

ACIC  CACI  
ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2021-22

ANNUAL REPORT



We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.



The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada.

## Our Mission

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) is a coalition of individuals, organizations and institutions working in the Atlantic region to build and model just, equitable and sustainable communities, locally and globally. ACIC connects leadership across generations by strengthening members and partners, bridging dialogue and building networking and learning opportunities. ACIC also represents and amplifies the voice of Atlantic Canada and connects the Atlantic with other provincial, national and international stakeholders.



## Our Strategic Plan

Our activities and programs are based on our 2019-2014 Strategic Plan, which calls on us to strengthen member and partner effectiveness, sense of community and peer learning, amplify voice and reach of Atlantic development sector within national development dialogues, and strengthen youth leadership and enabling recognition of youth as global leaders.



This report covers activities that took place between January 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. The financial statements at the end cover the period between 1st April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, and April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

# Our Strategic Plan | 2019-2024

**Youth Leadership**

**Voice & Reach**

**Strengthen**



Strengthened youth leadership and recognition as leaders in this area

Amplified voice and reach of Atlantic development sector within national development dialogue

Strengthened member and partner effectiveness, sense of community and peer learning.

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# Message from the Executive Director & Board Chairs



Dear ACIC Members and friends,

As 2022 nears to an end, we want to applaud our staff, partners, and communities for having shown resilience and strength through uncertainties of the past two years. In 2021 and 2022, ACIC has stayed focused on our vision of leadership and partnering for more just, equitable, and sustainable communities. This vision remains more relevant than ever.

Over the past while, we as many of our members have shifted to new and innovative virtual engagement, focusing on the effects of COVID-19 on systematically excluded and underrepresented communities. We have been able to reach wider audiences, use innovative tools learning software to reach you and many more in our efforts, as we unlearn and relearn for this new hybrid world.

Our member services have been central to our activities, as always.. Capacity building events, networking meetings, the Symposium, and collaborative projects help us connect with and support Atlantic Canadian organizations in their work. For example, the PhotoVoices program is empowering youth from Canada and the global South to share their stories, develop their skills, and explore connections between sport and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the spirit of reconciliation and to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the 94 Calls to Action, we have deepened our relationships with and support to Indigenous youth. Our International Internships for Indigenous Youth, normally hosted by a partner in the Global South was reimaged as virtual opportunities in Canada for support of organizations in Guyana, Cambodia, Kenya, and Nepal. The Our Communities, Our Voices program was also held virtually with young Indigenous leaders helping them use the power of social media to strengthen the voices of their communities and to localize the SDGs.

We have also engaged in deep learning about anti-racism. Our priority is to continue to learn, unlearn, and strengthen our own and our members' ability to incorporate this work into program delivery. On this journey, we have developed an anti-racism framework, undertaken training through piloting a Safer Space Dialogue program. We hope to share our lessons learned and roll out more of this work to our members in the coming year.

As hosts of the Inter-Council Network, we are pleased to support research, policy and public engagement that strengthens Canada's international cooperation sector. The Network of provincial and regional councils represents nearly 350 international cooperation organizations and enables collaboration to improve development effectiveness and develop collective action. We have met with Global Affairs Canada, contributing to their ongoing dialogues with civil society, and are bringing out members' and partners' concerns to the table. We are also hosting youth delegates, offering opportunities for them to explore the world of international cooperation.

Finally, we wish to thank our past and present team for their commitment and flexibility in responding to gaps and shifts due to the pandemic. We have grown our staff team but are also paying close attention to work-life balance, mental health, and the potential for burnout.

We would also like to thank our previous Board Chair Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo, who was the Co-Chair for the year 2021-22. We are proud to say that through the past two years, and it's challenges, we have supported our members, partners, board and volunteers, all the while constantly evolving and responding to change.



We look forward to a dynamic and successful upcoming year.

**Eric Smith**

Board Chair & Director-at-Large,  
Coady International Institute

**Jennifer Sloot**

Executive Director

# Board of Directors

2021-22

**Fredrick Wangabo Mwenengabo**

Co-Chair & NB Representative,  
Eastern and Central African Association for  
Indigenous Rights (ECAAIR)

**Eric Smith**

Co-Chair & Director-at-Large,  
Coady International Institute

**Valeri Pilgrim**

Secretary & Director-at-Large  
Individual Member, NL

**Shelagh Savage**

Treasurer & NS Representative  
Individual Member, NS

**Mica McCurdy**

NL Representative  
Memorial University NL  
Internationalization Office

**Scott Smith**

Director-at-Large,  
Latin American Mission Program (LAMP)

**Fadi Al Qassar**

Director-at-Large  
Venture 2 Impact

2022-23

**Eric Smith**

Chair & Director-at-Large,  
Coady International Institute

**Mica McCurdy**

Secretary & NL Representative  
Marine Institute

**Shelagh Savage**

Treasurer & NS Representative

**Fadi Al Qassar**

Director-at-Large  
Venture 2 Impact

**Danai Belangér**

New Brunswick Representative  
Memorial University of NL

**Heather Dicks**

Member-At-Large

**Abdou Kanteh**

Member-At-Large  
Nova Scotia Gambia Association

**Eliza Knockwood**

PEI Representative

# Staff

Executive Director

**Jennifer Slood**

Programs Manager (Youth)

**Jackie Dowling**

Programs Manager (International Internships for Indigenous Youth)

**Lee-Anne Lavell**

Inter-Council Network National Program Manager

**Ghazoua Ouerghi-Saada**

Membership and Operations Manager

**Saadia Ambreen**

Communications Manager

**Raushni Abraham**

International Internships for Indigenous Youth Program Officer

**Jordan Smith**

Programs Officer - Youth

**Kate He**

Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Storytelling Officer

**Nikki Jamieson**

Inter-Council Network Policy Officer

**Judyannet Muchiri**

Inter-Council Network Communications Officer

**Mateo Gomez**

Inter-Council Network Capacity Strengthening Officer

**Umme Mim Mohsin**

Finance and Administration Officer

**Zuby Ain Sohail**

Bookkeeper and Office Administrator

**Wissam Issa**

Event Coordinator

**Mizel Cluett**

Provincial Coordinator - Prince Edward Island

**Choyce Chappell**

Provincial Coordinator - New Brunswick

**Tedi Buffett**

Provincial Coordinator - Nova Scotia

**Kayla Dunphy**

Provincial Coordinator - Newfoundland and Labrador

**Sunzida Ali**

**We also would like to thank our staff who joined us in various positions, bringing their experience, expertise and knowledge to their respective roles: (in alphabetical order):**

Amanda Hendrie

Caleigh Wong

Camille Bazot

Chloe Duguay

Dotun Olutoke

Farah Mariah

Janelle Frail

Joecy Peters

Joëlle Badman

Lauren Tilley

Masuma Khan

Neha Katote

Sally Oppong

Selvi Roy

Sherry Stevenson

We are thankful to Canada Summer Jobs, the ImpACT grant, the Nova Scotia provincial government and co-op placements for additional funding that helped us engage youth in various opportunities.

# Organizational Members

Amnesty International Maritimes  
Atlantic Region of the United Church  
Black Business and Professional Network NB  
Breaking the Silence Maritimes-Guatemala Solidarity Network  
Campbell Webster Foundation  
Canadian Red Cross  
Centre for Nursing Studies International Office/ Eastern Health  
Coady International Institute  
Community Forests International  
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Cooper Institute  
Dalhousie University, Government and Global Relations  
Dalhousie, Faculty of Agriculture International Office  
Dalhousie, Global Health Office, Faculty of Medicine  
Dalhousie, International Development Studies (IDS) Department  
Development and Peace (CCODP)  
East and Central African Association for Indigenous Rights (ECAAIR)  
Ecology Action Centre  
Engage Nova Scotia  
Farmers Helping Farmers  
GPI Atlantic  
Help 2 Overcome Society  
International Development Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS)  
International Sustainable Community Assistance  
Latin American Mission Program (LAMP)  
Marine Institute International  
Memorial University, Internationalization Office  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Mikinduri Children of Hope  
Nova Scotia Community College, Centre for International Activities  
Nova Scotia Gambia Association  
ONE Global  
Oxfam Canada  
Renaissance College  
Saint Mary's University International Development Studies Undergraduate Society  
Saint Mary's University, Global Learning and Intercultural Support Office  
SE Impacting Lives through Opportunities (SEILO)  
Tatamagouche Centre  
University of PEI, ACLC  
Venture2impact  
WUSC (World University Service of Canada)



# Individual Members

Amy Hsiao  
Anne Gillies  
Arielle Regan  
Becca Bishop  
Bobbi Zahra  
Caleigh Wong  
Catherine Ronahan  
Claire Brierley  
Darlene Doiron  
Darlene O'Leary  
Della Webster  
Eliza Knockwood  
F. Elaine MacEachern  
Farzana Soheli  
Haruka Aoyama  
Jason Kontak  
Jean McCardle  
Jennifer DeCoste

Jennifer Elms  
Jennifer K. Fox  
Jennifer King  
Jesse Lalonde  
John Cameron Dale  
Jonathan Ferguson  
Joshua MacFadyen  
Kat MacKay  
Keith Forsyth  
Kevin Deveaux  
Kevin O'Shea  
Keyshawn Bonamy  
Leo Cheverie  
Lindsey Edney  
Louise Webb  
Monica Boquin  
Olaitan Onyebuoha  
Olivia Allen

Pete Day  
Prem Kumar SR Marisa  
Rosie Li  
Sandra Juarez Reyes  
Sarah Weston  
Saurabh Kulkarni  
Sean Kelly  
Sean Wiebe  
Seiku Diakite  
Shelagh Savage  
Suraj Baral  
Susan Hartley  
Teresa Lush  
Umme Mim Mohsin  
Valeri Pilgrim  
Ying Hui Lee  
Ying Zhang

## Communication



2540 Followers  
482 posts  
3031 Engagements



2347 Followers  
418 posts  
900 Engagements



946 Followers  
400 posts  
1122 Engagements



1150 Followers  
434 posts  
3428 Engagements



1000+ Followers  
32 newsletter  
9700+ Engagements



[www.acic-caci.org](http://www.acic-caci.org)  
38,200 visitors  
77,000+ pageviews

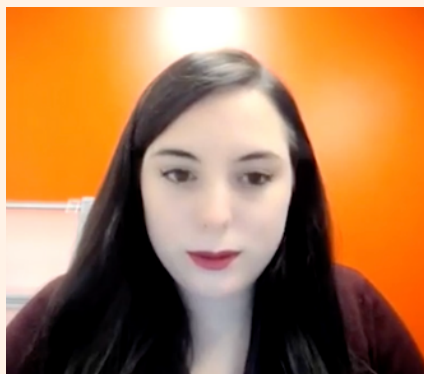
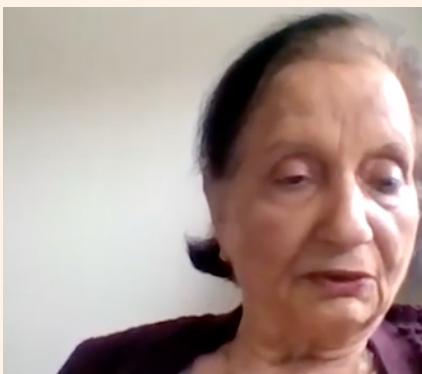
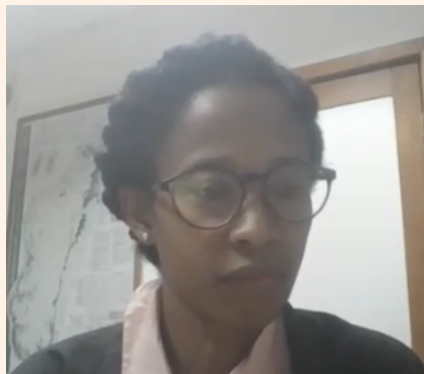
Through our communication channels of social media, newsletters and our website, we shared resources and opportunities for our audience to engage in.

As part of our Tuesdays4Justice campaign, we shared and profiled key anti-racism resources, stories and tools, every Tuesday. These resources included opportunities for BIPOC individuals to engage with the sector, tools to unlearn and relearn individual and organizational racist (and systemic racist) practices, statements and resources to foster solidarity with the Indigenous and Racialized communities locally and globally.

# Annual Symposium

In 2021, the Annual Symposium was held virtually, allowing for participants and speakers to join from various geographic locations within and outside of Canada. With speakers from Atlantic Canada, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Kenya and Madagascar, the theme: '[From Obstacles to Opportunities](#),' harnessed discussion around the diverse impact of the pandemic faced in our local and global communities. Through multiple panel discussions, panelists alleviated dialogues on the effects of COVID19 on systematically excluded and underrepresented individuals and communities, the future of health care and power imbalances in a recovering world. Thematic areas in focus included Gender-Based Violence, the need to address mental health care for newcomers and refugees, the economic impact of COVID19 on tourism-centered economies in the world, and the collaborative and intersectional approach needed to build a post-pandemic world.

For the third year ACIC hosted a youth stream at the annual symposium. Through pre-and post-sessions, the youth stream provided an opportunity for ten youth to connect with sector practitioners to engage in peer discussion and to learn more about gender equality, and the Sustainable Development Goals.



# International Development Week 2021

International Development Week has been celebrated annually for more than 30 years. With the unifying theme, "Go For The Goals," IDW celebrates Canada's international cooperation sector, and shines a spotlight on the important contributions that Canadians make through partnerships around the world. In 2021, ACIC and our member organizations together hosted various events and workshops throughout the Atlantic. Embracing the shift to virtual programming, we hosted a variety of events including lunch and learns, journal clubs & virtual and in-person curated book displays at libraries, panel discussions, storytelling session and more. ACIC Member hosted 'The Role of Social Enterprises in Advancing the SDG,' 'Advancing the SDGs in Conflict and Fragility,' 'Conversations about Inclusive Economic Growth,' and 'Solidarity in Your Coffee Cup.' Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador hosted 'Circle: Stories of People and Place Trust,' prompting participants to share stories on building understanding, and connection with the land and best practices for working in community. We hosted 'Indigenous Community Leaders: Local Solutions to Global Challenges,' featuring an engaging storytelling session, led by representatives from Indigenous community initiatives. In partnership with Marine Institute, another internship implementing organization and ACIC member, we hosted a human library event. The event featured people as 'books' one loans from a library, inciting engaging conversations on global placements, local action and its links to the Sustainable Development Goals.

# International Development Week 2022

In 2022, at the height of the Omicron wave, we hosted and organized virtual events and activities with our members, partners and the public.

Our keynote event saw renowned Indigenous activist Waneek Horn-Miller explore the concepts of peace and balance, and their role in communities, change-making and reconciliation, in an event we co-hosted with ACIC Members The Coady Institute. The event offered a reminder of the ways our stories are all interlinked, and how our focus and efforts towards the sustainable development goals must include a localised component.

IDW 2022 also featured a variety of other events, including a panel titled, 'The Pandemic, Education and Children Around the World,' co-hosted with the Canadian International Council; an event titled 'Poetry, Prose and Print: SDGs through the Literary Arts,' which featured four local Atlantic Canadian authors who have all used writing as a way to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. We worked with the Halifax Public Library, the University of Prince Edward Island library, and the PEI library service on e-book displays, feature literature related to international development, global cooperation and the sustainable development goals. We engaged little changemakers by hosting a Colour for the Goals social media event, where preschoolers and young children were invited to colour a page to the Raising Global Kidizens SDG art mural. We also worked with our members, who hosted a variety of different events during IDW - the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture shared it's Films for Change; Memorial University Internationalization Office hosted a variety of panels and discussions related to themes such as the new learning abroad lens, a student refugee program appreciation event, a sustainable communities discussion group, and a panel on internationalization in higher education from an EDI lens. Venture to Impacted celebrated the work of their partnership with Child Fund Uganda through a LinkedIn Online event, and Saint Mary's University International Development Society hosted an IDW art contest.

**"Start seeing human rights as a big interconnected web. We have to remember the interconnectivity of all our issues, all those human rights issues.**

**Show up for one another. You need to have hard conversations with people who don't always agree with you.**

**That is going to be a cornerstone of society: communication and listening."**

Waneek Horn-Miller, International Development Week 2022, in the panel 'Exploring Peace, Change and Activism with Waneek Horn-Miller.'





# Youth Programs



## Youth Advisory Council

To strengthen ACIC's commitment to Atlantic Canadian youth, we established a Youth Advisory Council in 2021. Eight youth formed the Advisory Council, providing feedback on ACIC's youth programming initiatives, best practices for youth engagement and outreach.

## PhotoVoices

ACIC's PhotoVoices Program enables youth to share the narratives they want to tell through photos, and connects youth from Atlantic Canada and the Global South in an experience of storytelling, skills building, providing them a space to explore social justice, while learning from experts in the field. 29 and 21 youth completed the program in April 2022 and 2021 respectively. ACIC partnered with \_\_\_ organizations for this program: Run for Life Kenya (Kenya), Nova Scotia Gambia Association (Gambia), North American Indigenous Games 2023 (Nova Scotia, Canada). East and Central African Association for Indigenous Rights (Democratic Republic of Congo), and WWF Guyanas(Guyana).



## Global Citizenship Certificate

The Global Citizenship Certificate encourages youth to explore connections to their local and international communities and enables them to act as effective global citizens. Through virtual workshops, volunteer placement, advocacy projects, and connecting with other youth from across the Atlantic, youth will learn and practice being effective global citizens. Launched 2022, eight youth completed the program this year.





# Youth Programs

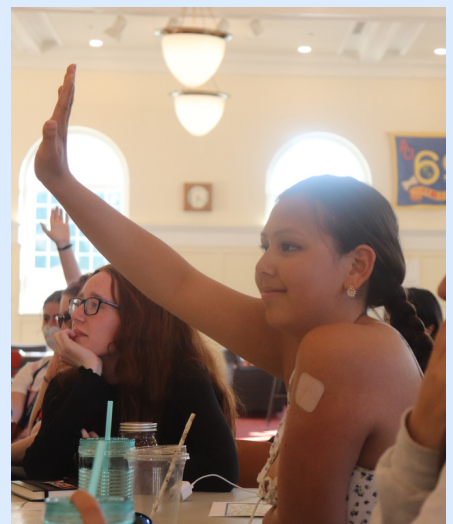
## Global Citizenship Youth Conference

Held in July 2022, the youth conference has been consistently one of the most successful events for ACIC. Thirty-three youth aged from the four Atlantic provinces participated, being supported by a leadership team of 10 volunteers. Through workshops and discussions, participants explored the sustainable development goals, gender equality, public engagement, mental health, intersectionality, and the role of local community in global solidarity.



## International Development Week

For IDW 2022, ACIC hosted a panel discussion on SDG 4, Quality Education, from a Youth Perspective. The panel consisted of ACIC youth participants, from past and current programs. They discussed the role youth voices play in reimagining education and shared their experiences, visions, and hopes for the future of global education. Each IDW, ACIC provides funding to youth in the Atlantic region to host IDW events in their communities. In 2022, four youth received funding, while in 2021, six youth received funding. Activities ranged from art contests, exploring education, public engagement activities, environment and the sustainable development goals.



# Members Public Engagement Fund

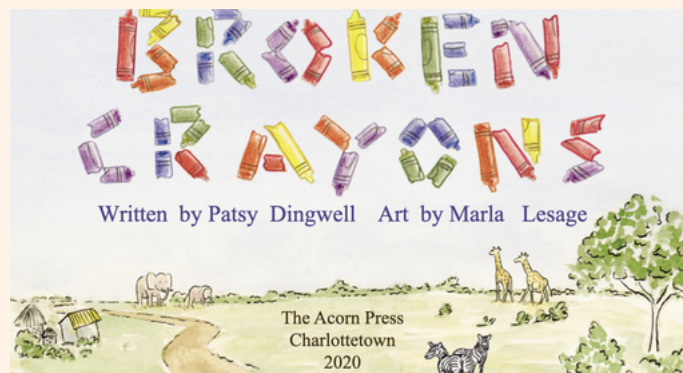
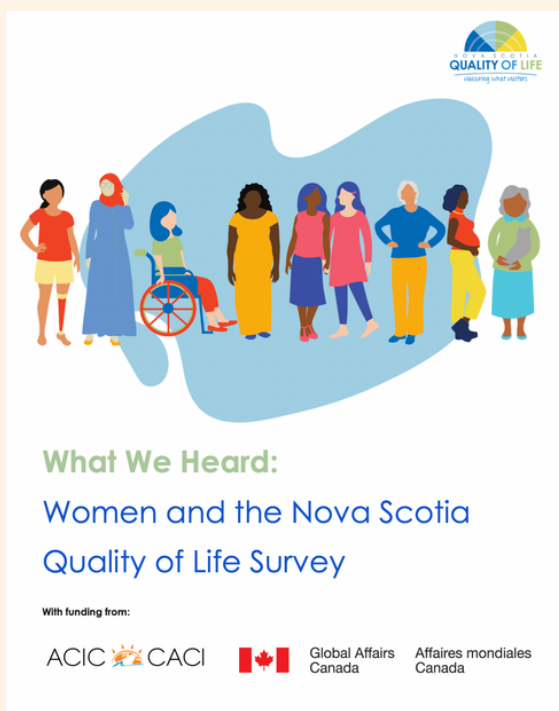
The Members' Public Engagement Fund (MPEF) is our effort to support our organizational and individual members who are risk takers, creative thinkers, innovation enthusiasts in engaging Atlantic Canadians in global development issues.

In 2021, Engage Nova Scotia, used the MPEF towards "What We Heard: Women and the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey." A survey which helped refocus gendered lens in the recovery from COVID-19 and exacerbated crises. Women-serving organizations came together over several months to create a resource containing the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Initiative data of female respondents, resulting in an eight-page resource document.

Farmer's Helping Farmers' (FHF) in PEI used the fund to support their project "Broken Crayons: Telling the Story." This project centred on a book launch and development of educational videos for schools in PEI and twinned schools in Kenya. Over 440 students were engaged with the book readings in both PEI and Kenya.

Dalhousie Agriculture's project "Atlantic Agri-Women: A Tale of Inspiration and Innovation," engaged a total of six youth in their project, which aimed to celebrate successes and explore challenges faced by These youth, (aged 15-25) were trained on film production and gender studies. The youth produced a short video on women leaders in agriculture, bringing their stories of innovation and contribution to light. Five youth film crews were recruited, oriented and the film project was launched leading up to March 2021.

In 2022, in addition to the MPEF, we also launched our Individual Members PE Fund. The fund is dedicated to individual members who may apply for funding to support their involvement in training activities or conferences as they relate to gender equality and the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).





# Global Voices

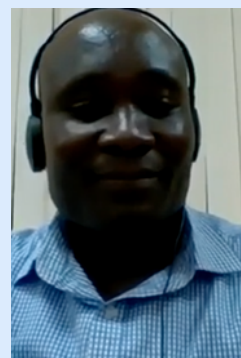
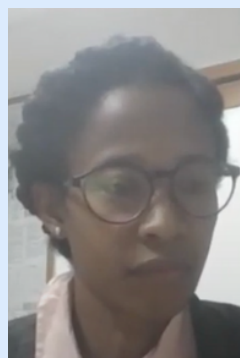
The Global Voices Fund (previously called the Southern Speakers Fund) provides an opportunity to interact with speakers and partners from around the world, with diverse perspectives, lived experiences, knowledge and expertise. This unique opportunity helps to foster dialogue and engagement between international actors and Atlantic Canadians to discuss issues which impact global and local communities. The Global Voices Fund also provides an opportunity for members and partners to create spaces that help build capacity and share good practices from around the world.

In 2021, we were joined by speakers from around the world. Farah Kabir, the country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, joined us in our keynote panel. She highlighted the way small, medium and large-scale social movements translate into policy changes; and how for the COVID19 pandemic, Bangladesh had a resilient infrastructure to rely on in rural areas, with the government having experienced similar national crisis previously due to natural disasters and Polio outbreak. For the keynote panel, she was joined by Nohely Guzman, co-founder of Bolivia-based Jasy Renyhê. Nohely spoke about the challenges faced by grassroots organizations during the pandemic, their importance and the role they can play in ensuring a just recovery,

Lovaso Razafindravony, Head of Environmental Education at Centre ValBio in Madagascar, spoke about the far-reaching impacts of COVID19. She highlighted the economic impact on Madagascar's tourism industry, and how this has resulted in more children staying home to help support their family than going to school.

Benard Mware also joined the Symposium, shedding light on the impact of COVID19 in his community in Kenya. Benard is a community development expert experienced in community mobilization, participatory evaluation and training, training of trainers, monitoring and evaluation, strategic partnership linkage and connections.

For International Development Week 2022, we were joined by Fakhira Najib, co-founder of Pakistan-based Power 99 Foundation. Fakhira highlighted BroadClass: Listen to Learn, an innovative initiative that utilises radio as a means of communication in Pakistan. She also highlighted the impact COVID19 has had on education systems around the world.



# Capacity Building & Networking Opportunities

## **Spur Change National Conference**

In 2021, ACIC member sand staff participated in the national advisory committee to the conference. Eleven SMOs and an educator from the Atlantic were selected to attend the conference as participants. The conference titled 'One Step Back, Two Steps Forward: Human Dignity Post-COVID' explored new realities of the pandemic, impacts on education and explored alternate ways of working.

In May 2022, five representatives of the Atlantic attended the Spur Change conference 'Peace: Beyond the Absence of War.' Umme Mim, a graduate of Dalhousie University attended the conference as a Spur Change Youth Champion.

## **Results-Based Management Training**

In May 2021, the self-paced Results Based Management (RBM) 101 training was launched, 18 participants from across Atlantic Canada successfully completed the training. In Winter 201, we hosted RBM 201 in collaboration with Spur Change. 11 Atlantic Canadian SMOs participated in the training which aimed to bring learners to the next level of RBM's application, design and implementation.

## **Safer Space Dialogue**

In 2021, through our pilot of the Safer Space Dialogue we hosted a training on anti-racism with Wrapped in Pride. Eight member organizations, along with ACIC staff, participated in the trainings, aiming to learn more about how we can develop ways of working through an anti-racism lens. In 2022, as a result of the trainings, ACIC developed an anti-racism framework, which will enable us to build more opportunities for our members to explore anti-racism in their global solidarity work and in the international cooperation sector.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Working Group**

In early 2021, ACIC hosted the Feminist approach to Monitoring, Evaluation training, provided by Just Governance Group. The Just Governance Group works with international development stakeholders to promote gender equality and human rights. Inspired by their participatory democratic mechanisms, respect for the rule of law, and peaceful coexistence the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Working Group was formed. This is a space for members and others who are part of the Atlantic international sector to share ideas, good practices, challenges, and solutions in implementing M&E through a gender lens.

## **Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Training**

In March 2022, to help with digital threats as programming continued online, we hosted a training on Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Training for our members.

## **Feminist, Anti-Racist and Decolonial Approaches to Public Engagement**

In 2022, we hosted a webinar presenting preliminary findings from the ICN research project "Feminist, Anti-Racist and Decolonial Approaches to Public Engagement." The webinar explored the role of language and power in public engagement, and the role they can play in decolonisation.

## **Storytelling for Social Change**

In May 2022, we also hosted an in-person training on 'Storytelling for Social Change' facilitated by Amara Bangura, a Sierra Leonean journalist based in Halifax with more than 10 years reporting and producing programmes for international media organizations such as the BBC and Journalists for Human Rights. The workshop explored how we could tell dignified and effective stories which help to create engagement and social change.

# Our Communities, Our Voices

The 'Our Communities, Our Voices' (OCOv) program engaged young Indigenous leaders from the Atlantic region to share stories, knowledge, and perspectives from their own Communities. Using the SDGs as a framework for discussion, this team of Indigenous women and Two-Spirit folks gained skills, knowledge, and support systems for becoming advocates in their communities, and impacting issues that matter to them. Using two-eyed seeing, nine young leaders worked as a team to understand their role in Agenda 2030, to engage their communities in the SDGs, and amplify Indigenous voices in global SDG work. The program was implemented in partnership with the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Funding Program.

Indigenous people already make the connection of the interconnectedness of the SDGs. It's part of us, everything is energy and everything has life to it – everything is worthwhile.

Kailey Simon

Our Communities, Our Voices Program Participant, 2022





# International Internships for Indigenous Youth

## Indigenous Global Leadership Program

In January-February 2021, ACIC and the Northern Council for Global Cooperation implemented a six-week online workshop series for Indigenous youth with a focus on leadership and global issues, called the Indigenous Global Leadership Program (IGLP). The IGLP brought together 20 Indigenous youth from across Canada. Youth participants met weekly to discuss a range of issues related to international cooperation and youth leadership. The weekly sessions were co-facilitated by two Indigenous youth facilitators, with support from the ILLY program manager and featured guest facilitators who were content matter experts on subjects such as storytelling and public engagement, youth health and wellness, and Indigenous governance. Participants worked in teams to create 14 public engagement activities as a way to share their learnings from the program. Activities focused on a community issue participants cared about and its connection to one or more of the SDGs. Activities reflected participants' own interests and creativity and included photo essays, blog articles, community presentations, and artwork.

## Indigenous Youth Virtual Internship Program

The Indigenous Youth Virtual Internship Program is co-implemented by ACIC and the Northern Council for Global Cooperation and funded by Global Affairs Canada. Due to the evolving situation with the Covid-19 pandemic in Canada and around the world, the in-person internship program was adapted to a virtual program and launched in June 2021. Although the program has been adapted to a virtual model for the time-being, the program's goals remain the same: to offer

opportunities to learn about international cooperation, connect youth with peers from across Canada, and to connect youth with leadership and professional development opportunities. The virtual program connects Indigenous youth from across Canada to complete remote placements with host organizations in the Global South. Interns' placements support the organizations' mandates which advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by addressing issues such as environmental conservation education, gender equity, food security, and peace-building. Interns also participated in virtual weekly workshops that featured guest speakers from across Canada and around the world, who spoke to topics related to international cooperation, Indigenous leadership, and youth empowerment. In the last two years, we have worked with six host organizations in Guyana, Cambodia, Kenya and Nepal. Four cohorts over the last two years have seen \_\_\_ Indigenous youth successfully participate in the program.

The IGLP was a great opportunity in every aspect! It is empowering to be surrounded by Indigenous youth who aspire to be better leaders and strive for personal development. I found myself having the confidence to carry myself more strongly and proudly as an Indigenous woman in a world that silences the voices of people like me.

Youth participant of the Indigenous Global Leadership Program, 2021

# Public Engagement Activities by IIIY Youth

## Our Land, Our Food, and Us

We all need to eat. How we eat, what we eat, and where we draw resources from are all diverse and personal choices that we make. This means that food is also often a cultural experience. Indigenous people are no exception, and although these diets are diverse among the many different Indigenous peoples of Canada, they are connected first and foremost to the bountiful lands that are as much a part of us as we are of it. In a modern world where it is so easy to feel disconnected from the land, it is critically important to take advantage of opportunities to learn and experience traditional practices surrounding our food culture.

My childhood had a strong connection to the land and its bounties. I spent day after day fishing with my family, pricking my fingers with hooks and catching my grandfathers' jacket with my beginners cast more often than I caught fish. Older members of my family used their skills for hunting to bring home moose and rabbits. I loved the woods and I knew from a very young age what berries were safe and which I should never touch. We knew where the best berry patches were, and although my bucket was usually still empty by the time I made it home, my stomach was usually full and my hands were stained with juice. I didn't realize that these fun childhood experiences were skills until I was much older. In recent years I was on a hike with a group of friends who were not familiar with the land, and when I reached to throw a handful of blueberries into my mouth from the side of the trail, I was stopped by a symphony of panicked voices fearful that I would be poisoned. Later that same hike, after informing these friends that I knew the berries were safe, I had to slap a handful of poisonberries out of the hands of an enthusiastic friend that thought he had collected a tasty blueberry snack.

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**Lacey Many Grey Horses**  
Kinesiology Student at University of Calgary

1 article [+ Follow](#)

Historically, representation of Indigenous female athletes in sports has been limited in media, even though many participate in a wide range of sports. Due to this, we must find ways to highlight these athletes' experiences to help motivate and support those Indigenous women and girls that are currently involved in sport and physical activity. This is needed to promote healthy habits among them because First Nation communities deal with many health issues like being significantly over-represented in the diagnoses of type 2 diabetes, which increases their chances of developing infections and cardiovascular disease. These communities also have a lower life expectancy than non-Indigenous people, which is a serious concern. Another health issue they struggle with related to mental health is that suicide rates among Indigenous people have been high over many years. Many Indigenous communities often face inequalities in accessing proper healthcare, sports, and physical activity training resources due to remote location, poverty, and/or transportation concerns. Due to these health issues and inequalities, it is critical to showcase and gain perspective on how sports can help Indigenous women and girls succeed and inspire them to pursue sports and physical activity along their life journey to mitigate these issues.

Globally, the United Nations developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were put in place to combat various problems such as climate change, inequality, hunger, and poverty. These goals help countries focus on primary objectives to find solutions to many world problems. This article targets two of them: SDG #3 "Good Health and Well-Being," and SDG #5 "Gender Equality." Implementing these two goals can help tackle gender inequality on reserves regarding women and girls having equal and quality access to healthcare services since sports can be essential for their wellbeing and health and ultimately helping these communities become stronger and healthier overall.

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13 • 4 comments

## 17 Indigenous Figures that have work towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Created by Erica Phillips, Oneida Nation  
Dated 2021

### Nanook Gordon Fareal



**SDG #1 No Poverty**  
Nanook Gordon Fareal  
Toronto

Started an initiative called Toronto Harm Reduction to help end homelessness for indigenous people. Nanook also sends out food and PPE to northern communities that are in need. She has won the Community Champion award from CBC.

### Theresa Spence

**SDG #2 Zero Hunger**

Theresa Spence

Former Chief of the Attawapiskat First Nation

On 11 December 2012 Spence declared a hunger strike. This hunger strike consisted of a liquid diet of lemon water, medicinal teas, and fish broth—a historical survival diet for Indigenous communities facing poverty and food shortages from land loss and colonial policies. Her protest attracted worldwide attention to the movement. Her hunger strike was covered in part by the 2015 documentary film *After the Last River*.



A fishing trip with family & friends, an excited young me with my catch.



We collected fragments of iceberg ice to take home and melt into delicious fresh water.

# Inter-Council Network

The Inter-Council Network (ICN) is a coalition of the eight provincial and regional Councils for International Cooperation committed to global social justice and social change, currently hosted by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation. Representing over 350 diverse civil society organizations, ICN provides a national forum in which the Councils collaborate for improved effectiveness of the sector and identifies common priorities for collective action, coast to coast to coast. ICN currently has two initiatives: Spur Change and Funds for Innovation Transformation, hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation and Manitoba Council for International Cooperation respectively.

## **Roundtable with Minister of International Development**

In January 2021, ICN hosted a roundtable on public engagement with former Minister of International Development, Honourable Karina Gould, following it up with a letter on appreciation of dialogue, key takeaways, and next steps. In Spring of 2021, ICN also hosted a meeting with the current Minister of International Development, Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan to discuss government priorities, support for Small- and Medium-sized Organizations and public engagement programs.

## **Research on Feminist, Anti-Racist and Decolonial Approaches to Public Engagement**

Over 2021 and 2022, ICN conducted a collaborative research project titled Feminist, Anti-racist and Decolonial Approaches in Public Engagement. This project saw participants join the focus group from 10 countries around the world. Preliminary findings from the research was shared with key sector members in Fall 2022.

## **Youth Delegation**

ICN supported 18 youth in a grant program, enabling them to attend a capacity building, training or learning experience of choice. Participating youth were then helped to share their public engagement activities with sector members. The ICN also helped Global Affairs Canada in selecting youth and Civil Society Organization delegates to the 55th annual session of the UN Commission on Population and Development.

## **Engagement Opportunities and Webinars**

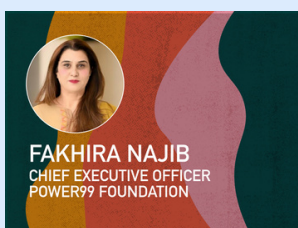
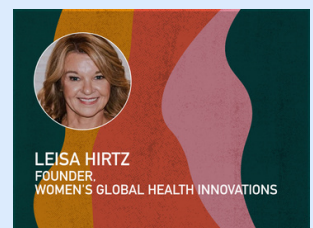
During this period, the ICN hosted a total of five webinars:

- January 2021: Public Support for Canada's Foreign Aid Sector in the Time of COVID19. 93 participants attended the webinar where we discussed a recent study from the University of Guelph on public support for aid.
- May 2021: Development Impact Window Call for Proposals for SMOs: Reflecting on Lessons Learned. Attended by 185 participants, the webinar discussed trends in application, and areas for growth and improvement in the application process of the Development Impact Window.
- September 2021: Attended by 125 participants, this webinar explored the key challenges and tensions associated with decolonizing public engagement. Speakers provided practical strategies that the sector can adopt in their decoloniality efforts.
- March 2022: The ICN hosted a two-part webinar series, attended by 255 participants, that examined current practices in public engagement and explored alternative practices for more decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches to public engagement.
- September 2022: Attended by 234 participants, this two-part webinar series explored research recommendations from the ICN research project, and looked at already existing best practices in the sector that everyone could learn from.
- The ICN also hosted two roundtables in Summer 2021 with CSOs from Canada and the Global South to learn more about the effect of the pandemic on them.



# Podcast: Around the World in SDGs

For International Development Week 2021, in a collaborative process with the eight Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation, the Inter-Council Network developed the podcast 'Around The World in SDGs.' The podcast explored the sustainable development goals through those on the ground researching, collaborating, creating solutions in meeting the goals. Twelve episodes featuring 13 guests explored stories, discussed analysis of global issues, and aimed to inspire and inform listeners.



## Zine: Art2030

In 2022, the ICN International Development Week project, Art2030, brought together eight artists from various communities across Canada, and engaged them in the production of a zine focused on SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. As we engaged them, we asked them these two questions: 1) What inequalities do you see in your communities? and 2) How do you think we will be able to build a world with reduced inequalities? Joined by beadwork artists, photographers, poets, designers, painters, and visual artists, from across intersections, the zine was created and circulated in the sector, both as a celebration of diversity, and as a tool for introspection into local and global issues faced by the communities the artists represented in their artwork.



## THE PLAYING FIELD WAS NEVER LEVEL FROM THE START

Old ways of bigotry must depart through dialogue I engage in

## "HI, I'M NATHAN AND I'M 2SPIRIT GENDER QUEER. WHAT ARE YOUR PRONOUNS?"

My story through fire and brimstone, stonewalls and mortar  
Emerge through rainbows and pride flags of 2SLGBTQ

I am welcome at Church, welcome in the classroom  
Welcome in the workplace, welcome in media and literature  
Welcome in ceremony, the sweat lodge and tradition

But, I remain unwelcome in the family and unwelcome in my own home(s)

Because when you accept me:

We tell her, him and they (and you too) that you are accepted

## I HEAR YOU, I GOT YOU, WE GOT YOU.

There are spaces for you. And if you feel like there's no spaces for you, we can

# CREATE THE SPACE YOU DESERVE.

**Nathan Boyer**

SASKATCHEWAN | IL/IEL

Nathan est Anishnabe Saulteaux de la Première Nation Cote sur le territoire du Traité 4. Il s'identifie comme bispirituel et queer. L'écriture créative a été un débouché pour les difficultés et les succès de Nathan. Il a fait preuve de passion pour la poésie, l'art des mots, les paroles de chansons et la rédaction de dissertations dans le cadre de son éducation postsecondaire. La justice sociale et le sont des forces de Nathan et il aspire à militer en utilisant son leadership auprès de ses pairs et de toutes les personnes qui croiseront son chemin au cours de leur vie. Bien que faire face à des difficultés et à des pertes, il reste optimiste d'espoir, et il espère ardemment pouvoir contribuer à la justice sociale en utilisant ses mots.

## ART2030



## MIKEY Y MIGUEL





# National Leadership

ACIC, through its connection with the ICN, is represented on several government-civil society working groups. These groups provide a space for civil society representatives to engage in policy dialogue with Global Affairs Canada, and are an outcome of the Global Affairs Canada's policy on Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance.

## **The GAC / Canadian Development Sector Partners COVID Engagement Forum**

This Forum provides a space to exchange priority issues or areas relating to how Global Affairs Canada and Canadian development partners can work better together to deliver international assistance programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **The COVID-19 Solutions Group**

This group brings together sector experts to propose solutions to identified issues.

## **The Task Force on Increasing Effectiveness (TaFIE)**

TaFIE was created to enhance Global Affairs Canada's engagement with partners and work collaboratively to reduce administrative burden in order to maximize the effectiveness of our international assistance.

## **The GAC / International Assistance Sector Partners Forum on Strategic Issues Coordination**

This Forum provides a dialogue space to exchange on strategic issues of common interest being jointly identified and not being currently discussed in other existing partners' forums.

## **Canadian Delegation to the High Level Political Forum**

In 2021 and 2022, ACIC Executive Director was invited to be part of the official Canadian delegation of the HLPF, actively participating in pre-meeting consultation with civil society and participated in the debrief/closing session.

## **Gender Equality Forum**

ACIC represented the Atlantic sector at the Gender Equality Forum, and various Cooperation Canada activities, including the CEO space and the CC Forum in June 2021.

## **Canadian Association for Studies in International Development Conference**

Additionally, on June 4th, 2021, ACIC and ICN staff provided a workshop as part of the annual CASID conference, presenting the ICN research on 'decolonial, feminist and anti-racist approaches to public engagement.

## **Together 2022**

OCOV Program Officer Jordan Smith presented the accomplishments of the program during a webinar moderated by The Honorable Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada Karina Gould titled 'Reimagining SDG#4 - Quality Education through a Youth Perspective.'



ACIC staff meeting Minister Gould at Halifax, Nova Scotia to discuss a Youth Perspective to the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Shirley Case Leadership Award

Created to honour the life of Shirley Case, former ACIC intern who was killed in Afghanistan while working with the International Rescue Committee, the Award is presented annually to an individual in Atlantic Canada who has demonstrated a spirit of global citizenship in a local, national or international capacity and who has helped create a more just and sustainable world.

In 2021, it was awarded to Hannah Martin, a member of the Millbrook First Nation. Hannah was recognized for her commitment to linking Indigenous culture, values and social and environmental justice movements and struggles in Mi'kma'ki with global indigenous movements.



## ACIC Committees

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support of ACIC through their voluntary committee work, constantly providing insight and knowledge that helps us realize our mission and goals.

### **Governance Committee**

Mica McCurdy, Eric Smith, Shelagh Savage, Jennifer Slood

### **Membership Committee**

Fadi Al Qassar, Della Webster, Louise Webb, Jason Kontak

### **COVID and Risk Committee**

Shelagh Savage, Fadi Al-Qassar

### **Human Resource Committee**

Shelagh Savage, Mica McCurdy, Eric Smith

### **Nomination Committee**

Shelagh Savage, Mica McCurdy

We would also like to thank the following ACIC members who brought their leadership and experience to their various roles in ACIC Committees (in alphabetical order):  
Freddy Wangabo Mwenengabo, John Cameron, Laura Hunter, Saurabh Dinesh Kulkarni, Scott Smith, Sonia Ho, and Valeri Pilgrim.

# Financial Statements

## 2021-22

### Statement of Financial Position

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$583,200	\$553,862
Accounts receivable	\$8984	\$16,912
Harmonized sales tax receivable	\$8473	\$30,066
Prepaid expenses	\$235	-
	\$600,892	\$600,840
<b>Long-Term Investments</b>	\$68,515	\$56,514
	\$669,407	\$657,354
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$76,647	\$36,804
Employee deductions payable	\$765	\$6,675
Deferred revenue	\$296,628	\$361,694
	\$374,040	\$405,173
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$189,769	\$148,738
Internally restricted net assets	\$105,598	\$103,443
	\$295,367	\$252,181
	\$669,407	\$657,354

# Financial Statements

## 2021-22

### Statement of Revenues and Expenditure

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Project Revenue</b>		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	\$444,973	\$470,105
Inter-Council Network	\$253,612	\$202,180
International Internship for Indigenous Youth	\$208,697	\$114,915
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	\$80,105	-
The Youth Weavers Photovoice Project	-	\$9,800
Spur Change	\$6,638	\$2,215
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Wage Subsidy and Other	\$22,546	\$12,518
Government Summer Students	\$13,884	\$11,926
	\$1,030,455	\$823,659
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>Project Expenditures</b>		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	\$419,996	\$444,610
Inter-Council Network	\$246,795	\$201,126
International Internship for Indigenous Youth	\$203,423	\$114,915
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	\$80,105	-
The Youth Weavers Photovoice Project	-	\$9,800
Spur Change	\$5,927	\$1,826
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Wage Subsidy and Other	\$17,139	\$2,741
Government Summer Students	\$13,884	\$11,926
	\$987,269	\$786,944
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	\$43,186	\$36,715



# Financial Statements

## 2020-21

### Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$553,862	\$374,903
Accounts receivable	\$16,912	\$15,860
Harmonized sales tax receivable	\$30,066	\$24,162
	\$600,840	\$414,925
<b>Long-Term Investments</b>	\$56,514	\$55,624
	\$657,354	\$470,549
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$36,803	\$52,808
Employee deductions payable	\$6,675	\$12,328
Deferred revenue	\$361,694	\$189,946
	\$405,172	\$255,082
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$148,738	\$113,300
Internally restricted net assets	\$103,444	\$102,167
	\$252,182	\$215,467
	\$657,354	\$470,549

# Financial Statements

## 2020-21

### Statement of Revenues and Expenditure

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Project Revenue</b>		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	\$470,105	\$423,334
Inter-Council Network	\$202,180	\$207,679
International Internship for Indigenous Youth	\$114,915	\$330,243
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	-	\$48,052
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	-	\$7,752
The Youth Weavers Photovoice Project	\$9,800	-
Spur Change	\$2,215	-
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$12,516	\$37,688
Other	\$11,926	\$10,834
Government Summer Students		
	\$823,657	\$1,065,762
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>Project Expenditures</b>		
Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship	\$444,610	\$406,519
Inter-Council Network	\$201,126	\$203,609
International Internship for Indigenous Youth	\$114,915	\$328,911
Youth Engagement on Sustainable Development Goals	-	\$49,572
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	-	\$9,718
Connecting with Canadians Initiative	\$9,800	-
The Youth Weavers Photovoice Project	\$1,826	-
Spur Change		
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Wage Subsidy and Other	\$11,926	\$10,834
Government Summer Students	\$2,739	\$17,861
	\$786,942	\$1,027,024
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	\$36,715	\$38,738



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