



THE SIXTH ANNUAL 2017

# TOP 30 UNDER 30

*Youth Making a Difference in Alberta and the World*



*innovate  
energize  
push*

*communicate  
educate  
care for*

*research  
discover*

*challenge  
learn*

*mentor  
bridge-build*

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# TOP 30 UNDER 30

## Extraordinary young people are creating a more just and sustainable world!

ACGC's sixth annual Top 30 Under 30 Magazine features 30 outstanding young people and explores their ideas and actions as positive changemakers in our global community. Through them, we share in the great stories about what is being done to make a difference in Alberta and around the world.

We received so many incredible nominations for the magazine that choosing only 30 individuals to profile was difficult. As a result of the strong competition, however, those who are highlighted are truly exceptional. Some of the youth featured are involved with ACGC member organizations, most of which are Alberta-based civil-society

organizations. All are doing amazing work, in different fields and communities, and taking action on the Sustainable Development Goals within their own sphere of influence.

This magazine is meant to inspire—to show the good work that is already being done and the possibility of getting involved at any age, in whatever way you are passionate!

## About ACGC

**The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development.**

ACGC is committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and Indigenous cultures. The Council works towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world with dignity and full participation for all.

Members of the Council pursue these goals through supporting global citizenship programs and participatory projects with international partners.

The Council supports the work of its members through networking, leadership, information sharing, training and coordination, and representing their interests when dealing with government and others. The objectives of the Council are to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in assisting international development.



*Become a member today!*

# International Development Week

**February 5 - 11, 2017**

The Top 30 Under 30 Magazine is part of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's program for International Development Week (IDW), which takes place this year between February 5 - 11, 2017 across Canada. For 27 years, International Development Week has provided a unique opportunity for Canadian organizations and individuals to share their successes

and achievements in international development. ACGC and member organizations host events across the Alberta to mark the occasion.

Visit the Global Affairs Canada website to learn more about International Development Week and nation-wide events:

[www.international.gc.ca](http://www.international.gc.ca).



Leave no one behind:  
Canada contributes to  
global goals!

February 5 - 11, 2017

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**International  
Development  
Week**

**Semaine du  
développement  
international**

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**du 5 au 11 février 2017**

**Ne laisser personne de côté:  
le Canada contribue aux  
objectifs mondiaux!**



*"Share Tea for Peace" is a mobile art installation by students of Austin O'Brien Catholic High School that symbolizes coming together to share perspectives. Their winning poster artwork is a timely reminder as we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday that we must leave no one behind in achieving the seventeen Global Goals.*

*« Partagez un thé pour la paix » est une installation artistique mobile créée par les étudiant-e-s de l'École Austin O'Brien qui symbolise la rencontre et la mise en commun des perspectives. Dans le contexte du 150e anniversaire du Canada, l'œuvre d'art gagnante nous rappelle qu'il faut s'assurer de ne laisser personne de côté dans la réalisation des dix-sept objectifs mondiaux.*



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Canada

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Canada



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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Top 30 Under 30 Magazine

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the recipients of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) Top 30 under 30.

The ACGC is a network of non-profit organizations in Alberta that are dedicated to improving the lives of the most vulnerable around the world. Through their cooperative efforts, Albertans have made a real and positive impact abroad.

Our youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today, a truth that is amply borne out by the incredible young people honoured by the ACGC for their efforts to create positive change. Their passion and dedication to helping others is truly inspirational, and I look forward to their continued success.

To the Top 30 Under 30, congratulations on your incredible work; you are truly deserving of our admiration.



Ottawa  
2017



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

### Sixième magazine annuel Top 30 Under 30

C'est avec grand plaisir que je félicite ceux et celles qui figurent dans le 6<sup>e</sup> magazine annuel Top 30 Under 30 de l'Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC).

L'ACGC est un réseau d'organisations à but non lucratif de l'Alberta qui se donne pour mandat d'améliorer la vie des gens les plus vulnérables dans le monde. Grâce à leurs efforts de coopération, ces Albertains ont une incidence réelle et positive à l'étranger.

Nos jeunes ne sont pas simplement les leaders de demain; ils sont les leaders d'aujourd'hui, et les formidables jeunes honorés par l'ACGC pour leurs efforts visant à susciter des changements positifs confirment cette affirmation avec éloquence. La passion et le dévouement dont ils font preuve envers autrui sont véritablement inspirants, et je me réjouis de les voir persévérer sur le chemin du succès.

À ceux et celles qui figurent dans le palmarès Top 30 Under 30, félicitations pour votre incroyable travail. Vous méritez réellement toute notre admiration.



Ottawa  
2017



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2D6 Canada

## Message from Honourable Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta

*On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the readers of Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's (ACGC) Top 30 Under 30 Magazine.*

*A true visionary and idealist thinks big — beyond what most people would consider possible. Each of the exceptional young people featured in this magazine have not only thought big, but they exemplify the sustainable development goals that are shared with the ACGC, with this province, and with the world.*

*Given what you have done under the age of 30, I cannot even imagine what you will achieve over the next 30 years. Thank you for your passion, dedication, and vision. You have raised the bar for excellence, and I know the best is yet to come.*

*Congratulations to the everyone featured in ACGC's Top 30 Under 30. I hope take great pride in your many accomplishments and you continue to think big.*

Rachel Notley

*February 7, 2017*



# Letter from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to the outstanding youth selected and profiled in the 2017 Top 30 Under 30 Magazine. Individuals featured in this magazine are amongst the most impressive, committed, and passionate youth anywhere in the world. Their commitment to making the world a better, more just place for everyone is inspiring and gives me great hope for the future.

The adoption of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 signalled Canada's commitment to ending poverty, inequality, and combatting climate change by 2030. It is now our responsibility as citizens to work together to implement the agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and address some of the biggest issues we face today. While the challenges are many, the 30 youth profiled in the magazine have chosen to use their passion, talent, and time to make a difference in Alberta and around the globe. It is a timely reminder, as we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year of Confederation, that we all have a role to play in building a better, more sustainable future.

I am amazed and impressed beyond measure by the strength of character and the goodness of spirit shown by the youth in this magazine, and I look forward to seeing what incredible things the 2017 Top 30 Under 30 recipients will accomplish in the future. Congratulations and well done, all of you!

Kind regards,



**Heather McPherson, Executive Director  
Alberta Council for Global Cooperation**





**Canada has committed to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**

*In September 2015, Canada adopted the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, signalling our commitment to ending poverty, fighting inequality, and tackling climate change by 2030*

*Now, it's time for action!*

## WHAT CAN I DO?



### **LEARN**

**Learn about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals**



### **SHARE**

**Share your ideas for change and listen to others**



### **ACT**

**Act for change in Canada and around the world**

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.ACGC.CA](http://WWW.ACGC.CA)**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



**1 NO POVERTY**  
End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**  
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**  
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



**15 LIFE ON LAND**  
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
Reduce inequality within and among countries.



**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**  
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**  
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**  
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**  
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**  
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**  
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

# TOP 30 UNDER 30

*Youth Making a Difference in Alberta and the World*



# Rabib Alam

Age: 22

Hometown: Chittagong, Bangladesh

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

GEOMEER, Edmonton, Alberta

Engineering Students' Society, University of Alberta  
HUB Community Association, University of Alberta

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Hailing from Bangladesh, my goal in my new home is to fully engage in communities, working hand in hand with them. In Bangladesh, we had a tightly knit community. Having watched my father do something for his neighbours and also their neighbours, I am inspired to engage here in Canada in a similar manner.

*"I have learned to see that in life or community development, we are all for one, and one for all."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG: Partnerships for the goals. I have been working with a not-

for-profit called GEOMEER supporting youth volunteers to connect with families in need by offering support and empathy during times of crisis. Our youth volunteers work with schools and organizations to create hampers, each of which are catered toward a family in need. Each hamper containing food, toiletries, household essentials, gifts, etc. lasts a family in need for about 3 to 4 months. Since most of these families have undergone hardships, these hampers help them through their tough times, ensure a better Christmas, and reduce hunger and poverty in their household.

This past year, we have helped out 69 families in need and have engaged up to 100 youth by mentoring them.

In doing this work volunteers become exposed to many of the inequities that contribute to poverty and hunger.

This project is about building community across demographics through the understanding that addressing poverty and hunger is a shared responsibility and requires a collective effort.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Teamwork. I share my recognition with so many peers, teammates and well-wishers who have been part of the various initiatives I have undertaken. Collectively, these individuals have made seemingly far-fetched goals attainable through communication, leadership and finally, helping each other out. I have learned to see that in life or community development, we are all for one, and one for all.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

A world where every child eats at least three times a day, receives primary education, and plays on an open field without having to worry about what's going to fall from the sky.



# Ravina Anand



photo by Jordan Hon

Age: 20

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

City of Edmonton & Edmonton Centre Youth Council

Sustainable Youth Canada (SYC)

TEDxUAlberta

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

My father, a doctor who strived for success despite facing the hardships associated with multiple sclerosis, has profoundly impacted my life: Encouraging me to never give up and to balance academic excellence with compassion and volunteerism, he taught me to use every day to its full potential. I begin each day with a personal moment of appreciation for the life that I have been given. This reflection prepares me for the day as I strive to set a positive example.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

My community and international experiences have taught me that everyone has their own individual perspective. Recognizing and respecting this is necessary to foster peace and collaboration. One issue can have many different, varying solutions, and each issue is inextricably linked to other issues. Community development needs to be approached from multiple perspectives with an interdisciplinary approach. By taking university courses ranging from physics to sociology I have attempted to expand the borders of my own knowledge to better position myself to navigate differences and facilitate collaboration.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. I am inspired to take action

to address the issue of plastics in our environment. Following the example of the ban on plastic bottles at City Hall in Edmonton, I am developing a policy proposal as a Youth Councillor in collaboration with Sustainable Youth Canada and the City of Edmonton aimed at expanding this movement to more municipal facilities such as recreational centres. Such policy reform has the potential to make the responsible choice the easy choice.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

I have seen and experienced the barriers that girls face to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. There are women in these fields whom we rarely hear about. I have been digging deep to identify and interview such women in Edmonton. My aim of this series of short videos is to capture the career paths and life journeys of women role models from all backgrounds and avail their stories to the younger generation. I hope this collection will inspire young women in Edmonton and beyond to achieve their dreams, including for some, career paths such as STEM.

*"I begin each day with a personal moment of appreciation for the life that I have been given."*



photo by Jean Paul Laurent



# Henry Noel Chicas

Age: 30 years  
Hometown: Perquin,  
Morazán, El Salvador  
Lives in: Perquin,  
Morazán, El Salvador

Worked/works with:  
Asociación Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito  
de microempresarios y agricultores de Morazán  
Asociación Promotora de Derechos Humanos  
de El Mozote  
Sombrilla International Development Society,  
Edmonton



## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Born in Perquin, Morazán, I grew up with my grandparents. My family was forced to flee El Salvador, eventually joining a community of refugees abroad. At the age of 5 my mother left for the US in pursuit of a better life. I was raised in the community through Christian principles of the Base Ecclesial Communities of the North of Morazán, under the guidance of Father Rogelio Ponsele. My community is among those that have suffered the most from the Salvadoran Civil War. Since childhood I have been very involved in my community. With the help of the Base Ecclesial Communities and my mother, I completed my studies and this has helped me to support communities through micro-finance for agriculture, social initiatives and the promotion of human rights.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

During the Salvadoran Civil War— between December 11 and 13, 1981— more than 1000 people, mostly women and children, were massacred by the Salvadoran army in El Mozote and surrounding villages. According to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) the murders were planned in advance. In January 2012 President Mauricio Funes made a public apology to the families of the victims acknowledging the participation of the Salvadoran army in the massacre. In October 2012 the IACHR ruled in favor of the victims and ordered the Salvadoran state to create and implement a program of reparations. In the aftermath of this atrocity I am lobbying the state to fulfill its obligations. My contributions include an initiative for honouring the historic memory of those massacred.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 1: No poverty.  
I manage the  
Co-operative

Association of Savings and Credits in North Morazán. We fund and support community economic initiatives to improve the quality of life of families. Projects funded include small diversified plots, initiatives aimed at greater inclusion of women in decision-making processes, and projects related to the care of the elderly.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I want to see initiatives in our communities to circumvent the migration of people and the related suffering of families. This would involve encouraging the new generations to contribute to the development of their own communities so that ultimately they do not have to leave to get a better life somewhere else. I want to see a strong practice of remembering history to guide the future so that the sad events that happened here never happen again.

*"In the aftermath of this atrocity I am lobbying the state to fulfill its obligations."*



*Support  
honour lobby  
remember*

# Julianna Deutscher



Age: 24

Hometown: Red Deer and Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Canadian Alliance of Medical Students Against Human Trafficking

University of Alberta Medical Students' Association

Canadian Federation of Medical Students

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

My greatest interests have always involved social justice advocacy, something I inherited from my family and my childhood experiences living across Canada, the United States, and the Netherlands. My parents have always been active members of our church and organizations such as United Way, inspiring me and my brother to take on our own projects to assist those in need. This passion motivated me to pursue a career in medicine in relation to global health. My efforts have centered on the issue of human trafficking.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions.

A key element of this

goal is to eliminate human exploitation. During my undergraduate studies, I provided seminars to high school students and founded the Students Against Human Trafficking groups at both Red Deer College and the University of Alberta. During that time, I also served as a board member for Magdalene House Society, a non-profit that now operates a shelter for victims of human trafficking. I am currently a member of the Canadian Alliance of Medical Students Against Human Trafficking, a group that is driven by the need to improve screening for victims of human trafficking as they are admitted to hospitals and clinics.

*"I would like to see sustainable systems in place that are achieving both the goals of supporting victims and abolishing human trafficking."*

Our efforts include developing effective protocols for the recognition of victims in the medical setting and integrating trafficking awareness into medical education across the country.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

As an advocate, it is easy to become so excited about moving an idea forward that one can easily forget the importance of seeking feedback and supporting the concurrent efforts of others. The ability to recognize the importance of collaboration and learn from the experiences of others serves to achieve more efficient and effective outcomes and ultimately greater benefits to the individuals in need.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

By 2030, I would like to see sustainable systems in place that are achieving both the goals of supporting victims and abolishing human trafficking. This would consist of established awareness programs to equip those exposed to possible victims to recognize the signs of trafficking. Additionally, there would be enough shelters and services readily available to provide support and healing, not only to the victims, but to all those in their lives that are impacted. Finally, there would be effective laws in place—in both Canada and worldwide—to provide strong deterrents for traffickers.





# Ranya El-Sharkawi

Age: 20  
Hometown: St. Albert, Alberta  
Lives in: Washington, DC, USA  
and Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:  
Daughters for Life Foundation, Alberta chapter  
The International Center for Missing and  
Exploited Children, Alexandria, VA, USA



## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

My cultural and ethnic identity as a first generation Palestinian-Canadian and my awareness of human rights issues from an early age led me to pursue a degree in honours political science with a certificate in peace and post conflict studies. I have struggled to reconcile my lived reality free of armed conflict with that of many other equally aspiring Palestinian women who have been denied universal human rights. Having learned more about the workings of armed conflict, I have become interested in the hands-on application of human rights concepts through international humanitarian law.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

Child protection against abuse, exploitation,

trafficking and all forms of violence is a human rights issue reflected in SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. I had the privilege of working with the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children contributing to legal research on missing children in North America. This involved assessing international and domestic law in North America, identifying the progress and pitfalls of nations, and brainstorming ways to combat the issue of missing children.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Human rights dialogue doesn't need to be—and should not be—confined to formal spaces: it has a seat at your dinner table; on your morning commute; and, at your social gatherings. All civil discourse is important, regardless of where it is held and who is involved.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

The international community and civilian populations have become more lenient toward on the ground causalities and practices of torture in armed conflict. As the culture of fear is growing alongside advances in technological warfare, our legal and moral systems are unprepared and civilians caught in the crossfire are those most affected. I thus find myself intrinsically drawn to continue development in the field of International humanitarian law.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I would like to see an international legal system that is better equipped to adapt to contemporary armed conflict. This entails strengthening and promoting the rule of law at all levels of government to ensure equal access to justice for all people. And this means increasing transparency and accountability of institutionalized power. Ultimately, I hope to see a decrease in civilian causalities in armed conflicts as well as fewer armed conflicts due to supranational interests.

*"Human rights dialogue doesn't need to be—and should not be—confined to formal spaces"*



*question  
educate  
speak  
collaborate*

# Katie Fitzgerald



Age: 19

Hometown: St. Albert, Alberta

Lives in: St. Albert, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Me to We

International Duke of Edinburgh Award Program

St. Albert Community and Volunteer Board

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Growing up in a family where education in all forms was made a priority, I was provided with the tools to discover my identity, my direction and my responsibilities. From a young age, my mom would bring me whenever she volunteered at community events. These early experiences really shaped and strengthened not only my sense of belonging, but my perspective. When I was 12 years old, and several times since, my mother and I have helped at the Edmonton Homeless Connect Event. Through such involvement I have learned the importance of extending kindness and showing respect.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

I am an Ambassador with the International Duke of Edinburgh Award program, which encourages youth to learn a new skill, exercise, volunteer and plan an outdoor journey. Participation in the program helps youth to gain organizational skills, expand their skills, become more self-reliant and experience the intrinsic rewards of volunteering. I introduce the program at schools by giving presentations to teach the students what the award is all about and the many amazing benefits of being involved.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 4: Quality education. Education is the umbrella

that encompasses all of the SDGs. Through education we gain not only the knowledge of existing local and global challenges, but we discover our passions and become inspired to take action. Through awareness and drive we can participate intelligently and effectively toward implementing positive change in ourselves and in our world. I feel the purpose of education is to educate minds and engage hearts.

*"I have learned the importance of extending kindness and showing respect."*

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Through giving presentations at schools on topics such as community volunteerism and my experiences in India I have learned to speak from the heart. Sharing personal experiences, feelings and emotions with others—bringing the human side into the conversation—helps to make a stronger connection.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I hope that by 2030 every individual, no matter what race, gender, or ethnicity, is able to obtain the resources they need and is treated equally within society. A resource such as education or health care should be accessible to everyone no matter what their background may be. I believe we all need to see past stereotypes to achieve a truly equal and inclusive global community.



Children Katie engaged with in Udaipur, India



# Kass Y. Forman

Age: 22

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Lives in: Vancouver, British Columbia

Worked/works with:

Alberta Green Economy Network, Edmonton, Alberta

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

As a young child, one of the first things I wanted to be when I grew older was a paramedic. I was, and still am, in awe of the paramedic's ability to respond to any possible situation. What could be more rewarding than to relieve acute suffering? Indeed, I actively investigated this career path and, after some basic training and volunteering with St. John Ambulance, applied to paramedic school. I was admitted, and though I may one day pursue this path, at the time I chose not to accept the offer so that I could extend my work with the Alberta Green Economy Network (AGEN). While AGEN requires an entirely different skill set, it provides a unique opportunity to do what I found so appealing about the work of the first responder: to provide hope to people in a period of immense hardship. In this case, however, the ones affected by difficulty were Albertans enduring a challenging economic downturn.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

With AGEN I provide advice to the staff and Steering Committee. In particular, I hope to encourage AGEN to continue to build relationships with First Nations (in particular within Treaties 6, 7 and 8) and incorporate their expert knowledge into our work.

*"It would be cavalier for us to simply present policy prescriptions without first listening to those directly impacted."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 13: Climate action. With AGEN I advocated for many

of the policies that made their way into the Government of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan. AGEN's work around promoting green jobs and enhancing community-based access to solar power is also about combating the climate crisis. While climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, actions to mitigate it create an opportunity to address a number of other critical socio-economic issues such as income distribution, quality of work, and economic democracy.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

The importance of building trust by listening. In a time of economic hardship for a large portion of the province's work force, it would be cavalier for us to simply present policy prescriptions without first listening to those directly impacted by the drop in the price of oil. Economic diversification is easier discussed than implemented, and it cannot happen successfully unless the needs of impacted workers are placed front and centre.



# Nicola Gale



Age: 26

Hometown: Medicine Hat, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Students Invested in Health Association,

Edmonton, Alberta

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I'm a fourth year pharmacy student at the University of Alberta and co-president of the Students Invested in Health Association (SIHA), a student-run organization that aims to promote health through community engagement. With SIHA I worked in Tanzania for 11 weeks on health promotion initiatives that focused primarily on finding community-driven solutions for addressing local issues like malaria, HIV/AIDS, maternal health, and access to water. Since returning, I've helped SIHA develop our training curriculum and have been a part of our organizational strategic planning. This work over the last 5 years has given me an outlet for applying my knowledge on health and disease within a real-world context.

*"Those most impacted by a problem need to be at the centre of the decision-making process and a part of the solution"*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

Through my work with SIHA I've contributed to

SDG 3: Good health and well-being. We explore this goal on campus, in Edmonton, and in rural areas of Alberta and Tanzania by creating a platform for critically engaging with health-related issues in a way that is participatory and focused on sustainability. We emphasize that tackling health-related issues is about more than just treating disease: it also requires understanding the systemic factors that perpetuate and contribute to health-related

disparities. My efforts have been focused on increasing student engagement and understanding of these up-stream factors. Particularly in the area of international development, I've focused on giving students the skills to look at development work through a critical and self-reflective lens that emphasizes partnership with the community and an understanding of the social determinants of health.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Becoming aware of my privilege and how my actions, or inactions, can impact people in my local and global community. Whether we are working in Edmonton or Tanzania, those most impacted by a problem need to be at the centre of the decision-making process and a part of the solution. Part of this entails changing our narratives as volunteers from one of "helping" to one of supporting communities toward empowerment. Programs that focus on the volunteer rather than the strengths and resiliency of the community are at risk of perpetuating inequality and ignoring our colonial histories. One of the most powerful things we can do as outsiders is to use our privilege to support and amplify local voices and solutions.

*co-learn  
collaborate  
support*





# Allison Goerzen

Age: 24

Hometown: Didsbury, Alberta

Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary, Alberta

Camp Valaqua, Water Valley, Alberta



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

## **Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?**

My first year out of high school I travelled with a Canadian Mennonite University program called “Outtatown.” I spent the first semester travelling across Western Canada and the second one in South Africa. As I learned about the atrocities of Apartheid in South Africa I began to see parallels to Canadian history and the ways Indigenous peoples have been subordinated. I learned so much about myself and the world in that year: When I came back I knew my work had to matter and I wanted to focus my efforts locally—within my own community. I now work for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as the Indigenous Neighbours Co-coordinator & Peace Programs Assistant. I am very passionate about women’s health and well-being, and equal rights for all genders and cultures. Also a yoga teacher, I use yoga as a tool for discovering awareness, positive well-being, and resiliency.



## **Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?**

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities. Through MCC I am a facilitator of the Blanket Exercise (an interactive, educational tool by Kairos Canada that invites participants to experience Canadian history from Indigenous perspectives). I take it to schools and churches as a way to start conversations centred on reconciliation and the possibility of more inclusive and unprejudiced communities. By supporting kids to learn about the history of Indigenous peoples and to understand inter-generational trauma, I hope to encourage a shift in perceptions and a more equitable future for Indigenous peoples.

## **What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?**

Peacebuilding is only possible when we build relationships first. I am learning that when I take the time to listen to someone’s story, I am changed—and my actions begin to reflect that. Relationships built on mutual trust and care for the other’s well-being require getting to know someone by listening to both their joys and their sorrows: This is the basis for all peace work.

## **What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?**

I would like to see all Canadian cities and towns, on and off reserves, be safe places for all women. This would mean, for example, ensuring it is safe for women to walk home at night, eliminating rape culture, creating equality for women within religious groups, and supporting freedom of fertility choices, without discrimination.

*“When I take the time to listen to someone’s story, I am changed—and my actions begin to reflect that.”*

Mass Blanket Exercise at TRC final wrap-up event Ottawa, June 2, 2015

photo by Alison Ralph

*mentor plant  
bridge-build*

# Akash Gupta

Age: 20

Worked/works with:

Hometown: Fort McMurray, Alberta eHUB, Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta



photo by Stephen Robinson

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Having lived in distinct landscapes such as India and Kuwait I have come to realize the value of modern and clean energy. Growing up in Fort McMurray enabled me to see tremendous opportunities in the Canadian Oil Sands, the third largest oil reserve on our planet, to help fulfill the world's growing energy demand.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

I am excited to foster entrepreneurship amongst engineering students at the University of Alberta through my role as an executive in the Entrepreneurship Club. We organize "Lunch and Learns," networking events, and are planning an idea-pitching workshop.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Change the world, don't just conform to it. People work so hard to fit into molds built by society. I believe it is more important to question why things are done the way they are and find better ways to do them by coming up with creative solutions to the world's biggest problems.

*Lead innovate challenge*

*"It is my mission to bring elements of entrepreneurship to the Canadian Oil Sands to make energy production more innovative and sustainable for the planet."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy.

It is my mission to bring elements of entrepreneurship to the Canadian Oil Sands to make energy production more innovative and sustainable for the planet. During my internships at Shell Canada, I questioned norms and provoked a start-up mindset through my presentations to the Executive Leadership. Recognizing that employees at the front lines of Canada's oil companies often have the insight and creativity needed to produce cleaner energy, I proposed a program to enable all employees to pitch business improvement ideas directly to leaders.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

The challenge of clean and modern energy for a growing world population inspires me every day. The energy industry is often stuck in a battle between oil versus renewables. For me there isn't just one answer: Our focus should be on producing energy smartly, using a combination of the two. This inspires me to help improve current oil sands operations while exploring new opportunities to continue providing modern energy to all.



photo by Patrick Kerby and Bri Vos



# Stephanie Hanson

Age: 29  
Hometown: Toronto, Ontario  
Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:  
Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research, Calgary, Alberta  
Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, Mwanza, Tanzania  
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto, Ontario

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I began volunteering at a young age and quickly realized that communities thrive when individuals ask for help when they need it, and share what they have to offer when they can. This instilled an approach to community development that values the abilities of everyone. As a global citizen committed to reducing inequalities, I advocate for the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities. My constant belief in the power of education to create global change drives my work.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

I've worked toward achieving Goal 4: Quality education.

I have focused on creating inclusive and equitable programs for children, youth, and adults. I've had the privilege to facilitate programming with all kinds of learners, including youth from low-socioeconomic backgrounds and Indigenous populations. My related educational and child disability research has helped inform service providers in developing programs and policies that foster respect for a diversity of perspectives. In my current position with the

Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research, I am developing wellness programs to support persons with disabilities to have the highest attainable standards of well-being.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I have learned that to steward partnerships we must first examine our own assumptions about the world and consider why our values are important to us. In collaborating with cross-cultural partners, I have had to challenge my own worldview to understand that there are different methods to achieving the same goal. Articulating one's own lens is a necessary step toward discerning the values of others: and both are necessary for intercultural understanding. Fostering connection through mutual understanding and appreciation is what developing partnerships, and creating social change, is all about.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

The development of inclusive communities for people with disabilities. It's common to think that inclusion means only physical access. However, it also means addressing the attitudes, beliefs, and misconceptions that many people have about what people with disabilities can and cannot do. Inclusion can be built into the way we think about, design, and participate in our communities. Being inclusive is a culture, and means valuing individuals for their talents, abilities, and how they contribute to their communities.

*"Inclusion can be built into the way we think about, design, and participate in our communities."*



Stephanie collaborating with John Malisa, a colleague at Kivulini Women's Rights Organization.

*engage  
facilitate  
develop research*

# Noelle Jaipaul



Age: 30

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Centre for Race and Culture, Edmonton, Alberta



## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

As a first-generation Canadian settler, I grew up in two worlds: living a life of privilege while recognizing that my parents had come from a very different upbringing in the so-called "Global South." Seeing privilege and inequity play out in damaging ways, locally and internationally, I channel my efforts into finding and exposing inequities, within systems, institutions, and communities. Identifying the operations that keep people and communities from fully realizing their rights is key to understanding how we can dismantle them. This lens is crucial to the work I do.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

The Edmonton Shift Lab is an initiative that came out of the End Poverty Edmonton strategy, which acknowledges that we can't end poverty without also addressing racism. Racism and poverty affect each one of us and our ability to live safe, healthy lives. I'm really excited to be a part of this group passionate about using social innovation to look at and respond to the intersections between poverty and racism.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities.

Poverty and

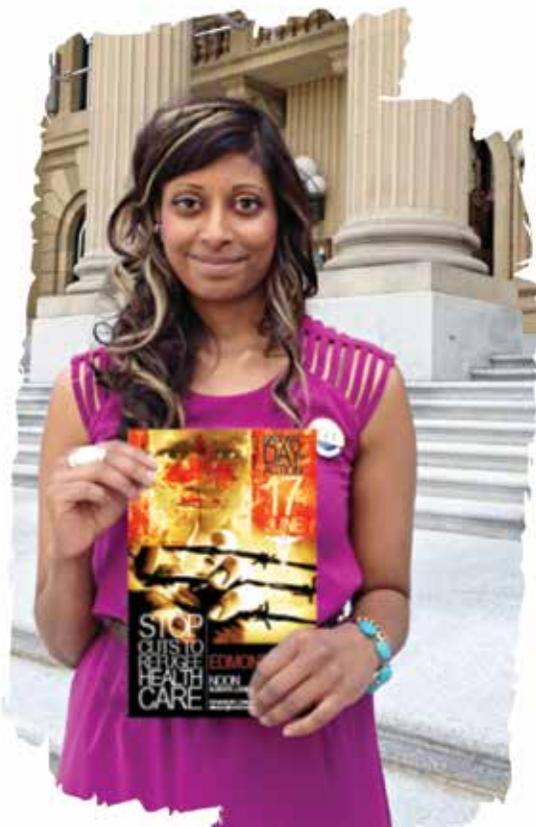
inequality—in terms of economics and opportunities—go hand in hand. Unfair global systems promote the wealth and opportunity of some at the expense of innumerable others. This manifests as disparity of wealth or income and in other dangerous ways: racism, sexism, and many other forms of oppression. Without addressing inequality, we cannot address poverty, nor the roots of oppression. Movement toward equality means opportunities to rise out of poverty, which results in greater opportunities to contribute economically, socially, and culturally to the world. Ending poverty isn't costly but keeping so many of the world's citizens in poverty, unable to live fully and give back to their communities is.

*"Without addressing inequality, we cannot address poverty, nor the roots of oppression."*

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I have learned, following Australian Aboriginal activists: "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." Often overwhelmed with the need to help and the desire to "fix" we forget the efforts of those before us. We need to be a collective voice for change, to work with and empower one another. Social justice can't be achieved in a vacuum; we need to persistently acknowledge and call upon the wisdom and strengths of those we serve.

*facilitate organize  
critically critique*





# Farah Kammourieh

Age: 24  
Hometown: Calgary, Alberta  
Lives in: Tamale, Ghana

Worked/works with:  
Volunteer Tutor, Calgary Immigrant Services  
**EQWiPHUBS**

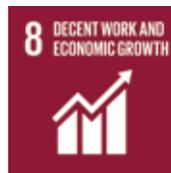
### Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Having lived in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the US, and Canada, I have constantly been adapting to new environments and new people, ever since childhood. This combined with the fact that I am a first-generation Canadian with parents from Lebanon and Syria contributes to my global identity. Having studied International Relations and Economics, I have a strong desire to understand different communities and cultures. I am passionate about working internationally in a way that contributes to the improvement of quality of life.

### What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

All over the world youth are frustrated. We graduate from post-secondary institutions, receive certificates and degrees, and face the issue of not being able to find or create sustainable livelihoods for ourselves. There are underlying root problems to this that are undoubtedly difficult to understand. One way to address symptoms of these problems, in Ghana, for example, is by encouraging unemployed youth to become entrepreneurs. I am working on this right now with EQWIP HUBs, a project that empowers Ghanaian youth to create small businesses as well as find work.

Farah supports EQWIP HUBS youth Sandra and Mordesta, respectfully, in developing their local businesses in jewelry and make-up artistry



### Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth. With EQWIP HUBs we

combat unemployment by providing entrepreneurship training to youth in Northern Ghana. Ghanaian and Canadian staff also connect youth to employers, especially small and medium enterprises, and we provide soft-skills training and interview preparation. We are also improving their abilities to start small businesses by starting with the basics such as exploring what constitutes an innovative business idea.

*“Only through deeper understanding can we begin to take small steps that will lead to effective change.”*

Above all, being in an environment with other young people and improving soft-skills is confidence-boosting. It is frustrating beyond belief to be without an income, especially in a world that increasingly places so much emphasis on material things.

### What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

The more you learn, the more you uncover that there is much more you don't know. Communities and individuals are extremely complicated. We cannot “fix” everything, nor should we. Only through deeper understanding can we begin to take small steps that will lead to effective change. We need to demand excellent actions from ourselves and each other every day, to manifest the world we want to live in.



*question  
+ create  
engage*

# Asha Lal



photo by Kelly Degermess

Age: 21

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

University of Alberta Medical Students' Association, Edmonton, Alberta

Live Different Builds, Zapata, Mexico

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Edmonton, Alberta

### Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a second year medical student at the University of Alberta. I am passionate about making a difference in the community, and increasing access to healthcare on a local and global scale. My passion for working with kids stems from my volunteer work with Big Brothers Big Sisters and through coaching cheerleading. I hope to further pursue this passion in my career by specializing in Pediatrics. My interest in international development has inspired me to volunteer abroad developing sustainable housing projects for impoverished families in Mexico. I plan to pursue a certificate in international development and one day volunteer with Doctors Without Borders.



### Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. I was the lead student

organizer for Walk for Water, an event that fosters water awareness while establishing global empathy toward those who walk for water every day. The event raised over \$5000 to build a clean water well in Sierra Leone. Walking a mile in the shoes of those who don't have access to clean water invokes the realization that many of us can turn on the tap when we are thirsty, while millions of people can't.

### What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

In Canada, youth comprise 20% of the homeless population, and homeless youth are at a significantly greater risk of being abused, developing addictions and suffering from mental health issues. I work with the Community Health Team to increase awareness of youth homelessness and connect medical students with volunteer opportunities working with marginalized youth. Currently we are fundraising for iHuman, an organization that creates safe spaces for young people at risk.

*"I am passionate about making a difference in the community, and increasing access to healthcare on a local and global scale."*

### What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

By 2030, I would love to see a world where every person has access to health and wellness services, a world where age, gender, religion, or geographical location does not affect access to lifesaving care, and where people are no longer dying from treatable and preventable diseases. We have amazing therapies and technologies in the field of medicine. I want to focus on connecting people with these resources so no one is left behind.



*collaborate  
educate  
advocate*



# Cerina Lee

Age: 26

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

WFUNA Youth Seminar, World Federation of United Nations Associations, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Young Diplomats of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a Korean-Canadian who loves to skate, cheer, play music, and most importantly, be active in local and international communities. As a Master of Public Health student specializing in health promotion, I am inspired by those dedicated to leadership and chronic disease prevention. I strive to advocate for policies that promote healthy settings and decrease barriers in physical and social environments, especially for vulnerable populations.

*"Youth must challenge the current social structure by influencing top-level stakeholders to make change happen."*

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

In partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society and Action on Smoking and Health I worked on an advocacy plan to push the Government of Alberta toward the full implementation and proclamation of the hookah ban. The plan included policy recommendations for the ban and an integrative review of new evidence surrounding hookah smoking. I am publishing and presenting my research on hookah so that my findings can inform government policy in Alberta and beyond.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 3: Good health and well-being.

My research at the Integrative Health Institute, in partnership with the Community School Gardens Project, has opened my eyes to the importance of community mobilization. Speaking with influential

stakeholders about healthy eating and access to fresh foods has encouraged me to widen my horizons and understand a bigger perspective on health. I now continuously question what health encompasses and I strive to bring an awareness of community realities to all that I do in the field of public health.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

As a youth delegate for meetings in Washington and Kuala Lumpur, I had the opportunity to meet bright young leaders from over 40 countries. I learned that to become an "expert," one must model positivity and be open-minded to learning new ideas from the experiences and perspective of others. Listening is a critical and life-long skill that is key to building stronger communities and a peaceful inclusive society.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

By 2030, I would like to see greater recognition of youth voices in higher level decision-making at all levels of government. In the face of climate change and a fragile political sphere, youth must challenge the current social structure by influencing top-level stakeholders to make change happen. We have the power to model engagement and take steps to improve access to health resources, transform current society's beliefs and values, and partake in discussion surrounding global economic decisions.



# Patrick McNaught



Age: 26

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Open to Grow, Guatemala

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Growing up I developed confidence, team work, and leadership skills through hockey. Working together to pursue a common goal imparted a collective identity and this ignited a view of the world as one community. I now focus on endurance running. The beautiful thing about running is that it's about gradually improving from where you were at yesterday. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if one is first or last; we all end up at the finish line, celebrating our accomplishments together. International development is the same: at Open to Grow we are working to improve the lives of our Guatemala partners, one day at a time.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

I founded and chair Open to Grow's annual Miles for Microcredit fundraiser event. In 2016, we hosted over 200 runners, walkers and wheelers to help us achieve our goal of collectively travelling from Calgary to Guatemala City—2,842 miles—in one day. Over the event's two years, we made it to Guatemala City and are now on our way back to Calgary. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors and supporters, we have raised almost \$50,000 toward our expansion in Central America.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

Goal 1: No poverty. Our focus at Open to Grow is to create

sustainable economic growth by providing microfinance opportunities. With our focus on women micro-entrepreneurs, we are working to ensure everyone has equal rights to financial services and the ability to grow their small businesses. Increased incomes improve family health, education and housing while contributing to the local economy.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

A key theme I have learned is to view global issues as a collaboration rather than through an "us versus them" lens. All of us around the world need to be able to sit together at the same table and discuss our shared global agendas. It is simple to see something going on across the globe and lump it into a "them" category: often we acknowledge an issue, but don't act on it since we think it does not directly impact "us." With unprecedented information dissemination and population migration our lives are increasingly interconnected.

*"All of us around the world need to be able to sit together at the same table and discuss our shared global agendas."*



*collaborate  
trailblaze  
fundraise*

Ada is supported by Open to Grow's Miles for Microcredit fundraiser, Antigua, Guatemala



# Hilary Mercier

Age: 22

Hometown: St. Albert, Alberta

Lives in: St. Albert, Alberta

Worked/works with:



One! International Poverty Relief,  
Mumbai, India

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a second year nursing student at the University of Alberta. My courses have addressed the social determinants of health, such as early childhood development, housing and education. These are factors that many of us take for granted. Growing up in a privileged Canadian family, I was never exposed to struggle and was naively unaware of what life (and health) would be like without those basic determinants. Meeting kids from resource-poor districts in Mumbai allowed me to see the effects of such hardships. It is my responsibility to shift power and contribute to reducing inequalities by supporting disadvantaged individuals to access basic health services.

*"I have learned that the smallest of contributions can still make a huge difference."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 3: Good health and well-being.

While teaching about good health and well-being to kids I have learned that awareness of local cultural practices is key. For example, I prepared several health lessons for students in India based on my own understandings. I quickly realized, however, that it was unrealistic to impose the same curriculum I would use in Canada on a different culture. In India it is common practice to eat with your hands. I learned that this can be done in a way that is hygienic and adapted my curriculum accordingly. This experience allowed me to see how unfamiliarity shaped my own biases and the potential harm this could have. I am now committed to integrating intercultural sensitivity into my approach.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I have learned that the smallest of contributions can still make a huge difference. One! International is built on the principle of small changes that add up to create impact. The organization engages the students' mothers to cook and care for the children at the school. Past students grow up to become teachers for future generations. This principle of knowledge transfer helped me to realize that overwhelming issues can be addressed in smaller chunks.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

I have come to see that while health education is important, it goes hand in hand with effective health policy. Policy determines who has access to health services. This perspective is inspiring me to shift my focus toward larger frameworks for addressing global health issues. I am thus inspired to study more to position myself so that I can advocate for policy change in favour of equitable access to health services.



*teach  
fundraise  
raise awareness*

# Damon Monroe



Age: 24

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Innovative Canadians for Change, Nairobi, Kenya

Students' International Health Association,  
Mlandizi, Tanzania

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I consider myself organized and strategic, yet the worlds of international cooperation and development are inherently chaotic. I believe it is my serendipitous and go-with-the-flow attitude—my ability to think on my feet and accept that plans will almost certainly go awry—that has made it possible for me to enjoy the nuances of this field.

*"I believe that the importance of critical thinking needs to be completely readdressed."*

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

I am currently working on Innovative Canadians for Change's Kibera Medical Records Initiative in Nairobi, where the use of electronic medical records is being implemented in informal settlements and resource-poor urban settings. This project is unique as it addresses several aspects of extreme poverty and its relation to reduced health outcomes by streamlining patient logistics and healthcare systems management. By working to stop the cycle of poverty leading to poor health outcomes and vice versa, it has the potential to significantly increase ease of access to appropriate treatment.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities. For me, the biggest

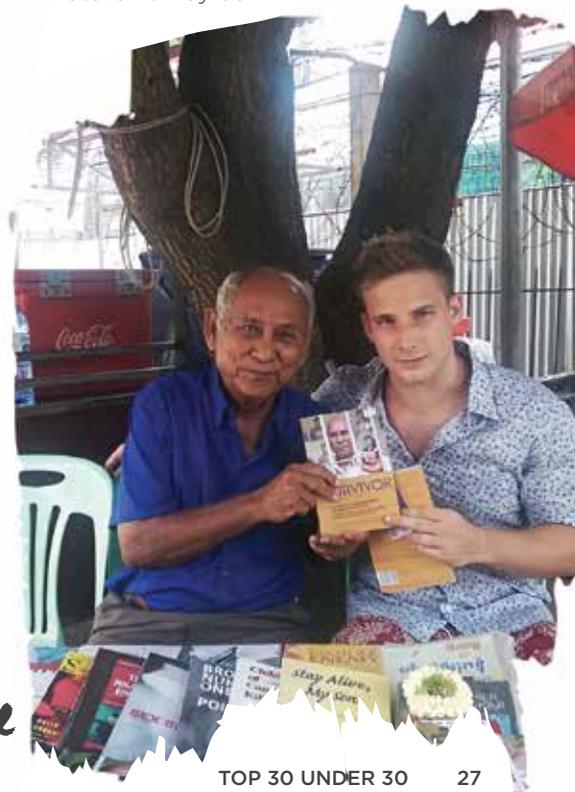
misconception is that to reduce global inequalities, the poorest countries should be brought up to the level of the richest countries. It is a much better use of time and resources to reduce inequalities within communities and individual nations first. For example, emphasis should be placed on reducing the disparity between the rural and the urban, or the gap between men and women in a given country, rather than seeking to ensure that all countries offer the same universal healthcare system or minimum wage.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

The effect of climate change on vector-borne disease has really piqued my interest. The notion that diseases that were eradicated from dozens of countries decades ago could re-emerge (as the vector's habitable zone increases) is terrifying. An aspect of climate change often not considered, this phenomenon has the potential for disastrous health outcomes.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I believe that the importance of critical thinking needs to be completely readdressed. When critical thinking is undervalued within the educational system, whether it be at the high school or university level, the consequence is the cultivation of an uninquisitive and laissez-faire culture. Students in particular should be pushing boundaries, asking uncomfortable questions, and digging deeper into matters to provide new knowledge, rather than simply accepting the status quo, whatever it may be.



*evaluate  
implement  
strategize*



# Chuk Odenigbo

Age: 24

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Lives in: Montréal, Québec

Worked/works with:

Canadian Parks Council, Peterborough, Ontario

Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

The nerd in me craves logic: setting up an action plan to accomplish what needs to be done and following it through. The creative in me is attracted to chaos and the beauty that ensues from pure improvisation. These identities come together through my desire to seek out knowledge and new discoveries; I am addicted to looking at the unknown, meeting a challenge, rolling up my sleeves and doggedly pursuing success until it is achieved. This push, this desire to create change, informs my work in community development and international cooperation every moment of every day.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

Goal 3: Good health and well-being.

As part an inter-generational pan-Canadian working group with the Canadian Parks Council, we created a document entitled “The Nature Playbook” where we discuss the importance of connecting with nature and emphasizing one’s ability to connect to nature in one’s own way. There is no wrong way to connect with nature and reap the positive health benefits that result from that said interaction. This document highlights this and is aimed

at creating that socio-cultural change where we, as Canadians and as humans, see ourselves as part of nature and not as a separate entity.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

La sensibilisation: I find that there is disconnect between the environmental faction and those who aren’t necessarily against being more sustainable, but tend to put other priorities ahead. The biggest thing I have learned is the importance of communication and the power of compromise. Being able to find middle ground with those who are not a part of your choir is invaluable in inspiring and creating social and cultural change—particularly for the change to be sustainable and transferred to future generations.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

Urbanites are interacting less and less with nature, and as the populations of cities rise, it becomes increasingly important to ensure there is a culture that demands their right to nature—to guarantee that nature will be taken into consideration and incorporated into both urban planning and health policies. The health benefits to the general public are numerous and the developmental benefits to children are even more so.

*“Being able to find middle ground ... is invaluable in inspiring and creating social and cultural change.”*



# Christine Phan



Age: 21

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:

UNICEF On Campus, University of Calgary Chapter

Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association, Calgary

Alberta Health Services Volunteers, Calgary

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Calgary, currently pursuing a major in Biological Sciences. My Vietnamese heritage forms the basis of my integrity as an individual and defines my commitment to improving the global community. I am passionate about creating and promoting change and have always looked for opportunities to get involved, whether by preparing meals at the homeless shelter, visiting patients at the hospital, or advocating for child welfare through the UNICEF On Campus club.

*"I believe that everyone is capable of making a difference, even if it begins with something small."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

I am excited to be growing my social enterprise, ImPaper, a paper goods brand with a mission to help address social inequality. While we take a broad approach and address several Sustainable Development Goals, we are especially focused on the SDG of good health and well-being. We address this goal by funding vaccinations for diseases and family medicine training in resource-poor countries such as Uganda and Nepal. In over a year, we have contributed over 2000 antimalaria pills, 500 polio vaccines, 700 tetanus vaccines and more.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I have learned that it is so important to set your advocacy into action. We are all too aware of the global issues that we face including social and health inequalities and poverty, yet there is not enough effort addressing these problems. I believe that everyone is capable of making a difference, even if it begins with something small. We should not be afraid of taking initiative, because it is incremental steps that will ultimately lead us to solving these global problems.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

By 2030, I'd like to see the global eradication of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. These diseases have had a profoundly negative effect on the sustainable development of populations. By eradicating these diseases, we can take a vital step toward progressing human potential. This achievement would also instill great confidence in our capabilities to be able to solve the greater health concerns of our time.



*feed  
educate  
advocate*



# Sophia Qaderi

Age: 19

Hometown: St. Albert, Alberta

Lives in: St. Albert, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Soaring Volunteer Advisory Committee,  
St. Albert, Alberta

Strong Girls Strong World Edmonton

RCMP Youth Advisory Committee Canada

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

A first generation Canadian whose parents fled Afghanistan, my character has been shaped by my family's history and my awareness that in living in a developed nation, opportunities surround me. My parents would tell me stories of extremely tough times when they were my age, with limited opportunities for education and work and little freedom of expression. A second year university student passionate about science and politics, I believe it is my responsibility to use the resources I have to help others. As a young female and minority I advocate for others who never had or may never get the chance to have a voice.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 5: Gender equality.  
By joining the Strong Girls Strong World

Edmonton project I have learned about gender inequality in Canada and around the world. This eye-opening opportunity helped me realize how much I didn't know (and how much more I still have to learn) and how wide gender inequality reaches. As part of this group I contributed to events and workshops to raise awareness and educate citizens about gender related issues and understandings.

*"I believe it is my responsibility to use the resources I have to help others."*

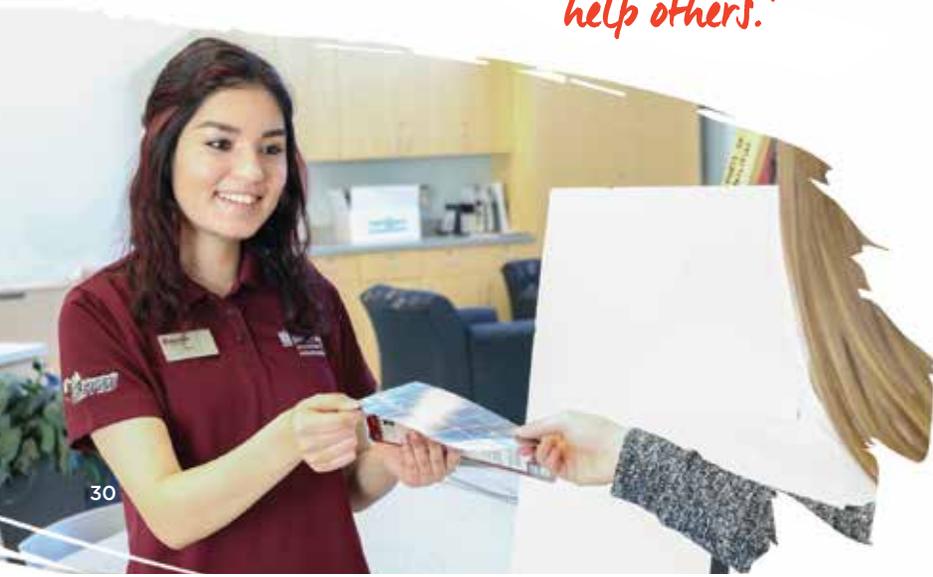
## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

Every day in war-torn nations families are fleeing their homes in search of safety and security. Innocent people are being killed and the world is on high alert, which is contributing to distrust among nations and deepening inequalities among citizens. War leads not only to death: It impedes chances of democracy, promotes terrorism, destroys animals and their habitats, and makes the poor become poorer. War takes away opportunity to experience life and it undermines the meaning of humanity. Unlike a natural disaster such as a hurricane, war is a human made activity which means it can be stopped if the right authorities chose to stop it.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I wish to see the whole world at peace with established trust amongst nations. When we can all experience a safe and enjoyable stability we will be empowered to tackle other problems in an effective way. Of course this will be difficult to achieve but this vision is what gets me going every day and what continues to fuel my motivation to be the change I wish to see in the world.

*appreciate  
inspire achieve  
accomplish*



# Hena Qureshi



Age: 27

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Green Sparrow Care, Calgary, Alberta;  
Rawalpindi, Pakistan; Moshi, Tanzania

White Orange Youth, Moshi, Tanzania

Heart and Stroke Foundation, Calgary, Alberta

*"Knowing your priorities, being open to change, and being resourceful helps to ensure success and growth."*

## **Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?**

The importance of education was reinforced throughout my upbringing. I completed bachelor's degrees in biological sciences and economics and am currently pursuing a master's in health economics. My studies have created opportunities for me to explore further work in international cooperation and community development. In addition, my experiences working in Chicago and Pakistan ignited my interest in understanding the link between resources, human choice, and outcomes. My travel experiences continued to influence my work and I eventually became a CPR and first aid instructor. I wanted to transform my knowledge and skills into building community strength and founded the NGO Green Sparrow Care. My work there has included implementing a CPR and first aid program and building the Maryam School for Girls. I believe that supporting people to have power over their own situation leads to a sense of empowerment that helps transform their lives and their communities.



## **Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?**

SDG 3: Good health and well-being. I have co-created and

implemented a customized sustainable CPR and first aid program in Tanzania. The program focuses on educating members on non-communicable diseases and remote wilderness first aid using local resources. I helped to support and equip individuals with the confidence and aptitude to deal with medical emergency situations.

## **What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?**

The most valuable lesson that I have learned is the importance of being adaptable. Although you can plan and organize extensively beforehand, once you are on the ground and working within communities you inevitably encounter many different situations. For example, I was informed that the hearing impaired community that I would be teaching in Tanzania

understood sign language. However, once I arrived, I realized this was not the case. I had to quickly adjust the teaching style to accommodate the students and ensure the program's success. Knowing your priorities, being open to change, and being resourceful helps to ensure success and growth.

## **What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?**

I would like to see the gender inequality gap in education be considerably diminished. Often females in developing countries are not given the same opportunities or access to education as males. This systematic exclusion translates into a less educated work force, reduced health and family income, limited economic growth, and increased risk of exploitation. There is a profound multiplier effect to educating females: it means educating a family, increasing household income, and improving health outcomes. I want to see education serve as an antidote against poverty and a catalyst for enhancing the well-being of communities.





# Erika Rodning

Age: 24

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

University of Alberta International, Edmonton

World University Service of Canada, Tanzania

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a registered dietitian passionate about nutrition, global health and international development. I was drawn to the field of nutrition because it emphasizes the importance of preventative measures in the achievement of good health. Soon after, I became intrigued by nutrition in broader contexts.

*“When there is community investment in a project, it’s more likely to be sustainable over time.”*

I was born into an educated family, was raised in Canada, and often find myself a part of “majority groups,” all of which have provided me with privilege and opportunities. I hope to use this position to enact positive change by advocating for those who are denied a voice and by using a collaborative approach so that initiatives accurately target a population’s needs.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

Last summer I participated in the Uniterria International Seminar, a collaborative research project that drew together young leaders from Tanzania and Canada. We focused primarily on the potential role of youth and technology in improving Tanzania’s food security situation. This project brought together individuals from two countries, on equal terms, recognizing that diverse perspectives add value to a team. Since my return to Canada, I’ve been embracing opportunities to share my experiences in Tanzania, including serving as a country delegate for Tanzania at a World Health Organization Simulation on Food Security and presenting at a Global Health Research Symposium.



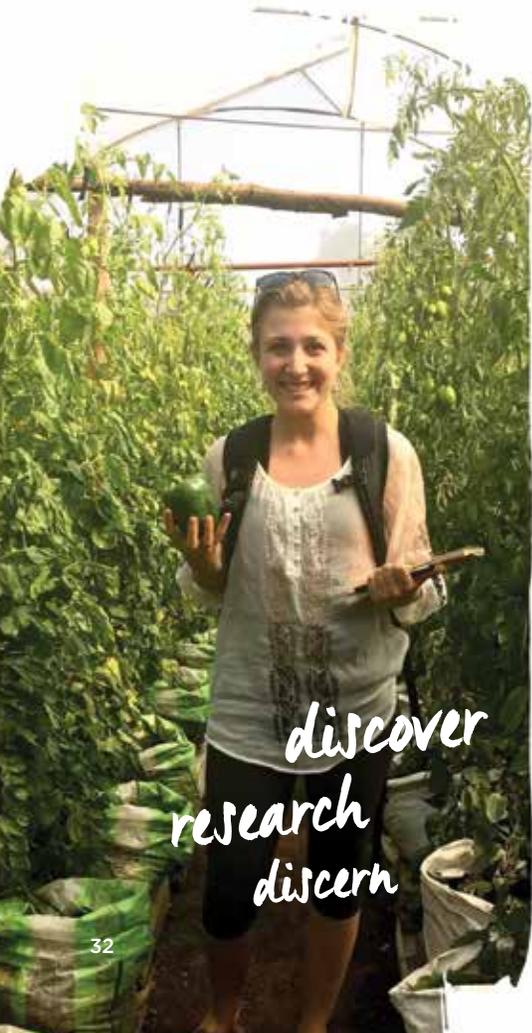
## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 2: No hunger. Following my nutrition degree, I completed

a series of dietetic placements and supported people in reaching their health goals via adequate nutrition. I especially enjoyed working with pregnant teens facing adversity, women experiencing complications in pregnancy and new moms. I’m passionate about maternal and infant health, because one’s nutrition during this period, the 1,000-day window of opportunity, can impact health outcomes for the rest of an infant’s life.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

The importance of collaboration. Whether at home or abroad, initiatives should be informed by and developed in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. While this process may demand more time, draw more resistance, and require more effort, it builds relationships and often leads to more successful outcomes. When there is community investment in a project, it’s more likely to be sustainable over time. I hope to use an intercultural perspective and collaborative approach in my future endeavours.



# Peter Schalk



Age: 28

Hometown: Port Perry, Ontario

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta



Worked/works with:

Canadian Red Cross, Across Canada

Edmonton Social Planning Council, Edmonton

Sombrilla International Development Society, Central and South America

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

For as long as I can remember I have placed a strong value on, and contributed to, voluntary service. In recent years this has led me to become more active in the field of emergency management and global development. Emergency management continues to be a growing field and we have seen the devastating impact of large events on communities across Canada and globally. For me, just witnessing the sheer power of humanity as individuals and communities mobilize to respond and recover drives my interests. My growing desire for greater exposure to global development, along with my desire to support the work of Sombrilla while making connections with communities in a region where I have previously travelled, both stem from my lifelong interest in Latin America's history and culture.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

I'm excited to assist with Sombrilla's strong public engagement program to educate Canadians on principles of good development in relation to issues in the communities where we work. I had the pleasure of joining Sombrilla's youth engagement program in Peru, which emphasizes cross-cultural exchange and exposure to development through youth-to-youth tours. I am now assisting in the planning of the next tour for 2018.

Participants of Sombrilla's 2015 Youth-to-Youth Tour visiting the community centre in Yurac Yacu, Peru



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

In Canada, my proudest accomplishments relate to SDG 13:

Climate action. Contributions to climate action include efforts to prevent climate-induced weather events as well as effective response and recovery from them. In 2016, I played an active role during the Fort McMurray wildfire to assist with the provincial coordination and provision of emergency social services to support evacuees' basic needs. As Fort McMurray progresses with re-construction, my focus has shifted to supporting the municipality with recovery planning. I hope to continue work in this area to support

the enhancement of the province's preparedness to better assist future communities affected by major disasters.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

In 2030 I hope the impacts of the SDGs far exceed what was accomplished by the Millennium Development Goals. In Canada, I want to see significant investments in green infrastructure with an eye to improving the resiliency of communities to extreme weather events. Also, I want to see sincere and meaningful reconciliation and partnership with Indigenous peoples. This would mean substantively addressing the gap in social and economic disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

*"I hope the impacts of the SDGs far exceed what was accomplished by the Millennium Development Goals."*





photo by Jeff Tao

# Nikita-Kiran Singh

Age: 22

Hometown: Red Deer, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Medical Students' Association & Division of  
Community Engagement, University of Alberta

PedsCases.com

GlobalShapers Edmonton

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

As a medical student with a background in philosophy and journalism, I love exploring intersections between art and science, especially in relation to global health and social justice. I'm interested in how we can communicate our ideas in a way that invites dialogue and relationship-building. In this sense, I love the parallels between advocacy and storytelling. It's challenging to remember every detail while studying, but it's difficult to forget a meaningful story. The use of narrative in medicine is powerful, and I hope to explore this relationship throughout my career.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

As an intern for PedsCases, a pediatric medical education website, I've been working with a physician mentor on developing podcasts about Indigenous Child Health. This series addresses how the historical context of colonialism in Canada has impacted the health of Indigenous communities today. Our goal is to encourage students to think about building equitable partnerships with communities and to understand different ways of knowing.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 3: Good health and well-being. As VP Community Engage-

ment of the University of Alberta Medical Students' Association, I'm fortunate to work with a team on a diverse set of portfolios, including inner city health, global health advocacy, and international health. Our initiatives include participating in Edmonton's Homeless Count, lobbying for healthcare legislation, and developing ethics sessions to think critically about international work. It's inspiring working with individuals who recognize the global by its definition includes the local, which is essential in addressing health disparities on different scales.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I've learned to not discount the power of intuition. So much about practicing medicine cannot be defined by scientific principles alone. The most valuable conversations I've had with patients, colleagues, and mentors have involved observing and listening more than speaking. I've learned that building relationships has less to do with sharing what you know and so much more to do with whether people feel they can trust you. Listening to your intuition and taking the moment to ask, "Is something bothering you?" is often the gateway to meaningful conversations and cultivating empathy. Trust is built through sensitivity to others' thoughts and feelings and refusing to undervalue kindness.

*"The use of narrative in medicine is powerful, and I hope to explore this relationship throughout my career."*



*advocate  
question  
engage*

# Sarthak Sinha



Age: 20

Hometown: Allahabad,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

Lives in: Calgary, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Skin Regeneration Team, University of Calgary,  
Calgary, Alberta

Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, Ontario

MS Society of Canada

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

An immigrant to Canada from Allahabad, India, I am fortunate to have benefited from many opportunities ahead of my time. These include conducting biomedical research starting at age 14 and engaging within the MS Society of Canada. I am passionate about helping people in a sustained fashion and see biomedical research as a catalyst for innovating solutions to life-altering diseases and traumas. My research has focused on understanding the function of skin stem cells and their use for regenerating peripheral nerves and skin following injury inflictions. As a friendly visiting volunteer with the MS Society, I've learned about community building, and as a provincial ambassador, I take steps to engage people living with disabilities in meaningful ways.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

Conducting basic-science research with the Skin Regeneration Team, I'm excited to see how our discoveries will translate into clinical use to help improve quality of life. This is a moon-shot project which requires scientists, clinicians, bioengineers, and enthusiastic students to generate substantial evidence assessing the efficacy of skin stem cell-based therapies before we can contemplate their use on humans. The ultimate dream is to, starting

only from a small donor skin, isolate sufficient tissue-resident stem cells to rebuild skin and its appendages following severe burn injuries. We are also investigating if we can take stem cells from the skin and use them to guide the regeneration of peripheral nerves to restore deficits such as paralysis and pain.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure. I have been told that my story as a "high-school scientist" has inspired other students to pursue far-fetched ideas ahead of their times. I pursue speaking opportunities to articulate the

importance of starting early. Some of the students I have encouraged have gone on to do innovative work themselves. Also interested in making learning more organic for undergraduate students, I facilitate a supplemental instruction program called Facilitated Study Groups at the University of Toronto.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I hope to see a more inclusive and diversity-embracing world where we invest in education and science over wars and aggression. I also hope to see our communities strengthening over time as millennials become more involved in addressing the imminent social challenges of our generation.

*"My story as a 'high-school scientist' has inspired other students to pursue far-fetched ideas."*





# John Skene

Age: 29

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

E2, Athens, Greece

Starfish Foundation, Lesvos, Greece

Victoria Cool Aid Society, Victoria, British Columbia

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

I am a recent business graduate with a passion for sustainable development, politics, public engagement and community. A member of a marginalized community myself, and as a person who has had multiple barriers in my past, I understand and sympathize with people who are currently struggling.

*“On some of my most challenging days it was the children and youth who kept me going and gave me hope.”*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 1: No Poverty. Poverty is more than lack of income or

resources; it includes lack of basic services. My work domestically and internationally has been focused on providing basic services such as hygiene, food, and shelter to the most marginalized in our societies.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

In Greece I was fortunate enough to be able to provide care for refugees in camps on the Greek islands and in Athens. I was struck by the strength and courage of children—their incredible resiliency in situations unfathomable to many North Americans. Some of these kids have known no life outside of war,

yet they met me with a hug, a smile, and a thank you. On some of my most challenging days it was the children and youth who kept me going and gave me hope.

## What current issue is inspiring you to take action right now and why?

The global refugee crisis. It is a common misconception to think this problem is unique to the Middle East and Europe. In fact, Africa, Latin America, and Asia all have significant refugee and migration issues affecting their societies. When I started my work with refugees in late 2015 there were 60 million displaced people around the world. There are now over 70 million. We are still yet to see large migratory shifts due to climate change, which will affect at minimum over a billion people living in coastal cities and villages.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I would like to see less entitlement along with a shift away from knee-jerk reactions to issues toward a stronger practice of self-reflection and awareness-seeking. If one does not know much about a particular minority group, he or she should not jump to rigid opinions or reactions about that group’s circumstances, but endeavour to get informed prior to formulating a stance. There is much at stake because uninformed opinions, when viewed by politicians on a macro level, hold a significant amount of weight in policy and international relations.



# Paisly Symenuk



Age: 23

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:

Global Association of Student and Novice Nurses

Canadian Nursing Students' Association

## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Everything I do in international cooperation is informed by a sense of social justice. I was raised by a family that consistently inspired me to want to give back, and this led me to the profession of nursing. When I meet nurses from around the world, I am in awe of the amazing contributions they make, in spite of all the challenges and inequities they may be facing. I am aware that I benefit from largely unmerited privilege: I am lucky to be born in the situation I am in, which brings with it, a responsibility to support my peers and raise up the profession of nursing. Given a platform, young nurses have unique and important perspectives to offer the global health conversation.

*"Given a platform, young nurses have unique and important perspectives to offer the global health conversation."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

Through my involvement with the Canadian Nursing

Students' Association (CNSA) and by co-founding the Global Association of Student and Novice Nurses (GASNN) I have been working on SDG 3: Good health and well-being. By engaging student and novice nurses early in their nursing careers in additional professional activities like conferences, board involvement, advocacy work, and educational opportunities, we are supporting the next generation of nurse leaders to contribute to making the healthiest world they can.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

We are missing out on so many potential solutions to some of the most pressing issues in global health because many children in low-resource countries have little or no opportunity for education or influential engagement due to poor health and gender disparities, among other disadvantages. Our world is getting increasingly complex and that means we need everyone if we are able to achieve good health for all.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

I would like to see a lot more nurses in global health leadership positions. Right now, we are largely invisible in high-level, decision-making positions in global health governance. Nurses around the world deliver the vast majority of health care. The versatility of nursing education and practice gives nurses a wide range of skills essential to global health practice at clinical, community, national and international levels. Influential organizations in global health, such as the World Health Organization or Médecins Sans Frontières, have historically never had a nurse at the helm.

*care  
create  
connect*



# Hayley Todesco

Age: 20  
Hometown: Calgary, Alberta  
Lives in: Edmonton, Alberta

Worked/works with:  
Inside Education, Alberta



## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

Since the age of 10, I have been working toward solving local environmental issues through science fair projects after Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" ignited my zeal for environmentalism. Competing in 18 science fairs, my projects have addressed local environmental issues ranging from smog to solar cells to oil sands tailings ponds. These experiences gave me the confidence to pursue a career in science and developed my growing passion for inspiring and encouraging young girls to pursue extracurricular science opportunities.

*"I would love to see more young people involved in scientific research."*



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

I have worked toward SDG 15: Life on land.

Due to the close proximity of most tailings ponds to major rivers, recent studies have started to connect leakage to rising toxin levels in local wildlife, groundwater, and surface water in the boreal forests and communities downstream. My work focuses on developing solutions, spreading awareness, and generating support to prevent the spread of pollution from the tailings ponds.

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

I have learned the value of perseverance. Trying to design bioreactors capable of cleaning the waste from tailings ponds was full of setbacks. Months of work setting up and culturing these bacteria were washed away

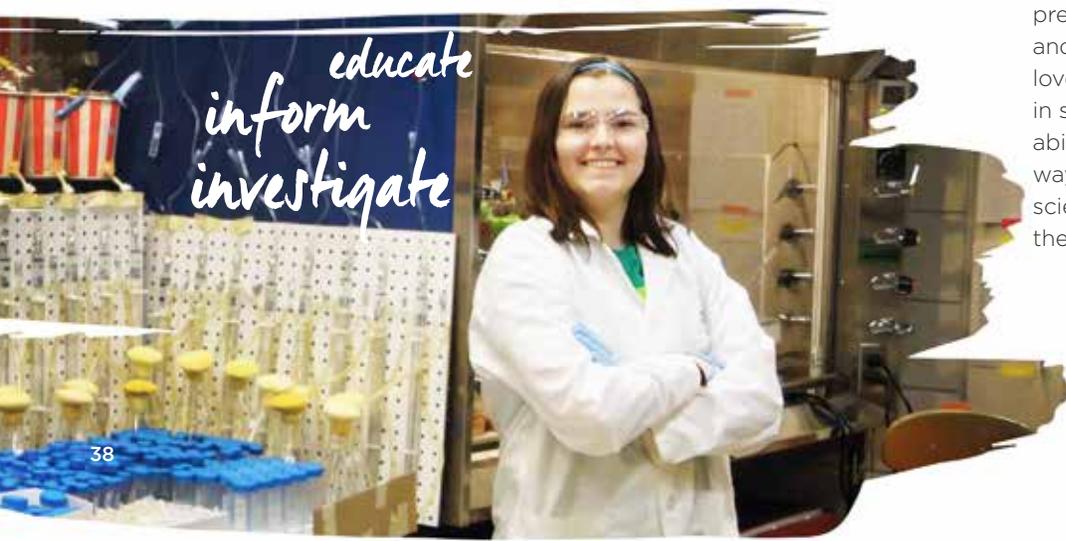
in a single night when the bioreactors overflowed and flooded the lab. I ended up starting from scratch several times. With more than a year of additional research, the redesigned bioreactors worked and produced truly amazing results. This hidden biodegradation capability of the tailings pond bacteria would likely have never been discovered if not for my perseverance.

## What project are you most excited to be working on right now?

While working on developing bioreactor designs I am speaking about my experiences at environment and energy-focused conferences organized by Inside Education. I hope to inspire a wider youth audience to take action to solve environmental issues affecting their communities.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

A transition to more sustainable energy sources would be an incredibly effective step toward reducing carbon emissions, preventing environmental degradation, and reducing global warming. I would love to see more young people involved in scientific research—youth have the ability to combine ideas in unique ways that can result in amazing scientific findings, but only if given the opportunity.



# Jack Underschultz



Age: 23

Hometown: Edmonton

Lives in: Edmonton

Worked/works with:

All Hands Volunteers, Nepal

Make-A-Wish Foundation Northern Alberta, Edmonton



## Describe who you are and how your identity informs your work?

The youngest of three brothers, I grew up wanting to do everything they and their friends did. There were so many people to look up to and strive to be like, whether they were the fastest, smartest, funniest, or kindest. This helped create an ever-evolving identity where I learned to take inspiration from the strengths of people around me to constantly improve myself. My fluid identity has been instrumental in community development, as every situation demands different traits and skills. The more involved I get, the more I'm exposed to incredibly inspiring people. I try to absorb as much as I can and bring it forward to my next venture.



## Which of the SDGs have you worked toward and how?

SDG 4: Quality education. I spent a semester in Tanzania

teaching young children and ensuring they had the resources to succeed such as school supplies, desks, food, proper space to learn, and a playground to let off steam during breaks. After witnessing their unparalleled enthusiasm for school, it killed me to learn of the astonishing dropout rates in later grades, especially for girls. Since then, I've joined Nafasi-Opportunity Society who partners with a local university in Tanzania to provide vocational and entrepreneurial education to young women to support them in becoming self-sufficient.

*"It can seem overwhelming to act, but the idea of inaction should be more daunting."*

## What is the most valuable lesson you have learned through your experiences?

Local members need to be involved as much as possible in projects. We become so invested, that sometimes it's easy to forget we're only visitors to the community. Our role should be limited to providing the education and resources necessary to improve communities, and then step back to let communities shape their own futures. It preserves their identity and encourages local, not foreign, leadership.

## What change in the world would you like to see by 2030?

We all have great ideas for building a better community, country, and world but not enough people act on them. It can seem overwhelming to act, but the idea of inaction should be more daunting. In today's digital age, it's easy to connect with like-minded people. When a whole community gets involved in a collective effort, the impact can be astounding, like the relief effort in Fort McMurray. If we can get more communities involved, both locally and globally, we'll soon see vast improvements in all issues, whether it's education, equality, poverty, health, or the environment.



# ACGC Members 2017



**Ainembabazi Children's Project**  
[www.ainembabazi.org](http://www.ainembabazi.org)



**Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA)**  
[www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)



**Altamas for Peace and Development Association**  
[www.altamas.ca](http://www.altamas.ca)



**Bow Valley College International Education**  
<http://international.bowvalleycollege.ca>



**Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies**  
[www.bridgesofhope.ca](http://www.bridgesofhope.ca)



**Calgary Board of Education Global Learning Services**  
[www.cbeinternational.ca](http://www.cbeinternational.ca)



**Cameroonian Canadian Foundation (CCF-FCC)**  
[www.camerooniancanadianfoundation.org](http://www.camerooniancanadianfoundation.org)



**Canada World Youth (CWY)**  
[www.canadaworldyouth.org](http://www.canadaworldyouth.org)



**Canadian Association for Participatory Development (CAPD)**  
[www.capdcalgary.org](http://www.capdcalgary.org)



**Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology University of Alberta**  
[www.music.museums.ualberta.ca/CanadianCentreForEthnomusicology.aspx](http://www.music.museums.ualberta.ca/CanadianCentreForEthnomusicology.aspx)



**Canadian Humanitarian**  
[www.canadianhumanitarian.com](http://www.canadianhumanitarian.com)



**Canadian Moravian Mission Society**  
[www.moravian.ca](http://www.moravian.ca)



**Canadian Peacemakers International (CPI)**  
[www.cpi-cpf.ca](http://www.cpi-cpf.ca)



**Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4Afghan)**  
[www.cw4wafghan.ca](http://www.cw4wafghan.ca)



**CAUSE Canada**  
[www.cause.ca](http://www.cause.ca)



**Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)**  
[www.cawst.org](http://www.cawst.org)



**Ceiba Association**  
[www.ceibaassociation.com](http://www.ceibaassociation.com)



**Centre for Global Citizenship Education and Research (CGCER)**  
[www.cgcer.ualberta.ca](http://www.cgcer.ualberta.ca)



**Change for Children Association**  
[www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)



**D. Keith MacDonald Foundation**  
[www.dkmfoundation.org](http://www.dkmfoundation.org)



**Development and Peace, Caritas Canada**  
[www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)



**Edmonton Public School Board**  
[www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca)



**Engineers Without Borders (EWB)**  
[www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca)



**Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning**  
[www.fourworlds.ca](http://www.fourworlds.ca)



**Global Education Program, University of Alberta International**  
[www.international.ualberta.ca/gloaled](http://www.international.ualberta.ca/gloaled)



**Human Development Foundation (HDF Canada)**  
www.hdfcanada.org



**Optometry Giving Sight**  
www.givingsight.org



**John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights**  
www.jhcentre.org



**Rainbow for the Future**  
www.rainbowfft.org



**Junior Global Citizen Club**  
www.juniorglobalcitizen.org



**Rainbow of Hope for Children**  
www.rainbowofhopeforchildren.ca



**Keiskamma Canada Foundation**  
www.keiskammaCanada.com



**Read Africa**  
www.readafrica.ca



**Light Up the World Foundation (LUTW)**  
www.lutw.org



**Rotary District 5370**  
www.rotary5370.org



**MacEwan International, MacEwan University**  
www.macewan.ca/international



**Sahakarini Inter-World Education & Development Association**  
www.sahakarini.org



**Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace**  
www.gandhifoundation.ca



**Samaritan's Purse Canada**  
www.samaritanspurse.ca



**Marda Loop Justice Film Festival**  
www.justicefilmfestival.ca



**Sustainable East African Education and Development Society (SEEDS)**  
www.seedseastafrica.com



**Mennonite Central Committee Alberta (MCC)**  
www.mcccCanada.ca



**Sinkunia Community Development Organization**  
www.sinkuniacommunity.org



**Micah Centre, The King's University**  
www.micahcentre.ca



**Somali-Canadian Education & Rural Development Organization (SCERDO)**  
www.scerdo.org



**Nafasi Opportunity Society**  
www.nafasi-opportunity.org



**Sombrilla International Development Society**  
www.sombrilla.ca



**One Child's Village**  
www.onechildsvillage.org



**Trebi Kuma Ollenu Foundation for Community Development (TKOFCD)**  
www.tkofcd.org



**One! International Poverty Relief**  
www.one-international.com



**United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC)**  
www.edmonton.unac.org



**Operation Eyesight Universal**  
www.operationeyesight.com



**Women's Empowerment International Foundation (WEIF)**  
www.weif.org

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*inform  
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*lead  
mentor  
inspire*

*abolish  
support  
engage*

*collaborate  
trailblaze*

*honour  
remember*



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