafting a fee structure to accept for-profit entities as non-voting members. After researching several structures used by Councils in other provinces, and

discussing these options, the committee put forth a recommendation that was approved by the ACIC Board in May.

The Committee also reviewed the following membership applications over the past year and is recommending approval for membership with the Council:

---

## REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

-> ***Campbell Webster Foundation (PEI)***

-> ***New Brunswick Community College (NB)***

---

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

-> ***Della Webster (NB)***

-> ***Sean Kelly (NS)***

-> ***Lucas Panizzi (PEI)***

-> ***Mary Jane Harkins (NS)***

-> ***Dr. Carolyn Brown (PEI)***

-> ***Catherine Baillie Abidi (NS)***

-> ***Donica Larade (NS)***

---

# ASSET MAP AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Nora Didkowsky (Chair-NS), Mary Rigby (NS), Veronica McGinn (NB), and staff member Janelle Frail (Communications and Program Officer)

The key objective of the Asset Map Ad Hoc Committee is to design an asset-map survey, collect responses from the ACIC membership, analyze and integrate the data, and then share this information back to ACIC members. This is a way for members to learn more about other members - for example, where others are working and the kinds of work being done - so that they can better initiate strategic partnerships with each other. The development of the asset-map survey was initiated last year and is ongoing. This year the committee re-evaluated the survey with input from

staff and the Board of Directors, to determine whether the right questions for ACIC and the membership were being asked. We considered new strategies to improve survey response-rates among the membership, which we will now put into action. We considered potential geo-map programs, which would allow online visual representation of members' areas of work and development experience. Finally, we planned how to compile the information into other easily-accessible and usable formats for members.

---

## SYMPOSIUM & 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Debbie Pantin (NL), Sonia Ho (NL), Irene Novaczek (PEI), Brian Tomlinson (NS), Nouhad Mourad (PEI) and staff members Jessica Barry (NL Coordinator), Janelle Frail (Communications and Program Officer) and Carolyn Whiteway (Acting Executive Director)

The ACIC 40th Anniversary AGM/Symposium Planning Committee has been busy planning the details of this exciting event since the board retreat in October 2014. The AGM/Symposium will take place from June 11th

to 13th at Memorial University, St. John's Campus, in Newfoundland and Labrador. We chose the theme "Sacred waters: The future of human cultures and livelihoods in a sea of change," fitting ACIC's 40 years



of work in the Atlantic Provinces, and Newfoundland as an island dependent on its livelihood on water. The symposium will focus on the implications of climate change, water pollution and the degradation of oceans on human cultures, livelihoods and community development.

We will kick off the Symposium with a public forum with panelists from various disciplines and backgrounds: Chief Mi'sel Joe from the community of Miawpukek, Sharmane Allen from the Memorial University and Mr. Abdou Kanteh, our Southern Speaker Symposium Fund recipient from the Gambia. For the afternoon keynote presentation, we have invited Dr. Barbara Neis, a University Research Professor in the Department of Sociology and Co-Director of the SafetyNet Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research at Memorial University, to speak about her passion, research and experience. Through these events, workshops and evening gala, we look forward to bringing together fellow international cooperation practitioners, youth, civil society leaders, issue-specific experts, advocates and academics in beginning a dialogue on water related issues and actions necessary for a sustainable future.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

## ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 135,486	\$ 53,352
Accounts receivable	-	60,553
Harmonized sales tax receivable	4,881	15,159
Prepaid expenses	-	504
	<b>\$140,367</b>	<b>\$ 129,568</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,987	\$ 4,128
Employee deductions payable	4,862	3,487
Deferred income	16,888	-
	<b>31,737</b>	<b>7,615</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	38,630	121,953
Internally restricted net assets	70,000	-
	<b>\$108,630</b>	121,953
	<b>\$140,367</b>	<b>\$129,568</b>

This financial information has been extracted from the financial statements audited by Lyle Tilley Davidson Chartered Accountants. For full statements, visit [www.acic-caci.org](http://www.acic-caci.org).

**ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
Year Ended March 31, 2015

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Project Revenue:</b>		
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	\$274,738	-
Public Engagement	-	\$320,295
International Youth Internship Program	-	240,451
Project overhead	34,995	48,832
<b>Other Revenue:</b>		
Federal summer student grants	3,161	3,218
Provincial summer student grants	4,165	-
Other	18,098	19,326
	<b>335,157</b>	<b>632,122</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Project Expenses:</b>		
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	274,738	-
Public Engagement	10,969	320,295
International Youth Internship Program	-	240,451
Project overhead	34,995	33,348
<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
Federal summer students	3,161	3,218
Provincial summer students	4,165	-
Other	20,452	3,043
	<b>348,480</b>	<b>600,355</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$(13,323)</b>	<b>\$31,767</b>

# ACIC MEMBERS

- AidWatch Canada
- Atlantic Chapter of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
- Breaking the Silence Maritimes- Guatemala Solidarity Network
- Campbell Webster Foundation
- Canada World Youth/ Jeunesse Canada Monde
- Canadian Red Cross
- Centre for Nursing Studies, International Office
- Chalice Canada
- CHAT to the Future Inc.
- Children/Youth as Peacebuilders
- Coady International Institute
- Community Forests International
- Conservation Council of New Brunswick
- Cooper Institute
- CUSO International
- CUPE Global Justice Committees (NB, PEI, NS, NL)
- Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture International
- Dalhousie University, Global Health Office
- Dalhousie University, International Development Studies Department
- Dalhousie University, International Research & Development
- Development and Peace
- Falls Brook Centre
- Farmers Helping Farmers
- GPI Atlantic
- International Sustainable Community Assistance
- JustUs! Development & Education Society
- Memorial University, International Centre
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Marine Institute International
- Mikinduri Children of Hope
- Mount Saint Vincent International Projects Office
- New Brunswick Community College
- Nova Scotia Gambia Association
- Nova Scotia Environmental Network
- Nova Scotia Community College, Centre for International Activities
- OXFAM Canada
- Saint Mary's University - International Activities Office
- Tatamagouche Centre
- Uganda Venture
- United Church of Canada – Maritime Conference
- University of New Brunswick – Fredericton
- University of PEI
- World University Service of Canada
- YMCA Canada East
- Bobby Thomas Cameron
- Carolyn Brown
- Catherine Baillie Abidi
- Catherine Ronahan
- Clare Levin
- Cristian Suteanu
- David Beckerson
- Dayle Eshelby
- Della Webster
- Dennis Stuebing
- Dolores Levangie
- Donald Fraser
- Donica Larade
- Donovan Taplin
- Emmanuel Nahimana
- Hana Nelson
- Jean Fraser
- Jesse Lalonde
- Joan Campbell
- Joy Hecht
- Kimberley Douglass
- Louise Webb
- Lucas Panizzi Bregles
- Mary Jane Harkins
- Mary Rigby
- Sarah Mills
- Sean Kelly
- Taylor Quinn