

A YEAR IN REVIEW



ACIC  CACI
ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ACIC ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

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).

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 2013-2014



LEO CHEVERIE

Co-Chair and Prince Edward Island Representative,
CUPE Global Justice Committee



NADYA LADOUCEUR

Co-Chair and Member-at-Large,
Renaissance College, UNB



MARY DELLA WEBSTER

Secretary and New Brunswick Representative,
Cuso International



BRIAN TOMLINSON

Treasurer and Member-at-Large,
Associate Member



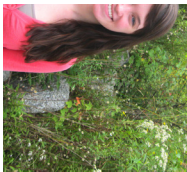
NORA DIDKOWSKY

Member-at-Large,
GPI Atlantic



NANCY THORNTON

Nova Scotia Representative,
Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture-
International Office



KORA LIEGH RUSSELL

Newfoundland & Labrador Representative,
MUN International



DIGAFIE DEBALKE

Member-at-Large,
International Relations Office, UPEI

REPORT FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

As the year comes to an end, it is with great satisfaction that we look back at the work accomplished in a collaborative way by the Board of Directors, Acting Executive Director, staff, and members. As you will see in this report, ACIC, in partnership with its members and the other provincial and national Councils, has been working hard to bring to fruition a wide variety of initiatives to engage Atlantic Canadians in international cooperation, with a special focus on youth. We would like to thank ACIC staff and members for their excellent work and dedication.

The Board has also been busy working on income diversification, risk management, and membership as well as writing the new ACIC By-Laws under the Canada Not-for-profit Act. This exercise has given us the opportunity to revisit and strengthen our practice.

We would like to thank the Directors for their commitment and we would like to commend our Acting Executive Director for her excellent work and dedication. The Co-Chairs also want to recognize all the staff of ACIC as their commitment and dedication ensures that

ACIC punches above its weight. We know that the work of all staff have contributed to ACIC's success in many areas over the past year, and would therefore like to thank Jennifer Slood, Janelle Frail, Stephanie McAnany, Paige Munro, Lee-Anne Lavell, Fiona Talbot-Strong, Janis Grychowski, and Iara Aguilera. A special thank you as well to our ACIC interns Kate Mosher, Caroline Hockley, and Maddie Kalathoor and bookkeeping staff over the past year, Lorriane Smith and Tatjana Vukoja.

We are extremely proud of the work ACIC does, and we have many reasons to be. The preliminary results of a formative evaluation commissioned by DFATD show that ACIC and the other provincial Councils play an essential role in the development sector and that we do it extremely well. ACIC accomplishes a great deal within its limited means and its importance in our region has grown as we have seen the loss of regional institutional presence of many NGOs within Atlantic Canada. With the changing climate of international development, it is important that we continue to find ways to bring our members together to raise awareness and have an Atlantic Canadian presence in this field.

ACIC is a rich and vibrant coalition of close to 70 members across Atlantic Canada and we are looking with anticipation at the coming year. Despite the uncertainty brought forth by the CIDA-DFAIT merger into the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD), we learned in April that our five-year funding proposal was accepted. Our five-year plan builds on the excellent work done over the past three years and on priorities identified by our membership: networking, building capacity and sharing resources to fulfil our vision of a just world based on social justice, human dignity, and participation for all. We look forward to continuing to work with and for our members well into the future.



REPORT FROM THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year marks the end of ACIC's most recent three-year strategic plan. Over the past several years, much has been accomplished through the collective efforts of ACIC members, volunteers and staff. We have met some ambitious targets, and are now looking to build on these successes with the launch of a new 5-year plan.

It is with cautious hope that we go forward. Recent years have not been kind to the international cooperation sector - significant cuts to many organizations, the need to conform to government priorities, and a lack of or delayed response to funding calls, have left their mark. And while recent overtures on the part of Christian Paradis, Canada's Minister

for International Development, announcing much-awaited funding for international youth internship programs, aboriginal internship programs and volunteer cooperation programs may be welcomed first steps, the sector is hopeful that these offerings signal the beginning of a longer-term commitment to predictability in funding, increased dialogue, renewed support of public engagement activities in Canada, and recognition of the importance of civil society for development.

But hope comes in a variety of forms, and we must look to other signs as well. There is hope in the progress that has been achieved on many fronts in the campaign to deliver on the Millennium Development Goals established in the year 2000. There is hope in what we have learned from the MDGs, and the current mobilization on a global scale to establish a sustainable future development agenda post-2015. There is hope in the generation of youth who carry a passion for social justice and a will to take action, both locally and globally, to achieve it. And finally, there is hope in the creativity, engagement, and continuing dedication of our ACIC members to work individually and collectively towards positive global change.

Despite the challenges we have, and will continue

to experience, I believe that hope is not only on the horizon, but exists in abundance in the here and now. You need look no further than the many examples waiting for you in the pages of this report to find it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who contributed to the work of ACIC this year, including our talented staff, youth volunteers, committee members and, in particular, our dedicated Board of Directors. It is your ongoing commitment that makes our work meaningful, incrementally possible, and most certainly hopeful.



**CAROLYN WHITEWAY,
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

ATLANTIC CANADIAN VOICE

Through effective outreach on initiatives occurring in the Atlantic region, and highlighting ACIC members' work through information sessions, web content, and print, ACIC continues to play an important role in communicating the uniqueness of our practice and perspective here in the Atlantic region.

We have progressed in developing a communications strategy that is instrumental to engaging different sectors of the public and will guide our work in upcoming years. Various recommendations from the strategy have already been implemented, including a re-design of our logo and newsletter, creation of youth and member-specific materials, and focused efforts in the area of social media that have garnered impressive results.

Visitors to our website have steadily increased, and statistics show that sections such as the events calendar, opportunities, and resources are accessed frequently. Media lists have been regularly updated, ensuring that our membership has access to tools to engage others in their work.

ACIC has also utilized a dedicated website to host



THE ACT 4 GLOBAL CHANGE WEBSITE LISTS OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY ACIC AND ITS MEMBERS FOR YOUTH.

our annual Active-8 Campaign as part of International Development Week activities and in February 2014 launched www.act4globalchange.ca, an on-line

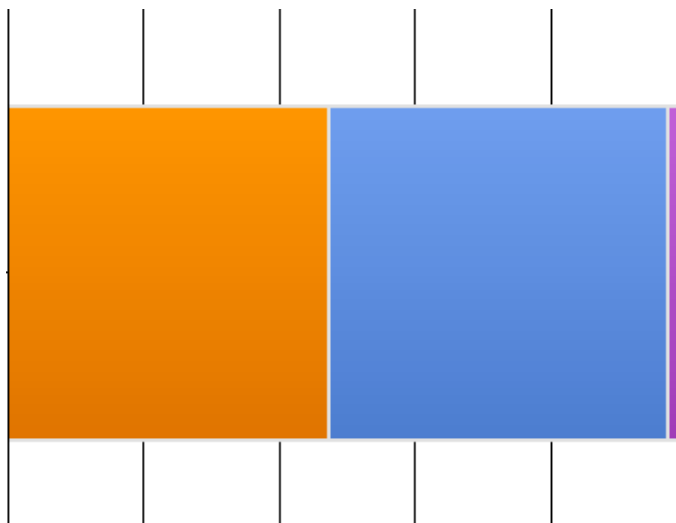
platform serving to connect Atlantic youth with opportunities for engagement on global issues.

In the past year, our quarterly newsletter Rendez-Vous, which incorporates members' news and events, information on ACIC programs, commentary and announcements, has received an attractive re-design,

and is now offered primarily on-line. This has reduced overall printing costs, while recognizing a growing trend towards a more cost-effective and environmentally-friendly format.

Members have indicated a 97.5% satisfaction with ACIC communications activities

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Unsure



**ACTIVE-8 ALUMNI TAYLOR QUINN SPEAKING
ON INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE
NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE**



PHOTO CREDIT: SEAN KELLY

“Congratulations on another excellent newsletter. I found this one particularly powerful: attractive, diverse, and clearly relevant. Good work!” – ACIC member

Additionally, ACIC has responded to the call when asked by the Nova Scotia government to participate and provide a speaker for International Volunteer Day events at the Legislature. Having done so for the past

two years, ACIC has now become a ‘go-to’ resource in providing a valuable perspective on the role of volunteers in the international arena.

3530

visitors/month to ACIC website

16

media reports

599

‘likes’ on Facebook

556

followers on Twitter

354

e-bulletin subscribers

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

ACIC aims to engage members through networking, collaboration, and building capacity. Over the past year, this has been accomplished through opportunities to come together, learn from each other, collaborate and share resources by providing funds, training, information, and other support.

NETWORKING & ENGAGEMENT

ACIC hosts a multitude of networking activities throughout the year, including breakfast meetings, development drinks, lunch and learns, and provincial meetings. A total of 15 provincial networking meetings occurred in 2013-14, reaching a significant proportion of our members. Networking activities are continuously cited by our membership as effective, important, and integral to our work and this service continues to be prioritized.

One of the best opportunities for connecting with other

like-minded individuals is ACIC's AGM & Symposium. A highlight of 2013, "Demise or Reincarnation? Perspectives on Canada's Role in International Cooperation" was held from June 14-16th in Fredericton, NB at Renaissance College. More than 50 participants came together to explore current conditions and practices in the international cooperation sector and how organizations and individuals in Atlantic Canada can participate in effecting global change. Offering the opportunity to reflect on the changing role of Canada in international cooperation, the symposium began



with a panel discussion led by Brian Tomlinson, Mayme Lafurgey, and David Gallagher.

Keynote speaker Julia Sanchez, President-CEO of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, discussed the current context facing the international development sector, the potential implications of the CIDA-DFAIT merger for civil society organizations in Canada and internationally, and possible ways forward. A series of workshops further gave delegates an opportunity to learn, network, and debate the issues at hand. Workshop topics included:

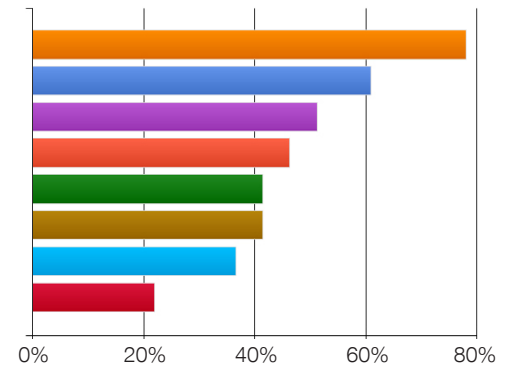
-
- ➔ **Diversifying Opportunities for Survival** – presented by Nora Didkowsky, Veronica McGinn, & Mary Rigby
 - ➔ **Strategic Corporate Research – why campaigning isn't enough anymore** – presented by Jackie McVicar of Breaking the Silence Guatemala
 - ➔ **Creating Effective Partnerships and Collaborations in Public Engagement to Maximize Resources** – presented by Joan Campbell and Marian White
 - ➔ **Empowering Youth's involvement “glocally”** – presented by Hana Nelson & Stephanie McAnany
 - ➔ **Developing Good Global Citizens: The International Internship Program at Renaissance College** – presented by Nadya Ladouceur
 - ➔ **Future Directions: Envisioning a 5-year plan** – a member focus group facilitated by ACIC board & staff

Youth have also been increasingly engaged in ACIC’s annual symposium, both as presenters and participants. The 2013 AGM & Symposium included the largest number of youth participating to date, which ACIC

intends to build upon in future years. More than 30% of symposium participants were under the age of 30, and the youth-specific workshop on “Empowering Youth Globally” attracted many local high school youth as well.

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST USEFUL ABOUT BEING A MEMBER OF ACIC? (MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE CAN BE SELECTED)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Networking opportunities | ■ Partnership opportunities |
| ■ Knowledge of what other organizations are doing | ■ Public Engagement Activities |
| ■ Professional development/
Capacity building opportunities | ■ Sharing resources |
| ■ Ability to reach a broader community | ■ Internships |



COLLABORATION

This year, ACIC received a total of 10 applications to the Members Collaboration Fund – the highest ever received for this small fund - from members wishing to partner with others in the Atlantic region on public engagement projects that support increased awareness and action related to international cooperation. The following 7 projects received funding in 2013-14:

- ➔ Supporting NB Youth Participation at PowerShift Atlantic, 2014
- ➔ From Local to Global – Making Connections through Food Sovereignty
- ➔ Highlight Global Gender Issues in International Women’s Day
- ➔ Crystal Ball of Sustainable Engagement

- ➔ Healing Through Storytelling
- ➔ Haiti partner speaker tour – Cooperative development models in Haiti, an approach to food security and sustainable development
- ➔ Exploring the Millennium Development Goals: The Past, Present and Future of International Development

All of these projects have now been implemented and were successful in mobilizing assets and diversifying opportunities through strategic partnerships and

collaborations, while sensitizing Atlantic Canadians to a range of global issues. Another call for proposals for this small fund will be issued later this year.

“ISCA-AIDC appreciated the opportunity to do this project, which would not have happened otherwise. Also, it was a chance to reach out and develop new partnerships, which have already resulted in future collaborative plans.”

- MCF recipient organization

ACIC also promoted its [Speakers Tour program](#), designed to assist ACIC members in sharing resources. ACIC members can apply for small funds to support the travel of international or national visitors to the

region so that Atlantic Canadians can have access to Public Engagement (PE) activities. Four different ACIC members accessed this fund in 2013-14, which helped support 17 events in 12 locations throughout Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.

“This fund helped us plan and deliver a speaking tour which reached new audiences and reconnected others through face to face interaction by sharing lived experiences.”
– Speaker Tour recipient organization

CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to support a strong network of organizations and individuals across four provinces, ACIC continues to prioritize regional outreach, revitalizing our membership, strengthening governance, conducting solid evaluation, strengthening relationships, finding ways to sustain our work, and continuously improving our own practice through provision of training to our staff and volunteers.

In addition to the six workshops comprising part of ACIC’s annual symposium in New Brunswick, various other capacity building activities were hosted in the region, reaching over 100 participants. A “Writing for the



**INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
STORYTELLER LAURA SIMMS
CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES BY SHARING
HER EXPERIENCES USING STORYTELLING
AS A PROCESS FOR HEALING IN HAITI
AND ELSEWHERE.**

Web” workshop was hosted in Halifax as well as training in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks. An advanced proposal writing workshop was well attended in Newfoundland, as was a session on global and local democratic elections in Charlottetown, PEI. Day-long conferences on public engagement occurred in all four Atlantic Provinces in conjunction with the launch of the Global Hive Toolkit, and ACIC members were invited to participate in an additional workshop focused on engaging youth in our work. Numerous webinars were offered as well, either by the Inter-council Network or in collaboration with the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC).

As the only regionally-based council, ACIC has added challenges of ensuring that we are accessible and accountable to our membership throughout our four provinces. Small offices with few staff often find it difficult to take the time to participate in training or networking activities. Over the past few years, however, ACIC has worked towards strengthening our presence in all Atlantic Provinces and finding innovative ways to reach out to our members. Having staff in different provinces and utilizing online tools are two successful examples of how we remain responsive to our members’ needs and bridge distances.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

ACIC promotes and engages with active global citizens in the Atlantic region. This past year, ACIC continued to focus on engaging with youth on global issues. Through public engagement campaigns and events around the region, ACIC has fostered strong relationships with emerging leaders and provided participants with tools to continue to be actively engaged.

MOVE YOUR WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE

ACIC hosted its eighth annual Move Your World Youth Conference from October 5-8th, 2013 in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross. The conference is a four day eye-opening event for Atlantic Canadians aged 15-18 years. The conference brings together a diverse group of youth in a rural setting to learn about global issues and develop skills in an interactive, exciting educational experience. Fifty conference participants were supported by 12 youth volunteers (many of whom were past-participants) and ACIC staff.

The conference had a strong focus on children and conflict, including a large-scale refugee simulation where participants were displaced from their 'homes' and had to make their way in 'family groups' to a refugee camp. This experiential learning exercise and substantial debrief set the tone for the rest of the symposium. Three inspiring youth panellists addressed the theme of "Youth Making a Difference", and workshops explored global issues such as children and war, food security, gender and identity, and environmental racism.



Welcome
-to-
Move Your World!

"The most important thing I learned from the conference was that there are other youth like me who are passionate about global issues." - Move Your World participant

An opportunities fair highlighted informational brochures and promotional materials from ACIC members and the Canadian Red Cross, providing youth participants with tangible ways to get involved with both local and global issues in their home provinces.

To close the conference, a global citizenship café was held which ended with participants adopting action pledges inspired by the learning and momentum developed during the four days. Furthermore, a post-conference survey showed that the vast majority of youth attendees have followed through on their actions. The same survey also found that the conference has lasting impact- an impressive 92% of respondents say that because of the MYW conference, they've made some changes to the way they live their life and/or think of the world!

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

This year the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation continued to build on the past four successful Active-8! campaigns. The campaign once again



**YOUTH LEADERS PARTICIPATE
IN A TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISE**

highlighted the efforts of young Atlantic Canadians who are working to bring about change in their own communities and around the world.

From an outstanding group of nominees, ACIC selected eight individuals who stood out as active global citizens and models of civic engagement. Two Youth Ambassadors from each Atlantic province were chosen to host events and to spotlight work on international issues during International Development Week (February

2nd and 8th, 2013), and further, throughout the month of February.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:
AMANDA STEPHENS, ASHLEY HUNT, ASHTON RHODENHISER, CHANTELE MCMULLIN, JORDAN
MACDONALD, LISA MORRISON, ANNIE HINTON, SANA GHOURI DURING THE ACTIVE-8! TRAINING WEEKEND**



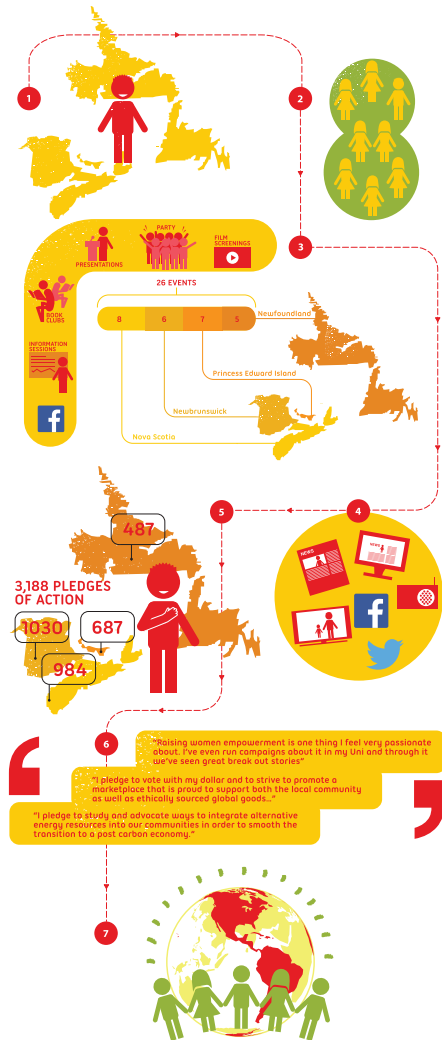
2014 ACTIVE-8! WINNER ASHTON RHONDENHISER IN KENYA DONATING BOOKS TO HELP CREATE A LIBRARY IN A REMOTE SCHOOL

Each Active-8! Youth Ambassador met with the public, encouraged their friends and family, and built their networks of support through Provincial Lead mentors to collect 3,188 online pledges of action for global change based on the framework and ideals of the Millennium Development Goals. In order to help reach a broader audience, the Youth Ambassadors developed and implemented a number of creative public events designed to engage, discuss and pledge action with the general public.

ACIC received very positive feedback from the eight youth leaders on the impression the campaign had on them directly. All were very excited to have had the opportunity to meet the other selected youth to share ideas and be inspired by each other.

“It was a great way to get those around me more involved in social justice issues; extremely interesting conversations.”
- Active-8! Ambassador

Ashton Rhondenhiser of Upper Northfield, NS collected the most online commitments of action, becoming this year’s top Active-8! ambassador and recipient of the \$1,000 prize that will be used to support her work. ACIC congratulates all of our inspiring youth leaders, as well as everyone who pledged on our site to make a positive difference in the lives of people everywhere.



GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS TOUR

“The Global Youth Leaders Tour was the most intense, shocking, eye-opening, and wonderful experience of my life.” - Kathleen Mawhinney, GYLTL participant

Together with member organization Breaking the Silence (BTS) as hosting partner, ACIC successfully implemented a 10-day tour to Guatemala in July 2013, enabling four Atlantic Canadian youth to better understand realities in the global south. Following an orientation session and pre-departure training facilitated by ACIC and Breaking the Silence, the youth travelled from Guatemala City to rural villages deep in the mountains. They were pushed out of their comfort zones and began to learn more about the important solidarity work that BTS has been doing in Guatemala for many decades.

The four youth have brought back a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with their friends and family. Upon their return, they participated in a two-day debriefing session in Halifax, presented a workshop on power and privilege at the Move Your World youth conference, and delivered presentations in communities



located throughout all four Atlantic Provinces, reaching approximately 300 Atlantic Canadians of all ages. To help document and share their experience and learning,

the youth also worked with an editor to create a short video. Check it out on ACIC's website!



GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS TOUR PARTICIPANTS KATHLEEN MAWHINNEY, BRANDON BEAR-JEANES, ISAAC DOUCETTE AND ABBY MARTIN

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIPS

Beginning in June 2013, ACIC offered placements to 17 young professionals in six countries (Bolivia, Honduras, Peru, Ghana, Tanzania and Costa Rica) with eight Southern Partners and six ACIC member organizations spanning three provinces.

Over the course of nine months (three months in Canada and six overseas), interns gained valuable knowledge and experience. This included developing an understanding of what “development work” looks like on the ground in Atlantic Canada and the Global South, connecting global issues to local realities, and developing professional capacities in the field of international cooperation – all while offering benefit to hosting organizations in return.

As the implementing organization for the internship program, ACIC strives to work closely with our partnering organizations to achieve a mutually successful program. Two monitoring visits- one to Honduras and the other to Ghana - were conducted to better understand the context in which these young professionals were working and to invite open exchange with partners.



**INTERNS HARUMI FLORES MONTALVO & CIERA
DESILVA ON TOP OF THE WORLD IN PERU**

“I personally have found the IYIP program to be instrumental in developing my skills within the international development sector. I have significantly benefitted from having been given the opportunity to utilise my skills and experience within a hands on setting in a development context. My experience over the past 6 months has also enabled me to not only build on existing knowledge but also develop new skills that will contribute to my employability within my desired field of work.” – IYIP Intern

Interns returned to Canada in January 2014 for re-entry activities and completed the remaining weeks of their internship at ACIC member hosting organizations. ACIC would like to thank Chalice, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, Falls Brook Centre, the Ivar Mendez

International Foundation, Mount Saint Vincent University, the New Brunswick Environmental Network and all Southern partner host organizations for their tremendous support and contributions throughout the program.

ACT 4 GLOBAL CHANGE

Atlantic Canadians Together (ACT) for Global Change grew out of a regional collaborative public engagement project intended to build relationships within the sector, avoid duplication of efforts and establish synergies with like-minded organizations to achieve results.

ACIC members involved in the process identified

‘youth’ as an audience for the project, which focuses on promoting youth participants, volunteers and employees that are engaged in our members’ work through a web-based platform. Additional funding was secured through a grant from the Nova Scotia Youth Secretariat to incorporate youth into the project creation, implementation, and evaluation.



HEARTWOOD'S 'CIRCLE OF AWESOMENESS' FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

In July 2013, an “Engaging Youth in Our Work” capacity-building workshop was hosted with 23 persons from two provinces attending. Two follow-up support meetings occurred that were used to identify challenges and ideas for overcoming obstacles that prevent youth engagement at a variety of levels.

Members were also contacted to nominate youth to attend a video and interview skill-sharing workshop, with seven youth from all four Atlantic Provinces attending. In total, 19 interviews have been conducted for the creation of video profiles.

Launched in February 2014, the ACT 4 Global Change website (act4globalchange.ca) provides an on-line platform that focuses on opportunities for youth engagement and seeks to inspire, inform and involve. The website is promoted via social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogging) to showcase ACIC members’ opportunities for youth throughout Atlantic Canada, and will continue to grow as more videos are added and more resources are shared. Members have re-posted and shared the website among their audiences via social media. More than a thousand website visits have occurred since the launch.

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.



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



**JACKIE MCVICAR, WINNER OF THE SHIRLEY CASE LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP 2013,
WITH JESUS TECU, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND GENOCIDE SURVIVOR**

meaningful global citizenship activities.

The 2013 winner of the Shirley Case Leadership Award for Global Citizenship was Jackie McVicar. Jackie McVicar is the Guatemala Coordinator of Breaking the Silence (BTS), a Maritimes-based solidarity network that began to organize in 1988 to support the efforts of Guatemalans struggling for political, social, economic and environmental justice.

At the core of BTS' work is the understanding that we all deserve to be treated as equals, and that we need to build long-term relationships based on solidarity and mutuality. Jackie has played an integral role both in developing and strengthening those relationships, responding to the needs and issues defined by BTS' partners and by other Guatemalans with whom the network works, while supporting them as they take charge of their own lives.

As an adult educator, interested in exploring healing, feminism, and social struggle, Jackie is also a member of the Tatamagouche Centre Resource Group. She has played central roles as a resource person for a variety of trainings at the centre, including trainings in adult education and leadership, Coyote medicine, Mind-body

Approaches to Transforming Trauma, and coordinating the Social Justice Youth Camp, among many others. She is inspired by youth and the worldwide struggle for autonomy and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, which forms a strong foundation for her work.

She continues to facilitate delegations of Canadians to Guatemala, while acting as the in-country coordinator for the St. Francis Xavier Service Learning Program. She plays an integral role in supporting the International Accompaniment Program with ACOGUATE in Guatemala, which provides international accompaniment to threatened human rights defenders, while working on advocacy and relationship building at the Canadian Embassy and with other networks and coalitions.

Jackie's dedication towards structural transformation both within Guatemala and Canada and her commitment to developing relationships based on mutual understanding and respect are both inspiring and worthy of recognition. We applaud her continued efforts as we look ahead to who will be honoured in 2014.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

ACIC continues to work to strengthen our ability to function effectively and sustainably as a coalition. This is accomplished through a variety of methods, including expanding internal capacity, diversifying our membership and our funding, by working in collaboration with councils across the country and through continually reflecting on our work to improve results.

LEADERSHIP IN THE SECTOR

The Inter-council Network (ICN) is made up of the seven Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation, including ACIC, who together represent over 400 international development organizations in Canada. The ICN provides a forum in which to collaborate for improved effectiveness, learn from each other's specific skills, troubleshoot challenges, and identify common priorities for collective action.

Over the past year, the Councils have collaborated to build capacity by sharing resources and ideas, and have

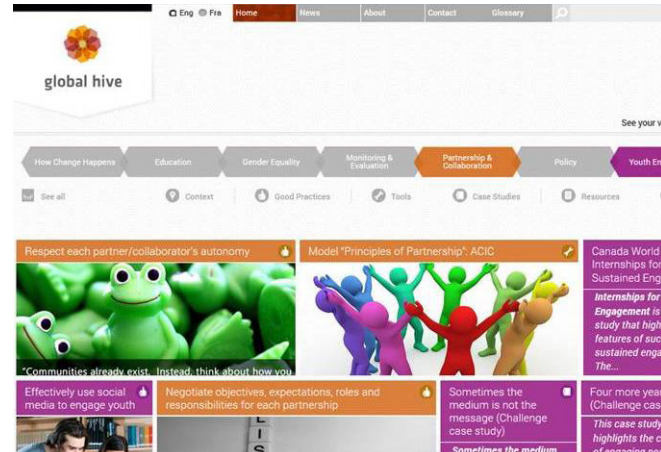
worked together to reach national audiences through webinars. This has led to a strengthened network and, by extension, more capable Councils and more effective members. The ICN also focused on increasing the capacity of public engagement practitioners. With the



launch of the Global Hive website, we have been able to reach thousands of practitioners with valuable tools, case studies and resources relating to good practice. Others have recognized the value of this work as well. At the Canadian Council for International Cooperation's May 2014 conference, the ICN won an Innovation in Partnerships award for the partnerships model that it used to develop the Global Hive.

Significant collaboration also occurred among the Councils and the Yukon Development Education Centre (YDEC) in the preparation of the Connecting with Canadians Initiative proposal, in order to determine and align activities of the ICN over the next five years. Planned activities will include:

- ➔ maintaining and enhancing the Global Hive website on good practices in public engagement;
- ➔ developing and piloting training modules based on this work around public engagement;
- ➔ conducting a national poll;
- ➔ commissioning policy and analysis work;
- ➔ developing and delivering national capacity building webinars;



- ➔ participating in learning exchanges;
- ➔ face-to-face meetings of the Executive Directors of each Council.

Additionally, ACIC has continued to work with the ICN and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) to represent the concerns of the sector to the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) in regards to delays in funding calls and announcements, and the need to strengthen the relationship between government and civil society organizations working in the international development sector.

DIVERSIFICATION OF FUNDING

A heavy reliance on federal government funding generally within our sector will continue to limit our activities unless work is done to identify and generate new sources of funding. Volunteers and staff of ACIC's Income Diversification Committee (IDC) have worked over the past few years to create a medium to long-term income diversification plan that would include strategies to expand funding sources for the sector for international development and public engagement activities.

The committee provided a workshop on "Diversifying Opportunities for Survival" at the 2013 AGM & Symposium. This workshop provided a space to share ideas and network with other members to encourage collaboration for project funding. The committee intends to gather information to use in further developing the IDC Diversification Fund Plan. These resources and data will connect members through an asset map, which identifies and records collective skills, experience and relationships. The resulting map will be shared with all ACIC member organizations, in an effort to increase all members' knowledge of:

➔ available grant/ funding sources;

- ➔ how to leverage government and private sector support;
- ➔ possible ways to collaborate with other members of ACIC, in order to share skills, experiences, knowledge, and in-kind assets.



This year, ACIC has sought out and received funding for programming and staffing. This has included new funding from DFATD (Connecting with Canadians Initiative); the Nova Scotia government (funding to support one summer student under the Student Career

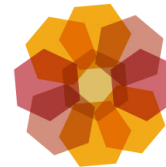
Skills Development Program, and project funds from the Nova Scotia Youth Secretariat); and through other federal government departments, including Service Canada (Canada Summer Jobs – funding to support one summer student).

MEMBER BASE

ACIC is fortunate to have a solid base of supportive members. However, with more than 70 members throughout the Atlantic region, it is necessary to continuously work to keep members engaged and involved. Annual member surveys consistently reveal 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.

Efforts have also been made to find innovative ways of connecting with members, including the use of webinars and effective communications to ensure that members are aware of the opportunities ACIC has to offer. As an

example, ACIC was able to host the national Global Hive conference in October 2013 in all four Atlantic Provinces, with the possibility of those in more remote areas to participate by webinar during a 'national moment' that occurred during the event. The end result was that Atlantic Canada had 31 people participate in the conference, rivaling or exceeding numbers in many major centres of Canada!



global hive

Locating staff members in areas outside of Halifax has also helped ACIC to solidify relationships and expand our reach. We are particularly grateful to our ACIC member organizations Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture Campus and the University of New Brunswick, who have continued to host ACIC staff.

Beyond engaging and supporting existing members,

ACIC is continually seeking to increase ACIC membership. To remain effective and sustainable as a coalition, we must look towards diversifying our member base and reach out to like-minded individuals, organizations and institutions who have not been previously engaged with ACIC or who see the value in re-engaging.

ON THE WHOLE, ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH ACIC?

ACIC's 2014 membership survey demonstrates that programming is meeting the needs of our membership. Thirty-nine percent of respondents indicated that they were very satisfied and 51.2% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with their membership in ACIC (a 3% increase over the previous year) for a total of 90.2%.



GOVERNANCE

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 directors that represent a diversity of our membership, including geographic regions, types of membership and diversity of age, gender and language.



BOARD & STAFF RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 2013, HUBBARDS, NOVA SCOTIA (L-R): CAROLYN WHITEWAY, DELLA WEBSTER, NADYA LADOUCEUR, LEE-ANNE LAVELL, BRIAN TOMLINSON, KORA LIEGH RUSSELL, LEO CHEVERIE, NANCY THORNTON, DIGAFIE DEBALKE, NORA DIDKOWSKY, PAIGE MUNRO, JANELLE FRAIL. MISSING: STEPHANIE MCANANY AND JENNIFER SLOOT

To prepare board members for this work, ACIC hosted its board orientation as part of an overall board/staff retreat in Hubbards, NS from September 15-16, 2013. The orientation included information about ACIC programs, its history, roles of board members and role of the executive committee. In preparation for ACIC's

proposal submission to DFATD's Connecting with Canadians Initiative, a particular emphasis was placed on soliciting feedback and developing a plan that will guide ACIC programming over the next five years.

ACIC's Board met nine 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 Code of Ethics. Significant work was accomplished in updating organizational articles and by-laws, which will prepare ACIC to transition to the new federal Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA) prior to October 2014, a deadline which must be met by all federally incorporated organizations or face dissolution.

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, committee work has resulted in expanded productivity of ACIC and strengthened relationships between members. Committee reports can be found in the following sections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACIC POLICY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Della Webster (Chair-NB), Nancy Pitts (NS), Kimberley Douglas (NB), Carolyn Whiteway (Acting Executive Director), and Ora Morrison (NS- student volunteer)

The Policy and Ethics Committee met six times this year. The main objective of the Committee was to review and revise the present ACIC

By-laws so that they would comply with the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (NFP Act).

At this time, I would like to thank Carolyn Whiteway for all her meticulous work in comparing our present By-laws with the new NFP Act and the CCIC By-laws that were written to comply with the new NFP Act. It was a mammoth task, but somehow she managed to complete it all within the given time frame.

As I am completing my term on the ACIC Board, I would like to thank all the volunteers that have worked on the Policy and Ethics Committee in the past three years. Your contributions were most appreciated.

DELLA WEBSTER, CHAIR

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Digafie Debalke (Chair-PEI), Carolyn Whiteway (Acting Executive Director) and Jennifer Sloat (Executive Director-on leave)

The risk management committee held five meetings over the course of the last year to clearly identify potential areas of risk involving ACIC's work here at home and abroad. The committee in its work identified main areas of risk and the potential consequences stemming from the risk if not addressed properly in a timely manner. During the course of identifying potential risk, the committee members looked into different scales and matrices to measure and evaluate the implication of risk to the organisation. Committee members agree on the

fact that there are potential risks to the organisation and developing and putting in place a mitigation strategy is important to the reputational, financial, and all other potential risks that could negatively affect ACIC's work. The Committee's work is on-going, with the ultimate goal of developing a comprehensive risk management strategy for the organization.

DIGAFIE DEBALKE, CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Nancy Thornton (Chair, NS), Louise Webb (NL), Bill Chislett (NL), Anne Wheatley (PEI) and staff member Stephanie McAnany (Membership Coordinator)

The Membership Committee's mandate is to increase membership in all the Atlantic Provinces, while concentrating on attracting new members specifically from New Brunswick and Newfoundland, where ACIC's membership is more limited.

Following by-law changes at the 2013 AGM, the ACIC Membership Committee changed the designation of membership class to Associate and Regular, replacing the previous three categories of Regular, Associate and Individual.

The ACIC Membership Committee have been active in developing clear policies and procedures regarding payment of fees, reviewing policies related to individuals/ organizations, promoting international understanding in Atlantic Canada, and determining ACIC's policy regarding acceptance of membership applications from overseas individuals and organizations.

The Committee reviewed the following membership applications over the past year and is recommending approval by the membership at the Annual General Meeting:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- ➔ AidWatch Canada, NS
- ➔ Atlantic Chapter of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, PE
- ➔ CHAT to the Future INC, NB
- ➔ DAL, International Development Studies (IDS) Department, NS
- ➔ NEXUS Coastal Resource Management, NS
- ➔ Uganda Venture, NS

ASSOCIATE

- ➔ Bobby Thomas Cameron, PE
- ➔ David W. Beckerson, NB
- ➔ Dennis Stuebing, NS
- ➔ Donovan Taplin, NL

- ➔ Emmanuel Nahimana, NS
- ➔ Jesse Lalonde, NS
- ➔ Marian White, PEI
- ➔ Louise Webb, NL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Brian Tomlinson (Chair-NS), Leo Cheverie (PEI), Nadya Ladouceur (NB)

The personnel committee completed the development of a salary scale for the organization, which was essential to inform our proposal for five year funding to DFATD in September. It will be implemented in 2014 when the new DFATD agreement comes into effect. In addition, the personnel committee has worked with staff to support both the Executive Director who is on medical leave as well as the Acting Executive Director. The

committee also completed a performance evaluation with the Acting Executive Director, approximately a year after assuming this role, during a very demanding year, which saw the completion of the existing DFATD contract and the successful presentation of a new five year agreement.

BRIAN TOMLINSON, CHAIR

INCOME DIVERSIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Nora Didkowsky (Chair-NS), Mary Rigby (NS), Veronica McGinn (NB), and staff member Janelle Frail (Regional Public Engagement Coordinator)

The key objective of the Income Diversification Committee (IDC) is to foster the long-term sustainability of the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation. We aim to do so by: identifying diverse sources of funding outside of DFATD; establishing ACIC's profile with provincial and federal governments; and helping to build the capacity of ACIC members to partner in securing funding and sharing resources. Although diversification in sourcing funds has been of concern for several years, it now critical as the Federal Government, which traditionally provided such funding, has revised departmental structure and management priorities.

This year the IDC developed a survey designed to uncover ACIC members' compatible and contrasting skills, knowledge, resources, and development experience. Members were asked to respond to the

survey to help us better understand their partnership and funding strengths and needs. With this information the IDC will develop an asset-map to share with members. The goal is to facilitate a resource and knowledge-sharing network among organizations, so that we may initiate strategic partnerships to mobilize assets, increase sustainability and diversify opportunities.

NORA DIDKOWSKY, CHAIR

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2014

ASSETS	2014	2013
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 53,352	\$ 72,245
Accounts receivable	60,553	16,008
HST receivable	15,159	12,964
Prepaid expenses	504	2,137
	\$ 129,568	\$103,354
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,128	\$ 7,799
Employee deductions payable	3,487	5,369
	7,615	13,168
NET ASSETS	121,953	90,186
	\$129,568	\$103,354

ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenditure:
Year Ended March 31, 2014

REVENUE	2014	2013
DFATD/CIDA Project Revenue:		
Public engagement	\$320,295	\$273,859
International youth internship	240,451	-
International aboriginal youth internship	-	36,732
Project overhead	48,832	33,132
Other Revenue:		
Federal summer students	3,218	3,835
Provincial summer students	-	8,509
Other	19,326	23,552
	632,122	379,619
EXPENSES		
DFATD/CIDA Project Direct Costs:		
Public engagement	320,295	273,859
International youth internship	240,451	-
International aboriginal youth internship	-	36,732
Project overhead	33,348	32,518
Other Expenses:		
Federal summer students	3,218	4,482
Provincial summer students	-	6,439
Other	3,043	13,126
	600,355	367,156
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$31,767	\$12,463

This financial information has been extracted from the financial statements audited by Lyle Tilley Davidson Chartered Accountants.

ACIC MEMBERS

BREAKING THE SILENCE MARITIMES-GUATEMALA SOLIDARITY NETWORK
CANADA WORLD YOUTH/ JEUNESSE CANADA MONDE
CANADIAN RED CROSS
CENTRE FOR NURSING STUDIES INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
CHALICE CANADA
COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK
MARINE INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL
MIKINDURI CHILDREN OF HOPE
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS OFFICE
COOPER INSTITUTE
CUSO INTERNATIONAL
CUPE GLOBAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (NS, NB, PEI, NL)
DALHOUSIE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
DALHOUSIE GLOBAL HEALTH OFFICE
DALHOUSIE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (CCODP)
FALLS BROOK CENTRE
FARMERS HELPING FARMERS
GPI ATLANTIC

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA – MARITIME CONFERENCE
INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
NEW BRUNSWICK ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
IVAR MENDEZ INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
JUSTUS! DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION SOCIETY
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
NOVA SCOTIA-GAMBIA ASSOCIATION
NSCC, CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES
SMU - INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OFFICE
TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK – FREDERICTON
WUSC (WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA)
YMCA CANADA EAST - MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF PEI - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
OXFAM CANADA
CATHERINE RONAHAAN, CLARE LEVIN, CRISTIAN SUTEANU
DAYLE ESHELBY, DOLORES LEVANGIE, DONALD FRASER
HANA NELSON, JEAN FRASER, JOAN CAMPBELL
JOY HECHT, KIMBERLEY DOUGLASS, MARY RIGBY
SARAH MILLS