

THE FIFTH ANNUAL 2016

TOP 30 UNDER 30



30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD



MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT AND WRITING

Chelsea Donelon

EDITING

Kelly Parkatti

MAGAZINE DESIGN

Anna Campbell

COVER PHOTO

Asha Siad and Fartoon Siad; photograph by Abe Assefa

The views conveyed by the publisher and participants do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Government of Canada.

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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.



CONTACT THE ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

Suite 205
10816A 82 (Whyte) Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 2B3

PHONE 780-988-0200

WEB www.acgc.ca



facebook.com/acgcnow



[@ACGCNow](https://twitter.com/ACGCNow)



youtube.com/acgcnow

About Top 30 & IDW

Extraordinary young people are creating a more just & sustainable world!

ACGC's fifth annual Top 30 Under 30 Magazine features 30 outstanding global citizens and explores their ideas and actions as positive changemakers in our global community. Through them, we share in some great stories about what is being done in Alberta and internationally to make a difference in 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 here are truly exceptional. Some of the youth featured are involved with ACGC member organizations, most of which are Alberta-based non-government organizations (NGOs). All are doing amazing work, in different fields and communities, to contribute to a just and sustainable world. They work on water issues, environmental sustainability, politics, education, health, community services, and other areas. The Top 30s have all demonstrated action toward creating positive change in the world 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!

International Development Week

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 February 7-13, 2016 across Canada. For 26 years, International Development Week has provided a unique opportunity for Canadian organizations and individuals to share their successes and achievements in international development.

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

www.international.gc.ca

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 7–13, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to all those attending the *Top 30 Under 30* awards celebration hosted by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) and to everyone marking International Development Week.



International Development Week encourages Canadians —especially youth— to learn more about and contribute actively to international development. It also highlights what Canadians are doing to create a better world.

Tonight, I would also like to join with you in congratulating 30 remarkable individuals whose inspirational stories are featured in ACGC's Fifth Annual *Top 30 Under 30* magazine. You are not the leaders of tomorrow; you are all the leaders of today, and the things you do can have a tremendous impact and change the country and our world.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you all a memorable International Development Week and every success in your future endeavours.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 7 au 13 février 2016

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses de même que mes vives félicitations à celles et ceux qui assistent à la remise des prix du *Top 30 Under 30*, tenue par l'Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), ainsi qu'à toutes les personnes qui soulignent la Semaine du développement international.



La Semaine du développement international vise à motiver les Canadiens, plus particulièrement les jeunes, à en apprendre davantage sur le développement international et à y contribuer activement. Elle permet aussi de mettre en valeur tout ce que font les Canadiens pour édifier un monde meilleur.

Je tiens également me joindre à vous ce soir pour rendre hommage à 30 personnes d'exception, dont les histoires inspirantes sont présentées dans le cinquième magazine annuel *Top 30 Under 30* de l'ACGC. Vous n'êtes pas seulement les leaders de demain, mais bel et bien ceux d'aujourd'hui, et vos actions peuvent avoir un formidable impact et transformer le pays, et même le monde.

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je vous souhaite à tous et à toutes une Semaine du développement international mémorable et le plus grand succès dans tous vos projets.

Cordialement,

Le très hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, C.P., député
Premier ministre du Canada

Letter From The Executive Director

I want to send my most heart-felt congratulations to the amazing young people selected and profiled in the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's 2016 Top 30 Under 30 Magazine. Individuals profiled in this magazine are amongst the most impressive, accomplished, and committed youth anywhere in the world. Their commitment to making the world a better, more just place for everyone is truly inspiring.

As we enter a new period of development with the Sustainable Development Goals, it gives me great hope to see the outstanding work these young people are doing to help move us toward achieving the goals. Collectively they are working to address some of the biggest issues we face today, from Goal 1 (Ending poverty in all forms everywhere) to Goal 17 (Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for development). Over the next 15 years, these 30 young people will be among those leading the charge to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Thanks to the efforts of youth like our Top 30 Under 30s, we can feel confident that our world is in good hands.

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 2016 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



The Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, 193 nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an ambitious 15-year global agenda to address three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental. Universally applicable, the goals represent an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that economic, social, civil, political, and cultural rights are met for everyone, everywhere. It is a call to action on the most pressing needs our world faces today.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals pick up where the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) left off. These goals are more encompassing, touch on a broader range of issues, and will require cooperation between all of us in both the Global North and the Global South.

In total, 70 countries and over 7 million people worldwide were consulted over two years to create the goals which are summed up in the United Nations' "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" report (available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>). The resulting 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their

corresponding 169 targets are a truly global agenda – a framework for ambitious, engaged action to transform our world.

Each youth highlighted in this year's Top 30 Under 30 Magazine is working towards real change for at least one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Active in their communities and abroad, they are committed to the realization of a sustainable, peaceful, and equitable future for us all.

You can find out more about the Top 30s' work on the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the magazine, and you can learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

1 NO POVERTY 	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Reduce inequality within and among countries.
2 ZERO HUNGER 	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	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.
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	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.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.		

Addressing the Issues

Creating a more just and sustainable world is beneficial to everyone.

The world is a global space and what happens in one area is no longer isolated within borders, nations, or geographic regions. Advances in technology and our ever-increasing ability to communicate and connect has shrunk our world and made it more imperative than ever that our actions are positive and contribute to global solutions.

Young Albertans are working with people around the world to find solutions to the international development issues we face today like global poverty, structural violence, environmental crises, and more. Addressing these challenges is vital if we are to find effective solutions and create a just and sustainable world.

Canadians support international development and poverty reduction.

Since the 1960s, Canada has been a leader in international cooperation – this reputation has been a hallmark of what makes us Canadian.

In 2015, Engineers Without Borders Canada, in partnership with the Inter-Council Network (of which the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation is a part) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, commissioned a public opinion poll to gain an understanding of Canadians' knowledge of, opinions on, and engagement in global poverty issues. The report "Canadian Perspectives on International Development" found:

- There is a national consciousness in Canada about global poverty reduction, with 94% of Canadians saying it is important to improve health, education, and economic opportunity for the world's poorest.
- 76% of Canadians agree that we have a moral obligation to help expand health, education, and economic opportunity for the world's poorest.
- Most Canadians are optimistic about our world's future, as the majority believe that conditions in the poorest countries will improve in the next 15 years, and that both government and individuals can play a role in reducing global poverty.

Read the study online at www.acc.ca under "Publications."

Working toward improving our global community matters!

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation is proud to support and celebrate young leaders who confront difficult global issues and take on these challenges. We believe that the work of individuals and civil society organizations is important to building a just and sustainable world for us all.

How You Can Get Involved



Read up

Visit your local library to find books that explore issues of social justice and human rights. Reading can not only make us better individuals but it can also motivate us to effect greater change around us.

Focus your knowledge

There are many issues of global concern, and learning about all of them can be overwhelming. Reflect on which issues you feel most passionate about, and focus on learning as much as you can on that topic. A deeper understanding about an issue can lead to more appropriate and meaningful action.



Storytelling

Invite people to share their experiences and stories with you. This can help you understand the issues and your potential role in changing them. And don't forget that you have a story too; share it with others. You'll learn more about the world around you, and the people that surround you.

People power

What are you passionate about? Talk about the issues and brainstorm innovative ways to be a part of the change. Talk to your family, friends, and colleagues, ask questions, and start the conversation.



Be engaged

Be an engaged global citizen by expressing your ideas and concerns about what is happening in your local and global world. Write letters to your MP or MLA to express your concern about, or to vocalize your support for, a particular issue. Write a Letter to the Editor for your local or national newspaper. Take part in a rally or protest. Sign a paper or online petition. Remember joining forces with others is an incredibly impactful way of being heard.

Vote

Have a voice and make a choice. Voting is an expression of a citizen's right and responsibility to influence decisions made at every political level and is fundamental to a healthy democracy.

Be informed

Connect with mainstream media to learn about local, national, and international issues. Find alternative media sources that offer a different perspective on those issues, and critically analyze the information that is being presented by both sides. Remember that all media has bias.

Understand Canada's role

Visit the Global Affairs Canada's website at www.international.gc.ca to learn about Canada's position and action on a number of international policy, trade, and development issues. Global Affairs Canada has great information and opportunities available for people of all ages who are interested in international development.

Build networks

Tap into the existing networks in your community and build alliances with individuals, communities, groups, and organizations. Join a board of directors, attend community events, or share your skills. Whether you're good with computers, art, music, editing, mobilizing and recruiting others, or organizing logistics, there is a group that could put your skills to good use!

Connect online

Build positive online connections using social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, learning from and sharing with others on the issues you are passionate about. Social media is a powerful tool to connect and build solidarity with people across the globe. It provides you with a unique tool and more balanced perspective for global issues.

Practice ethical and informed consumption

Inform yourself about the product, goods, and services you use, and the impact they have on the planet and other people. Before consuming, ask yourself if you need the product and if you know enough about the product to make an ethical choice.

Volunteer

Donate your time, money, and skills. Do some research and find out which organizations match your interests and values. Then give them a call! Tons of organizations are looking for committed and engaged volunteers.

Additional information and resources:

Check out the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's website at www.acgc.ca for information on how to support one of our 65+ member organizations in Alberta working towards sustainable human development.

TOP 30 UNDER 30



30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Neema Amadala



“Sustainable businesses are profitable businesses. Organizations that recognize this now will lead the charge in changing our world.”

Neema Amadala breaks down complicated issues into impactful messages that resonate with the public. Coordinating Engineers Without Borders' Next Step discussions, she challenged participants to look at the barriers they put up for themselves in taking the next step in their work. She now works with the United Nations Global Compact as a Communications Coordinator, helping communicate the new Sustainable Development Goals to an international set of business partners and catalyzing conversations about their role in supporting the goals.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

I am a proud third culture kid. Third culture kids are individuals who have spent a significant part of their developmental years outside their parents' culture. They've forged connections with multiple cultures but don't necessarily fully identify with any of them. As the child of immigrants, I recognize the privilege I have as an outsider of sorts in a few places in the world. Those experiences shape my worldview, influencing my work. I have grown up viewing the world critically, seeing problems and seeking solutions. I want to use my position of understanding and privilege to help others have the opportunities I've been so blessed to have.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

During university, I was an active member of Engineers Without Borders. I was drawn to their focus on systemic change instead of band-aid solutions to development. Instead of being paternalistic, they work with communities in Sub-Saharan Africa to help them develop solutions and strengthen infrastructure for existing solutions. This profoundly informed my activism and led me to work with the UN Global Compact.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am excited to see the new Goals cover issues the previous Millennium Development Goals missed, including Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. Goal 17 explicitly states that the goals cannot be accomplished without working together. At the climate agreement in Paris, business was, for the first time, officially welcomed and included in the conversation. Increasingly, businesses are acknowledging their role and responsibility in building a more sustainable world. Business has a lot to offer, and correct, in regards to their role in sustainable development. From the board of an organization, through its supply chain to the product, business has a critical impact on all our lives. Sustainable businesses are profitable businesses. Organizations that recognize this now will lead the charge in changing our world.

Age: 25

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Lives In: New York City, United States

Works/Worked In: New York



Organizations:

Engineers Without Borders*

Student Energy

United Nations

*ACGC member organization

Dalal Awwad



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Dalal Awwad is a Palestinian-Canadian who blurs

the line between what is local and what is global. A dedicated and compassionate leader, Dalal is a resident advisor at the University of Alberta's International House, a Ronald McDonald House Intern, and a volunteer translator with Syrian refugees. In the summer of 2015, she was awarded a Davis Project for Peace grant to complete a project she conceptualized, the Children's Peace Library in Palestine. The library contributes to peace by encouraging children to learn, read, and explore. It aims to improve children's mental health and help them attain nuanced perspectives to become future peace builders.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

As a child growing up in Palestine, living under occupation wasn't easy. My sisters and I passed checkpoints to go to school. Our village changed from a vibrant community to a rural area surrounded by settlements. These experiences made me passionate about education and mental health, particularly for children. Getting involved made me realize my work does not only influence the lives of

"It is imperative for us as leaders and peacemakers to build intercultural relations and encourage ideas from within communities to ensure projects meet their needs and aspirations."

people around me, it also shapes my personality and worldviews. This opened my eyes to the limitless opportunities to encourage others to become leaders in their communities.

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

I'm excited to be working with the University of Alberta's Global Education Program on a Davis Project for Peace. Last summer, I cooperated with the Village Council in Betein, a rural village in Palestine, to initiate a Children's Peace Library in an attempt to improve children's mental health. I interacted closely with the children and was inspired by their will power and ability to put aside their personal struggles. The experience taught me that long-term development and peace building is not achieved by imposing our personal perspectives on communities abroad. Rather, it is imperative for us as leaders and peacemakers to build intercultural relations and encourage ideas from within communities to ensure projects meet their needs and aspirations.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all. Without access to resources that cultivate well-being, individuals cannot be active members of their communities. We often underestimate the importance of ensuring that children have good mental health. By providing youth with resources to de-stress and explore their interests, they become active participants in society, leaders of change and development.

Age: 21

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta
and Ramallah, Palestine

Lives In: Edmonton, Alberta
Works/ Worked In: Palestine



Organizations:

Global Education Program,
University of Alberta International*

Global Enrichment Foundation

Ronald McDonald House, Northern Alberta

*ACGC member organization

Atayo Benson

2 ZERO HUNGER



“I would like people to know that Africa isn’t a small district, but a huge continent much bigger than Europe. I would like to see people travelling between the two worlds without fear or racism.”

Atayo Benson is a mechanical engineer and driver by trade, farmer by lifestyle, and gifted natural teacher and community organizer in Uganda. Speaking four languages, he volunteers with logistics at Kigezi Healthcare Foundation’s medical camps. Atayo also started Omusiri – The Organic Farmer’s Resource Centre to teach sustainable agriculture to farmers in the region. This led him to coordinate the CEIBA Association’s first East African project to fund food security initiatives like rabbit breeding and food forests, implemented by community-based organizations.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

I’ve always been inspired by the work of communities around me, most of whom are working to improve their lives sustainably without the support of outside organizations. These communities are creative and resourceful. Their work fighting hunger inspires me. I’ve realized that supporting communities working to eliminate hunger allows them to take knowledge and ideas and make them their own. That is sustainable development.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

The Western world thinks they are “ahead” of people in Africa. I was born and raised in Africa. I want the two worlds to come together. Western media is always trying to separate the two worlds. News about Africa always focuses on places affected by famine, disease, and war. I live in a country surrounded by unstable countries, like the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. While the conflicts in these countries don’t affect my quality of life or freedom in Uganda, it seems to affect Western countries, so far away. It paints an image that all of Africa is an active war zone, which isn’t true. I would like people to know that Africa isn’t a small district, but a huge continent much bigger than Europe. I would like to see people travelling between the two worlds without fear or racism.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about ending hunger, achieving food security, and improving nutrition through sustainable agriculture, including permaculture and organic production. Sustainable agriculture is the only way of fighting and eliminating hunger. In communities, people must use the little space they have to grow food and sustain their families. Then they can harvest food from their own gardens and generate income. Food is expensive in Uganda, so it is better that people grow their own. It gives them stability.

Age: 25

Hometown: Arua, Uganda

Lives In: Kabale, Uganda

Works/ Worked In: Uganda



Organizations:

CEIBA Association*

Kigezi Healthcare Foundation

Omusiri – The Organic Farmer’s Resource Centre

*ACGC member organization

Jasveen Brar

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Jasveen Brar is a scientist and an environmentalist. She has represented Alberta at the Canada Wide Science Fair, started Operation Lab Coats and Beakers to ensure youth in rural areas have access to science opportunities, and is working on a Youth Declaration for the Protection of Ross Ice Shelf. Jasveen is also a Merit360 participant presenting a climate change mitigation project to the United Nations, and a strong believer that age should not prevent you from making a positive change in your community. She holds the opinion that youth are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today.

What first inspired you to change the world?

My parents inspire me, every day. They are my role models. I cannot imagine how hard it must have been for them leaving India, their home, everything they knew, and moving to Canada. Growing up I have seen them make so many sacrifices for me and my

Age: 20

Hometown: Medicine Hat, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Antarctica

Organizations:

Canada Wide Science Fair

Interact Club (Rotary International)*

Merit360 (World Merit)

*ACGC member organization



“I want to see a more sustainable world, where we can meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of the future.”

brothers. They have inspiringly tackled each problem with determination and positivity. It was through them that I got involved with volunteer work. My dad has diabetes and so I started canvassing for the Canadian Diabetes Association. That experience led to more volunteer work and opportunities. I now love volunteering. I love the work I do and the organizations that I'm part of.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

Last December, I went on an expedition to Antarctica. I wish I had the words to explain just how incredible it was. Seeing such a pristine and untouched land was unbelievably beautiful and the experience changed my life. I want to see greater protection for places like Antarctica including stronger policies against whaling and harvesting of krill. I want to see a more sustainable world, where we can meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of the future.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am most passionate about climate action. There isn't one place on this planet where we aren't experiencing the effects of climate change. Not only are we impacting our own communities, we are impacting other species, through deforestation, agriculture, anthropogenic emissions, and ocean acidification. Collectively we need to change the way that we live our lives, for the protection of this planet. No one person can make a difference, but together we can drive change.

Iman Bukhari



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



“[My father] always says, ‘There is more good in the world than bad’.”

Iman Bukhari uses film to educate Calgarians about racism and Canada’s multicultural mosaic. She is the founder and CEO of the Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation, which works to educate Canadians on multiculturalism, integrate newcomers with existing Canadian values and laws, and eliminate racism. Iman has made several documentaries, including one on forced marriages in Canada that has been screened internationally, and a short animated film called *Stories of Races* highlighting stories of everyday racism. She plans to do a 48-hour anti-racism film festival this year and a documentary on residential school survivors.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

My father. My father is a very giving and caring person. He has always volunteered, given to charity, been a leader, and made a difference in the community. I have never seen him give up on anything. He inspires me to do good in this world and to never give up. Sometimes, I feel down when I see global politics or something bad happen locally, but his optimism about the world has always kept me going. He always says, “There is more good in the world than bad”.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

I am excited about the work that the Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation is doing, particularly our anti-racism initiatives because I know how important they are. Our goal is to engage community by actively creating and watching films that emphasize what racism

does to people and society at large. It is a means of education through video.

For example, previously I created the documentary *Forced* on forced marriages in Canada. By telling the story of a young girl forced to get married and the painful trials she went through, I worked with various communities and cultural, religious, and ethnic organizations to help put this to an end. I am passionate about this work because it educates people on the issue and helps it come to an end, and helps give a voice to those who don’t have one.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am most passionate about quality education. I believe through education, all of the community development issues (gender equality, health, environment, peace, Indigenous issues etc.) can be solved. Once people learn more about this world and each other, they naturally empathize with one another and come to the common goal of a better world.

Age: 26

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Born In: Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Works/ Worked In: Calgary



Organizations:

Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation

Newcomer TV

United Nations Association of Canada*

*ACGC member organization

Elliot Cudmore



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



As President of the Engineers Without Borders Calgary Chapter, Elliot Cudmore has more than doubled membership within that Chapter, creating a larger community of people actively promoting fair trade and advocating for transparent foreign aid. Elliot's work in Calgary is informed by his time volunteering in Zambia. He continues to use his experience to educate Albertans on how they can help reduce poverty and encourages critical thinking about the needs of the global poor.

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

I'm excited about a leadership exchange program called Kumvana, which in Chichewa (Malawi) means to meet so that we may discuss and understand. Engineers Without Borders formerly only sent volunteers to Africa in a one-way exchange of information, as if we had all the answers. We didn't realize that it's more impactful to bring budding African community leaders to Canada for leadership development. That way we can learn from them, as much as they learn from us. It allows people in developed countries to realize those in developing countries are partners to be empowered rather than helped.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

While volunteering in Zambia, a friend welcomed me into his home for a few days. I've never been so far from the world I knew, so remote that Google Maps didn't know it existed. Yet, here I was, in the humble abode of a man with a massive heart, big smile, and kind family, communicating through exaggerated gestures.

We biked around maize farms and vegetable gardens, and met his friends. When I punctured the inner tube on my bike two hours from his house, it was mended by the kindness of strangers. Being that remote, I realized how hard farmers work to access the inputs essential to their

livelihood. Seeing my friend's passion for reducing those barriers was inspirational.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. When I first realized the connection between the commodities we consume and the individuals and communities that actually grew and made those goods, the scope of inequality and the entire systems preventing people from reaching their full potential dawned on me. Finding ways to break down the barriers to inclusive growth and unleashing that potential is key to ending poverty.

"[I want] people in developed countries to realize those in developing countries are partners to be empowered rather than helped."

Age: 25

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Malawi and Zambia



Organizations:

Engineers Without Borders Canada*
Ten Thousand Villages**

*ACGC member organization

**program of ACGC member organization Mennonite Central Committee Alberta

Jamie Desautels

Jamie Desautels is committed to reducing inequities in health, and improving access to basic human needs and education for disadvantaged groups, locally and globally. She is heavily involved with the Students' International Health Association (SIHA) at the University of Alberta. With SIHA, she has spent three summers in Tanzania working with locals to find community-driven health solutions. Passionate about locally-led solutions, Jamie has integrated anti-oppressive protocols and created new roles to increase local participation in project development.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

While I have always been interested in community development, it wasn't until I saw the potential of community members that I was truly inspired to do the work I do. My first year in Tanzania, a group of friends from a rural village came together and formed their own community-based organization called Endeleva Vijana Organization. They were inspired by our work and decided, "If students from another country can make a difference in our community, why can't we?" I had the privilege of seeing their organization transform from an idea into a functioning body. It was an inspiration that changed the way I approach health promotion in foreign communities. Seeing the passion and potential of these young Tanzanians inspired me to support locals in developing the skills they feel are necessary to make their community a better place.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

More local involvement in local issues. Those most affected by an issue should be part of the decision making process. Their voices can identify the issues their community is facing, the root causes, and what solutions will best meet their needs. Too often foreign organizations go into a community and decide what they think the community needs. Not only is this demoralizing, it is unsustainable.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

My passion within community development is capacity building, which goes hand in hand with equitable, quality education. Education allows community members to make informed decisions about their community's future. By capacity building with local organizations, we support the skill development they feel is necessary to better their community. By building strong educational foundations for all children that are accessible and relevant, as well as providing adults with ongoing opportunities to learn, we build capacity within the next generation of leaders to change their communities.



"Seeing the passion and potential of these young Tanzanians inspired me to support locals in developing the skills they feel are necessary to make their community a better place."

Age: 24

Hometown: Medicine Hat, Alberta

Lives In: Fort McMurray, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Tanzania

Organizations:

Endeleza Vijana Organization

Students' International Health Association



photograph by: Ming Loo

Shayla Durksen



Shayla Durksen is a pediatric nurse at the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton with a passion for international development. She has travelled across the globe leading medical teams initiating malnutrition outreach to remote villages in Haiti, South Africa, and Burkina Faso. She's provided ongoing education and support to the Boura Children's Centre for abandoned and orphaned children. In order to learn more about medical issues in the developing world, Shayla studied at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Her dream is to see a world where children no longer die from preventable diseases.

What is your passion within community development?

As a Registered Nurse, health education excites me the most. Empowering local people to take charge of their health is a vital part of working with communities in developing countries. It is particularly important to educate women and kids about children's health within a population. Children are the next generation and I believe they have a vital role to play in changing the future of their countries.

Age: 24

Hometown: Caronport, Saskatchewan

Lives In: Sherwood Park, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Burkina Faso



Organizations:

Bridges of Hope*

*ACGC member organization

"I have seen children go from tiny, lifeless little bodies to thriving, healthy kids because of this simple, lifesaving treatment."

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

I am excited to be working with Bridges of Hope. I have been working with their malnutrition centre in Burkina Faso for several years. This year, we are planning to build a new treatment centre. The centre will hopefully empower the Burkinabe people to recognize signs and symptoms of malnutrition, help prevent malnutrition, and bring treatment for severe malnutrition closer to children in rural villages. I am passionate about this work because I have seen children go from tiny, lifeless little bodies to thriving, healthy kids because of this simple, lifesaving treatment.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

No poverty encompasses much of what motivates me to invest in people's health around the world. Poverty leads to hunger and an inability to afford healthcare. On my last trip to Burkina Faso, I had a life changing experience where two children – a baby who was struggling to breathe and a three-year-old who was severely malnourished – were completely wasted with no energy in the hospital. These children needed to go to the capital city to receive support, but their families couldn't afford the costs this would incur. The families had to sit there all day watching their kids suffer until they could no longer compensate. No family should be that powerless due to poverty.

Dev Dutta

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Dev Dutta is fusing art and science to impact his community positively. He is the founder and co-President of Arts For YoungSTARS, a youth organization that creates positive social change using art. Dev has also volunteered internationally at Nabo Jibon, one of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity houses in Kolkata, India working with mentally and physically injured youth. Dev worked to address homelessness as a City of Edmonton Youth Council member, is an instructor at Kumon Math and Reading Centre, and an undergraduate researcher in breast cancer research.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I would like to see a world that provides all children with resources and opportunities to help them pursue their passions and interests. I dream of a world in which all children are given access to proper education and healthcare regardless of their social status, ethnicity, or gender. I do not want poverty, health, or a lack of resources to be deciding factors in children's futures.

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

I'm excited to be working with Arts For YoungSTARS tackling social issues through art. Our mentorship-based after-school arts programs use weekly value-based art activities to build relationships between university students and underprivileged elementary students in low-income neighbourhoods in Edmonton. We instill values essential to fostering literacy and responsible citizenship at a young age. Our other initiatives include: Mindful Art Corners, which uses art to address mental health stigma on campus, and our online Green Art Gallery, which provides a platform for youth to showcase their art work globally. Our hope is to transform the online gallery into a worldwide art shop that raises money for orphanages in various countries.

“The health of the mind is just as important, if not more, than physical health.”

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I believe issues regarding physical and mental health of individuals can significantly impact the health of the entire community. Initially, I focused on creating community-based awareness through diabetes and cancer community organizations because education is our greatest ally in empowering communities to live a healthy lifestyle. However, in this hectic and result-driven world, we often overlook the mental health of those closest to us. As a psychology minor, I have begun to learn that the health of the mind is just as important, if not more, than physical health. Everyone has mental health. As a community we must all care for the holistic health of those around us.

Age: 22
Lives In: Edmonton, Alberta
Works/Worked In: Edmonton and India



Organizations:

Arts For YoungSTARS
Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity
Kumon Math & Reading Centre

photograph by: Candice Mendoza

Michael Glazier

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



For ten years, Michael Glazier has actively engaged post-secondary students in social change.

He is the Chair of the CEIBA Association's Board of Directors and has been instrumental in leading two international projects in Cuba and Uganda that engage local youth in food justice education and sustainable agriculture. Michael also coaches the Special Olympics and founded Head First Health, an organization dedicated to enhancing mental health support in the workplace and engaging youth in mental health advocacy. All of Michael's work revolves around recognizing youth as change makers and actively creating spaces for them to emerge as leaders.

What is your passion within community development?

My passion is the human experience. When you are in the service of others, every barrier breaks down – language, culture, physical, everything. The connections you make with people are infinitely

stronger. You can make a lifelong friend in a week and you can laugh with people who don't speak the same language. The smallest moments together become so profound because you are sharing being human.

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

Since my first year of university, I have been working with the CEIBA Association. While my capacity has changed from supporting roles to leadership and governance, Ceiba continues to partner with organizations that identify local needs in a specific community. The projects include everything from water systems to alternative art centres and nutritional education. We send teams abroad for a

cross-cultural experience and to support the projects' implementation. The majority of people come back saying they got more out of it than the community to which they travelled. That's the beauty: people come back from these development projects inspired to continue, to keep creating projects and initiatives that have a ripple effect across the globe.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

Inclusive education that is accessible to all. If someone has a passion, a dream, an interest, all they need is the right tools to become the best at it. Accessible education builds economies of the poorest areas and can inspire someone that has very little. Ideas inspire dreams and education can provide a framework to achieve those dreams. The thing about education is that once a skill is learned it can be taught and passed on by anyone. The ripple effect this has in communities empowers everyone from elders to children to learn more.

"Ideas inspire dreams and education can provide a framework to achieve those dreams."

Age: 28

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Uganda and Cuba

Organizations:

CEIBA Association*

Change for Children*

Head First Health

Special Olympics Edmonton

*ACGC member organizations

Sarah Hanafi

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Sarah Hanafi is an active member of the Edmonton and Montreal communities, educating and raising awareness about mental health and well-being amongst minority and immigrant communities. Sarah is a medical student at the University of Alberta and serves on the boards of the Islamic Family and Social Services Association, one of the first groups to sponsor Syrian refugees, and Canadian Doctors for Medicare.

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

As a member of the Board of Directors for Canadian Doctors for Medicare, I lobby government for evidence-based innovation in Canada's healthcare system to improve access, quality, equity, and sustainability. Currently, I'm passionately fighting for a national drug coverage plan. As a medical student, it's a very personal matter: I cannot stand by in good conscience and watch physicians be forced to provide second-line treatments because patients cannot afford recommended therapies. Every member of our community has the right to health, and access to medicines is a large part of this. I'm proud to be a part of this community of patient-centred and progressive physicians fighting for Canadians' right for drug coverage.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I hope we can build stronger communities that ignore racial, socioeconomic, linguistic, and other lines. We are stronger when we have each other to lean on. My parents are originally from North Africa and grew up in communities where they were expected to look out for one another, where the concept of family extended beyond one's home. Growing up, socio-political issues were often evaluated through this lens and I came to understand how we as Canadians could do a better job of caring for one another. I think many of our problems today are linked to social isolation and lack of community connectedness. I want to see a world where we are more connected.

“Every member of our community has the right to health, and access to medicines is a large part of this.”

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I'm passionate about reducing disparities in health, well-being, and opportunity in our communities. As a medical student, I all too often see people who cannot enjoy meaningful lives because of barriers in accessing the care they need. It's important to realize upstream factors like poverty, race, and gender often play huge roles in creating health disparities. Through my work, I'm trying to address the systemic and upstream factors that create these disparities in health and well-being.

Age: 23

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Edmonton and Canada



Organizations:

Canadian Doctors for Medicare

Islamic Family and Social Services Association

U of A Medical Students' Association

Yazan Kawar



For 10 years, Yazan Kawar has worked with Engineers Without Borders using social innovation to solve complex poverty issues. He's played many roles in the organization, including Chapter President, and spent five months in Ghana supporting a Business Development Services Africa venture helping mechanize soap-making to increase efficiencies and profits for locals. He's passionate about working with

locals as partners to empower local projects.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

A big part of what inspired me was my mother. My mother grew up in Palestine, where I was born, but moved to Toronto when I was young. She always reminded me of how lucky we were to live in Canada and to have such a strong social safety net in our tight-knit family. She never let me forget that, and growing up, she was always the most understanding and empathetic person I knew. Maybe it's because she grew up in a small town, but she brought that to Toronto.

"We are as responsible for dealing with poverty in Canada as we are for low-income countries."

What initiative are you most excited to be working with right now?

With Engineers Without Borders, I spent five months in Ghana consulting for a local business that produced shea butter cosmetics. I helped them turn their mostly handmade business into a semi-automated process. Few

people realize that almost all shea nuts come from a relatively small region in West Africa. Like many products, Western companies normally buy nuts in bulk, process them into shea butter, and then into cosmetics elsewhere. The end result is that, of the \$30 you pay for a skin cream, only a few pennies find their way back to Ghana. Our client was changing this dynamic by producing the final consumer products in Ghana, and working with women's co-operatives to source and produce the butter organically. The company was all run by locals, from the CEO to the staff.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

Ending poverty in all of its forms, everywhere. I like its ambition. It doesn't seek to reduce, but to end. I like that it uses national and absolute poverty standards and that it's universally applicable. Thus, we are as responsible for dealing with poverty in Canada as we are for low-income countries. Though we like to call ourselves developed, rich countries all have internal inequalities, and we shouldn't let ourselves off the hook by ignoring our own people.

Age: 28

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Lives In: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Ghana



Organizations:

Engineers Without Borders Canada*

*ACGC member organization

Sana Khan



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



“New business models are emerging that are inclusive of the triple bottom line of people, profit, and planet.”

Sana Khan is using international relations to bring about change. While completing her Bachelor of Commerce degree in Management at the University of Calgary, Sana worked as a Project Manager for LaunchGood, a crowdfunding startup that empowers social entrepreneurs from minority communities. Simultaneously, she volunteered with UN Women on an economic sustainability project. Since graduating, Sana has interned with the United Nations helping monitor agency performance, and she recently represented the non-profit, education, and market research sectors on her first Junior Team Canada Trade Mission to China.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

Shortly after my grandfather passed away, I finally found the guts to apply for an internship position at the United Nations in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management. My newfound courage led me to New York, where I spent a semester monitoring the performance of UN agencies and programmes. My grandfather had spent his life working with the United Nations on healthcare in the Middle East and North Africa. He started off as a volunteer, slowly working his way up to become the Chief of Mission of the World Health Organization. My grandfather is my constant source of inspiration in pursuing a career in international development. It is how I keep his legacy alive.

What initiative are you most excited to be working with right now?

In the summer of 2015, I travelled to Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Chengdu, China with Global Vision, in partnership with Canadian Consulates in China, to promote Canada-China relations and bilateral trade. I facilitated business opportunities and networks for local Canadian businesses and academic institutions. I'm currently preparing for my next trade mission to Asia in 2016. I'm extremely excited about these trade missions, as I see the impact of my work. On them, I learn directly from local entrepreneurs and business owners. The on-the-ground insight I get is unparalleled to anything I could learn from sitting in a classroom.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

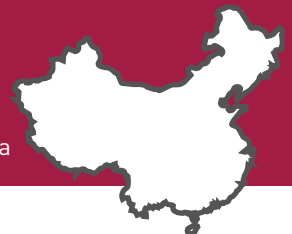
I'm passionate about the development of inclusive and resilient communities, through innovative solutions for sustained economic growth. Globally, work is still designed for a decades-old society and economic structure that no longer exists. New business models are emerging that are inclusive of the triple bottom line of people, profit, and planet. I look forward to dedicating a lifetime to this work.

Age: 24

Hometown: Ad-Dawha, Qatar

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Chengdu, China



Organizations:

Global Vision

LaunchGood LLC

United Nations Office of the

Under-Secretary-General for Management

Tahir Khan

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Tahir Khan advocates for peace and justice in the conflict-affected tribal areas of Pakistan in which the Taliban has targeted his own family. Tahir founded the Rana Foundation, which promotes education and human rights as a way to end the legacy of violence and poverty as well as counter the influence of extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Tahir has also worked as a Research Fellow for the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children in Washington, DC and aspires to cultivate a peace movement inspired by his role model, Abdul Ghaffar Khan famously known as Bacha Khan.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

At 14, my family and I migrated to Canada. I am passionate about helping Afghan children with their education because I was deprived of basic education as a child living in Buner Valley in

“Investing in the education of children is the best long-term strategy to end the legacy of conflict and poverty in Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to achieve lasting peace, stability, and prosperity.”

Pakistan. Now, each year, I visit the region, completely self-funded, to seek out disadvantaged children. I feel obligated to help them have the opportunity to reach their full potential and positively give back to their community.

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

I am currently working with Rana Foundation, a Canadian non-profit committed to helping the next generation of Afghan children access educational opportunities that will empower them to build a better future for themselves and society. As an Afghan, my personal connection to Afghanistan and Pakistan allow me to operate with a high success rate. Our localized connections differentiate us from other mainstream organizations, making us more effective on the ground.

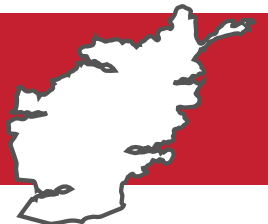
Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I would like to see all humans have access to proper education around the world. Investing in the education of children is the best long-term strategy to end the legacy of conflict and poverty in Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to achieve lasting peace, stability, and prosperity.

Age: 26

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta

Works/Worked In: Afghanistan and Pakistan



Organizations:

Afghan Canadian Students' Association
Consortium for Peace Studies
International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children
Rana Foundation

Brianne Klingspon

At 18 years old, Brianne Klingspon is a global citizen who feels a responsibility to think and act globally on issues like education and women's health. At her high school, Brianne has engaged her peers in raising awareness and funds for One! International Poverty Relief, an organization that educates children living in slums in Mumbai, India. She has volunteered at the school in Mumbai and plans to return to India in the summer of 2016.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

I was lucky to meet the founder of One! International Poverty Relief in Grade 10, and absolutely fell in love with the idea that anyone can make a difference. I have always believed it is important to have something bigger than yourself to work towards in life and though I was involved in many extra-curricular activities, I always felt a little lost. Working with One! International gave me direction. There was something bigger than my day-to-day life, which opened my eyes to what the world had to offer.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

My favorite memory is from when I lived in India working with One! International. Two teachers from the Khar School took us to the slum where many of the children lived. As we were walking, one mother came out and invited us in for tea. Though she did not know me, she knew I was a teacher at the school and opened up her home to me. I have never felt such genuine kindness and humbleness in my life. The mother was so thankful for the school and what we did, and she was willing to take care of the staff as if they were her own. I was across the world, but I felt completely at home!

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

My passion is fair education on women's health issues. When I was in India, I was astonished to hear what women have to go through every day because they are female or lack education. With more education and awareness of women's health issues, we will not only make growing up easier for many young girls, but also give them more control over their lives.



“With more education and awareness of women’s health issues, we will not only make growing up easier for many young girls, but also give them more control over their lives.”

Age: 18

Hometown: Sherwood Park, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: India

Organizations:

Hearts and Hooves Geomeer

One! International Poverty Relief *

*ACGC member organization



Christina Kruszewski

Christina Kruszewski is a model of youth engagement, leadership, and commitment to social justice. Working with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Christina has engaged hundreds of students and teachers in learning about global justice issues from food security to peace building and reconciliation. Christina is also a passionate advocate on her own time, rallying in Ottawa for mining justice.



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

I'm really excited about co-facilitating Development and Peace's solidarity tour to Bolivia. Development and Peace solidarity tours aren't your average tour. Instead of going to volunteer in Bolivia, we are bringing a group of Canadian members to bear witness to the amazing work that our partners are doing around justice issues. It's a chance to go, experience, and build community with people who are working for justice in other parts of the world. Then you bring that knowledge, understanding, interconnectedness, and solidarity back to Canada, and educate more Canadians on how good development is done. It should bring a lot of richness to the education work I do here in Canada!

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I was having a conversation with a friend recently about how the world has enough food, water, and resources to sustain the entire population, as long as those of us who have the most can simplify our lives. I would like to see a movement for lifestyle equality, one that is cognizant that we must focus on simplifying our lifestyles, rather than bringing the rest of the world up to North American levels of consumption and materialism.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

It would probably have to be climate action. People, communities, organizations, and even Ban Ki-moon



“If we don’t first address the issue [climate change] that’s affecting the way communities produce food, deal with poverty, and access water, we’ll be stuck in this cycle of solving symptoms and missing the problem entirely.”

Age: 22

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Working with Partners In: Bolivia

Organizations:

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace*

*ACGC member organization



have come forward to articulate that climate change is the single greatest threat to sustainable development. All of the goals are incredibly important, but if we don't first address the issue that's affecting the way communities produce food, deal with poverty, and access water, we'll be stuck in this cycle of solving symptoms and missing the problem entirely. Climate change is probably the most difficult goal as a lot of the onus is on us in North America, and Alberta especially, to change. But I think with a lot of pushing from governments, community development groups, and passionate individuals, we can do it!

photograph by: Marc W. Kitteringham

Anita Lazurko



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



supporting the implementation of a community-level water and sanitation committee. I vividly remember my in-country counterpart telling me, “We do not have very many resources or very much time. But this committee, this innovation, it is like our baby. We will do everything in our power to ensure its success.” His comment was powerful. His passion to create change despite the countless factors that limit progress reinforced my belief that solutions need to start with the people who understand the problem.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I want to see a world that appreciates the delicacy of our environment and its resources, and the way they are consumed and managed at an institutional and individual level. I want to see more people with a global perspective that allows them to connect with the plight of people on the other side of the world. I want to see a world that takes divergent opinions, beliefs, and motives, and turns them into something more than the sum of their parts.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

The Sustainable Development Goal that stands out for me is ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. We all consume - food, water, natural resources. Everything we consume has its benefits, and much of what we consume is essential to human life. But for a long time we have not thought proactively about the consequences of our consumption. The spread between those who are over-consuming and those who do not have enough has grown. Many in the developed world consume water in unsustainable amounts because it is available. Yet around the world the search for safe water can be a daily struggle. To me that gap is unacceptable. Closing that gap requires a global commitment to improving the interactions between the governments, corporations, and human behaviours that govern the patterns of production and consumption that exist today.

“I want to see a world that takes divergent opinions, beliefs, and motives, and turns them into something more than the sum of their parts.”

As President of the University of Calgary’s Chapter of Engineers Without Borders, Anita Lazurko has helped add global citizenship to the engineering curriculum for students across the country. She has worked in Malawi on water and sanitation issues and passionately engages her peers in conversations about extreme poverty and global development.

What’s your favourite memory from your community development work?

I worked with Water and Sanitation Hygiene Catalysts, a venture of Engineers without Borders in Malawi for four months. I was working with the government’s District Water Development Office

Age: 22

Hometown: Weyburn, Saskatchewan

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/Worked In: Malawi



Organizations:

Engineers Without Borders Canada*

Impact! The Co-operators Youth Program for Sustainability Leadership

*ACGC member organization

Juma Mbambire

Juma Mbambire is an inspiration for many people both within his community and abroad. He co-created a documentary called *The Lion and the Chairman* with funding from the Government of Germany. Telling the story of Juma's community of Lesoit (a very rural Maasai area in Northern Tanzania), *The Lion and the Chairman* raises awareness of the importance of education for both girls and boys and the role of the local, Indigenous knowledge that the Maasai possess. Juma is a firm believer that Maasai knowledge will be vital in protecting the fragile forest environment. Juma also participated in the Canada World Youth program.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

I was very fortunate to be part of one of the first tri-lateral teams of youth participating in a Canada World Youth exchange program between Tanzania, Kenya, and Canada. Spending nine months volunteering in these three countries gave me a much larger understanding of what it means to be a global citizen and inspired me to bring the lessons I learned back to my community. Upon returning home, I started training other community members on sustainable bee-keeping, and worked closely with the district to find funding to implement a program that would bring eco-stoves to the area, reducing the need for deforestation and airborne pollution in the home.

What is your passion within community development?

I think that one of the most important things in sustainable development and poverty reduction is recognizing and valuing the important role that Indigenous knowledge plays in ensuring a healthy population, and how Indigenous knowledges can complement more science-based agricultural and health practices. I have seen in my community what can



“I have seen in my community what can be accomplished by including Indigenous knowledge in development solutions.”

be accomplished by including Indigenous knowledge in development solutions.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about the goal to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. I live in an area of Tanzania where we have to be very careful of how we manage our limited natural resources. There are many pressures on our land from farming, grazing, and the harvesting of wood and other forest products. By looking at how we have managed our resources in the past, we can find solutions that will help us save the forest and land for ourselves and future generations. By working together, we can live in harmony with our environment.

Age: 30

Hometown: Lesoit, Tanzania

Works/ Worked In: Tanzania



Organizations:

Canada World Youth*

*ACGC member organization

Shaheed Murji



Shaheed Murji is passionate about reducing inequalities in rural Ugandan education. Working with Learning Beyond Borders, a program of HEAL International, Shaheed has broken fundraising and membership records. His work has helped children in two Ugandan villages successfully complete primary school and helped to open another community's first secondary school. At home, Shaheed is studying Computer Sciences to become an audiologist. Born deaf, he wants to inspire other hard of hearing and deaf children to never let their disability stop them.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

I was raised to help others, every chance I get. Despite being born deaf, my parents pushed for me to actively participate in many clubs and strive to be a leader and mentor for others. They got me involved in virtually every volunteer organization around me when I was young, exposing me to new people and the feeling you get from helping others. I started with Learning Beyond Borders after visiting a primary school in Kenya at age ten. Seeing the kids' happiness after giving them school supplies inspired me to continue improving education for those without adequate access.

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

Having started the Learning Beyond Borders club at the University of Calgary last year and with already over 75 members, my goal is to keep the ball rolling. Learning Beyond Borders strives to improve the quality of education for primary students in western Uganda through raising awareness and funds. During everything I do for Learning Beyond Borders, I keep the children of Uganda in my mind, reminding myself why I am doing this. When things seem impossible, the kids help me break the barrier and do what needs to be done.

“When things seem impossible, the kids help me break the barrier and do what needs to be done.”

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am most passionate about ending poverty. Quality education is also very important to me. Alleviating poverty addresses the issue of quality education, which in turn leads to a better quality of life. Through my firsthand experience, I have seen education's importance and ability to push a person further in life. I have also seen the struggle those in poverty face to take care of their families, homes, and attend school. Poverty must be addressed since there is a bridge between the two goals.

Age: 19

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Uganda



Organizations:

Learning Beyond Borders

Ismaili Volunteer Corps

Ismaili Students Association, University of Calgary

Kabir Nadkarni



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



“Returning to Alberta made me critically re-evaluate the role I should be playing – as an engineer, an entrepreneur, and an Albertan – in resolving problems like climate change and energy poverty.”

Kabir Nadkarni is committed to action and tangible results. He believes in sustainable clean energy and that engineers have a key role to play in building a more sustainable world. Kabir has volunteered with SunSaluter, which provides sustainable clean energy to over 300 villages in Malawi. As an engineering student and Loran Scholar at the University of Alberta, he has also worked hard to bridge the gap between science and community development through his work with the Science Expo Youth Empowerment Group, which has connected over 2000 Albertan students to community opportunities.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

One of the most impactful experiences I've had was a three-month internship in Lilongwe, Malawi with the social enterprise

SunSaluter. SunSaluter enables communities to build sustainable businesses and community development models through its simple solar panel tracking and water filtration system. Designed for the developing world, SunSaluter works in partnership with local entrepreneurs to scale up its projects. As an intern with their new Malawi operations, I witnessed firsthand the impact distributed electrification and clean water can have on a community. Returning to Alberta made me critically re-evaluate the role I should be playing – as an engineer, an entrepreneur, and an Albertan – in resolving problems like climate change and energy poverty.

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

This year, I got involved in municipal governance through the City of Edmonton Youth Council. As the Chair of the City Planning and Infrastructure Committee, I lead a team of ten young Edmontonians advising Council on topics including sustainable urban growth, public transportation, net zero schools, and legislating the right to a healthy environment with the Blue Dot initiative. I'm excited that it gives me the opportunity to relate my engineering background to urban development.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

From my experience in Malawi last summer, I am most passionate about ensuring access to affordable, clean energy for all. While it might seem disconnected from the other goals, I've seen first-hand how it relates. Providing access to electricity in off-grid communities in Malawi means students can study beyond daylight hours (helping provide inclusive and equitable education), while not having to use wicker candles and expose themselves to toxic fumes (promoting good health). That is why I am so passionate about affordable, clean energy.

Age: 19

Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario

Lives In: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Malawi and Edmonton



Organizations:

City of Edmonton Youth Council

Science Expo

SunSaluter

Nosipho Ngqula



“When you identify the challenges most communities face, poverty is often the root cause.”

Nosipho Ngqula is a leader and role model in Hamburg, South Africa. Working with the Keiskamma Trust’s Music Academy, Nosipho mentors girls at the Academy. She also includes boys in her sessions, recognizing their role in decreasing unwanted pregnancies and eliminating gender stereotypes. Nosipho provides career guidance and counselling within the education program and facilitates debates for young people. In her spare time, Nosipho founded a community choir for youth in the village and volunteers with community health workers.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

When I was struggling as a young person in this small community, I always wished someone with more knowledge and resources would offer to help. Now that I have more knowledge, I want to become the person I always longed for. I am familiar with the challenges young people face everyday, including peer pressure and struggling with identity. I know how it is to come from a poor background. It makes it easy for young people to be involved in things that will destroy their future. Having too much time on our hands, not knowing what to do with it, can be distractive. Hamburg United Youth Choir is one way of making sure that young people are investing their time in something constructive.

What is your favourite experience from your community development work?

I facilitate young people in discussions about the different challenges they face, like crime, teenage pregnancy, and peer pressure, and how to overcome these challenges. After one of our meetings, a young girl said to me, “What you said today changed my life in a way

that you would never imagine.” This touched me because I knew I had made a difference in someone’s life, that I have given back to the community what the world has given to me.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Many communities suffer from absolute poverty, especially in rural settlements. When you identify the challenges most communities face, poverty is often the root cause. For example, why do we have so much crime? Because, when people are trying to make ends meet, the easiest way is through crime. If poverty can be looked at and solved, many other problems would disappear.

Age: 29

Hometown: Hamburg, South Africa

Works/ Worked In: South Africa



Organizations:

Keiskamma Canada Foundation*

Keiskamma Trust

Hamburg United Youth Choir

*ACGC member organization

Salvatory Nkunu

Inspired to action after seeing poverty around him, Salvatory Nkunu works with Huduma kwa Watoto na Familia (HUKWAFA), HUKWAFA is an initiative funded by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church North America and supported by the Canadian Moravian Mission Society, which works to support families in the remote village of Mwanza, Tanzania. He visits local families advising parents and children to attend school, encouraging parents to send both girls and boys to school, and telling parents how important it is to take their children to the hospital if they are sick. Salvatory believes that health and education are essential aspects of improving lives. He was chosen by the community elders to attend a Care of Child program and has returned to the community to share the lessons he learned. Salvatory also aspires to teach people within the community how to modernize the way they farm and participates in microcredit opportunities.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I would like to see a world where children are given the right to speak and children from poor families are given the provision of free education. I want to see more availability of playgrounds for children. I want to see those who are wealthy, whether individuals, organizations, or countries, helping those who are poor.

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

I'm most excited to be working on the HUKWAFA Project, an initiative funded by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church North America. We work to take care of children and families who are living a difficult life. They don't have food, safe drinking water, access to education, or money to pay hospital or school fees. What HUKWAFA has done, which inspires me, is that they started making sure poor families are in good health by distributing nutritional food every month. Then, they give health insurance cards for treatment in government hospitals, supply school uniforms and pay school fees for students who are in the program. They support groups by funding their projects including pottery, farming, and trading initiatives.

Age: 27

Hometown: Gininiga, Tanzania

Works/ Worked In: Tanzania

Organizations:

Canadian Moravian Mission Society*

Children Right Dependant

Human Rights Resource Project

*ACGC member organization

**4 QUALITY
EDUCATION**



"I would like to see a world where children are given the right to speak and children from poor families are given the provision of free education."

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

Of the Sustainable Development Goals, I'm most passionate about quality education. I am passionate about educating communities to be self-dependant and to value education. I also recognize that to reach these goals, good health is very important to everybody.

Madeleine Pawlowski

Madeleine Pawlowski is passionate about ending inequity in our world. She has interned at the World Health Organization in Geneva, with the Corporate Social Responsibility department at Scotiabank, and in Costa Rica with the CEIBA Association's partner Fundación Operación Gaya Internacional, a non-governmental organization focused on youth empowerment. Madeleine has been heavily involved with Canada's Student Refugee Program at McGill University where she studied international development and health geography. A keen proponent of asset-based development, Madeleine has taken the key lessons from her degree and is sharing them with young activists in her hometown.

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

I am excited about an initiative I started with the Coady International Institute and the OceanPath Fellowship. I realized many lessons from my degree would have been useful when organizing community development projects in junior high and high school. Thus, I created an initiative to educate Albertan students on how to engage in par-

"Our current reality, where women are missing from critical decisions on education, health, and the environment, is incredibly detrimental to moving forward on virtually all development agendas."

ticipatory and sustainable development. Lessons include citizen-led development, approaching the media, and the local and global roots of poverty and inequality. I'm currently supporting a group of junior high students doing an art project to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

What change would you like to see in the world?

I want to see more young people more involved in social justice, and more confident in their ability to navigate the complexities of development work. I want young people to be critical of the tactics used to help those less fortunate, especially when volunteering abroad. Working overseas can easily create narratives all about the Canadian development worker and their contributions, instead of about the community we've been welcomed into, their resiliency and efforts to which we are only lending support. Ultimately, this type of thinking can perpetuate inequalities and produce unhelpful power dynamics that hinder equality.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

Reducing inequality is the goal I am most passionate about, particularly the inequality of women and Indigenous peoples. Our current reality, where women are missing from critical decisions on



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



education, health, and the environment, is incredibly detrimental to moving forward on virtually all development agendas. Secondly, we need to close the glaring education and health gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. The fact Indigenous schools on-reserve receive twenty percent less funding per student than provincial schools is not just wrong but immoral. No matter where they are in the world, a child is a child.

Age: 22

Hometown: Sturgeon County, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Switzerland and Costa Rica

Organizations:

Alberta Teachers' Association*

Canadian Humanitarian*

CEIBA Association*

Coady International Institute

World Health Organization

*ACGC member organization



Kiera Prasad

Kiera Prasad is a global citizen inspiring volunteers to make a difference around the world. Past President of the Students' International Health Association (SIHA) at the University of Alberta, Kiera has spent time volunteering in Tanzania. She helped start an education program with a Maasai community to promote more open, inclusive, and accessible education on maternal health, an often reserved subject. Doing her after-degree in nursing, Kiera is hoping to connect her passion for community development with nursing.



What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

Like all good stories, mine began with a book. Beginning university, my world view was self-centered. Then I took a postcolonial literature class and read books that transformed my perspective. They exposed me to the cultural legacies of imperialism and enduring power structures in the world around me. I couldn't stop seeing omnipresent systems of representation constructing a binary between those of privilege and marginalized others. I switched my minor to English, dove into critical thinking, and sought opportunities to engage in social change. Soon after, I discovered the Students' International Health Association (SIHA).

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

I'm excited about SIHA. SIHA is a student-run organization that promotes health through sustainable community engagement. I've spent 20 weeks in rural Tanzania contributing to our projects including local capacity building, maternal health, malaria, and HIV/AIDS education programs. I've come to understand that the multidimensional complexities of health issues, which create further disparities, are aggravated by self-centered mindsets that devalue the "other." This systemic lack of empathy diminishes our insight into positive global citizenship, and hinders our capability to build awareness or foster health equity. To make health a solution in and of itself is an ongoing challenge, but I have faith in an approach that humanizes, and is collaborative and critically self-reflective.

"To make health a solution in and of itself is an ongoing challenge, but I have faith in an approach that humanizes, and is collaborative and critically self-reflective."

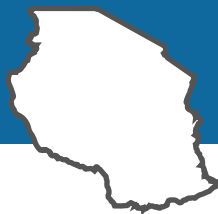
Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

Peace, justice, and strong institutions speaks to me the most. The goal identifies the multifaceted causes of systemic inequities and the need for a solution that puts the onus on societal structures and institutions. Considering the way society can institutionalize individual acts of oppression and perpetuate a cycle of powerful ideas, I think this goal is extremely important. Development cannot be sustained if only a portion of the population is included, given access, or made accountable. Goal 16 challenges the lack of inclusivity and accountability, to push towards a sense of unified responsibility and solidarity.

Age: 22

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Tanzania



Organizations:

Students' International Health Association

Women's Empowerment International Foundation*

*ACGC member organization

Loyce Siima



“The choice [of whether and when to have children] is fundamental in improving quality of life around the world.”

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

I was born in an underprivileged community where socio-economic levels are low, and I have experienced the rough and tumble side of life. Becoming the Country Director in Uganda for Ainembabazi's Children's Project, I felt it was pertinent to help others, to provide a shoulder for them to rest on.

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

I am excited to be building a partnership between Ainembabazi's Children's Project and Marie Stopes Uganda to offer family planning methods to rural and urban communities. Family planning is a pillar of socio-economic development. By offering women quality family planning and reproductive health-care, we give women the choice of whether and when they have children. This choice is fundamental in improving quality of life around the world. In September 2015, we were

able to do our first training in two rural communities on family planning. We were able to see the misconceptions and misunderstandings that people still hold, including ideas like “if you don't produce a boy, you are not counted as a woman in a family,” and “producing many children means wealth.” We were able to discuss and explain these misconceptions and members left knowing the advantages of family planning.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about gender equality. In most cases women are marginalized and yet they play a key role in the socio-economic development of a community. The disenfranchisement of the female gender puts community development at stake. I want to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, so we can develop our communities to have equitable distribution of resources.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



For the past five years, Loyce Siima has been the Uganda Country Director for the Ainembabazi Children's Project. She has redefined the organization, bringing a fresh approach to development. Managing a team of five Ugandan staff, Loyce develops innovative solutions for

isolated and economically marginalized communities by listening to and implementing the community's knowledge and ideas. In a place where women are often voiceless, Loyce is a leader and challenger. She is defying norms and breaking ground towards real, meaningful change in Uganda.

Age: 27

Hometown: Mbarara, Uganda

Works/ Worked In: Uganda

Organizations:

Ainembabazi Children's Project*

Marie Stopes Uganda

*ACGC member organization



Asha Siad



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Asha Siad is a documentary filmmaker and journalist striving to illuminate

marginalized voices and underreported stories. Asha works to promote diversity within traditional media and cultivate nuanced perspectives. She presented and produced Shaw TV's *Reserving Identities* and *New Beginnings* series. In 2013, Asha went to Italy to produce *Living at the Border*, a multimedia project that documents the realities of African refugees navigating the asylum system in Europe. She explored how refugees build and rebuild makeshift communities despite government attempts to shut them down. The project won the Amnesty International Canada Media Award in 2014.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

As a journalist and documentary filmmaker, I strongly believe it is vital to explore narratives in a way that creates positive change and understanding. Early on in my life, I understood the power of storytelling. I knew stories could transform. Through media, I want to share untold stories that inspire people to expand their world. I am

"When media professionals take the initiative to dig deeper and search for different perspectives, stories gain the potential to heal and can promote a more peaceful, inclusive society."

driven to produce stories that go beyond informing and challenge the spaces we inhabit as media professionals and media consumers. I specialize in providing innovative platforms for marginalized voices to reach mainstream audiences. My goal is to create dialogue.

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

I am currently co-directing a film for the National Film Board of Canada. *19 Days* is a short documentary following a refugee family's first days in Canada at the Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre. The only centre in Canada in the form of a house, it accommodates 80 refugees at a time for up to 19 days from when they first arrive in Calgary. The documentary will give audiences a glimpse into the realities of resettling in a new country and the complexities surrounding the migration process.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I believe that it is vital to promote a peaceful and inclusive society in order to provide access to justice for all and build effective institutions at all levels. In media, we hear, see, and listen to the same narrative repeated over and over again, which gives stories the potential to harm. Stereotypes can emerge and communities can feel defined by one story. However, when media professionals take the initiative to dig deeper and search for different perspectives, stories gain the potential to heal and can promote a more peaceful, inclusive society.

Age: 24

Hometown: Mogadishu, Somalia

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Italy and Canada



Organizations:

National Film Board of Canada

Oxfam Canada*

Women's Centre of Calgary

*ACGC member organization

Fartoon Siad

1 NO
POVERTY



“Through my work with vulnerable populations in Calgary, the goal is always to alleviate poverty and human suffering.”

Born in Somalia and raised in Canada, Fartoon Siad works hard to give back to her local and global community. Fartoon co-founded Step UP for Somalia, and raised over \$33,000 for Oxfam Canada’s East African Famine Relief Fund. She serves as a community health educator for newcomers with Calgary’s Immigrant Women’s Association. She was also a production assistant on the Shaw Community TV productions *New Beginnings* and *Reserving Identities*, following the lives of Canadian newcomers and Aboriginal youth. To explore these ideas more fully, Fartoon is pursuing a Master’s degree in Community Health Sciences specializing in Population and Public Health at the University of Calgary.

What is your passion within community development?

My passion within community development is driven by health inequities and their causes at a local and global level. I work with immigrant and refugee populations on a number of health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. My focus on newcomers is due to the widespread impact migration has on health. Resettlement stressors like cross-cultural communication, unemployment, lack of education, access to vital health services, and navigating unfamiliar environments, all pose challenges on a day-to-day basis. Maintaining good health is vital for successful settlement and integration of newcomers into society. That is why health education for newcomers is important as they bring many strengths and assets to Calgary including professional and educational experiences, cultural diversity, and new and innovative perspectives.

What have you learned?

You are not a product of your circumstances. You are a product of your decisions. While we come from different backgrounds and walks of life, we all face challenges – big and small. But we cannot let them hinder us. I have learned to view each challenge as an opportunity to grow and develop, and put my best foot forward in any task. No matter the outcome, I know I can be proud of my efforts.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I want to see an end to poverty in all its forms, everywhere. Poverty is multifaceted with social, economic, and political elements. Poverty is also inextricably linked to poor health. Those living in poverty face environmental health risks, are less well-nourished, have less information, and are less able to access healthcare, all leading to a higher risk of illness. Through my work with vulnerable populations in Calgary, the goal is always to alleviate poverty and human suffering.

Age: 23

Hometown: Mogadishu, Somalia

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Somalia and Calgary



Organizations:

Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association

Mosaic Refugee Health Clinic

Oxfam Canada*

*ACGC member organization

Chelsey Smith



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Chelsey Smith is passionate about ending gender-based violence. In Edmonton, Chelsey organizes film screenings, talks, and panel discussions, including Girl Rising YEG, for community and government to come together and have action-oriented conversations about social change. Chelsey promotes peace and justice in a global context by volunteering on the ground, supporting children's rights in Ghana, and combatting gender-based violence in Swaziland. Chelsey completed her Master of Arts degree in Intercultural and International Communication in November 2015, where she researched the role of digital communication in social movements including the #BringBackOurGirls campaign. Chelsey currently works with TGNP Mtandao, a feminist organization working to transform Tanzanian society by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and other marginalized groups.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

Learning about disparity and my own privilege inspired my work in development. I acknowledge my privilege and try to live consciously. I've always drawn inspiration from being surrounded by strong and empowered women.

Age: 27

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Edmonton,
Swaziland, Tanzania



Organizations:

Crossroads International

Junior Chamber International Edmonton

TGNP Mtandao

"I've always drawn inspiration from being surrounded by strong and empowered women."

What is your favourite experience from your community development work?

It is extremely gratifying to witness the ripple effect of your efforts, and inspire others to be involved in justice and development. My favourite memories are simply of people approaching me at community development events to ask me about my work. I've been flooded with questions like "how can I help my community?" and "what can I do to advance the rights of women and girls?". Inspiring others to learn and care about our world is what it is all about.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am most passionate about gender equality and education. Much of my volunteer and advocacy work is in support of women and girls, and addressing the challenges they face including maternal mortality, human trafficking, sexual and domestic violence, and barriers to education and justice. It is a priority for me to support the rights and well-being of women at home and abroad. This is important because violence against women and girls is a global pandemic that can be combated with education, community buy-in, and political will.

Ginger Sullivan

Ginger Sullivan links human rights, justice, and the field of nursing. She is a vocal advocate for those who are disenfranchised and works to promote social justice in numerous ways, from facilitating nursing exchanges to being a conscious eater. Ginger is the Director of Global Nursing at University of Alberta, teaching nursing students global and mental health. Ginger has been on exchange to Ghana and teaches that global health is more than just treating disease, and instead involves empowering those in local contexts to achieve good health through community solutions.

What changes would you like to see in the world?

I want to see a future where women are equal citizens, valued equally in our homes, workplaces, communities, and institutions. I would like the world to be a place where girls go to school, where they are not overworked and underpaid, and childbirth is seen as a beautiful experience rather than a health risk. I would like to see a place where violence against women is unacceptable and girls do not go missing, but instead are cared for and loved. These are big challenges and I think it is time to move beyond rhetoric and start creating this world.

What is your favourite memory from your community development work?

My first trip to Ghana as a nursing student was particularly impactful. Arriving in Ghana was like putting on a new pair of glasses; everything was different, including the food, the weather, and the language. I was working with women affected by obstetric fistula, a childbirth injury leaving women incontinent, and witnessed how poverty, gender, politics, and privilege profoundly affected their lives. Upon my return, I saw my home through this new lens. I began to ask myself what role I had in it. How could I attend to these challenges? I realized that what we do in one part of the world can and does impact people we may never know or meet.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am particularly passionate about protecting our planet from climate change. I feel very strongly that as a global community we must not forget that this is a shared home that we all have a responsibility to take care of. The unwillingness of some communities to participate or recognize climate change is not an excuse. We all need to contribute and take all the action that we can.



“I realized that what we do in one part of the world can and does impact people we may never know or meet.”

Age: 28

Hometown: Provost, Alberta

Lives In: Edmonton, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Ghana and Edmonton



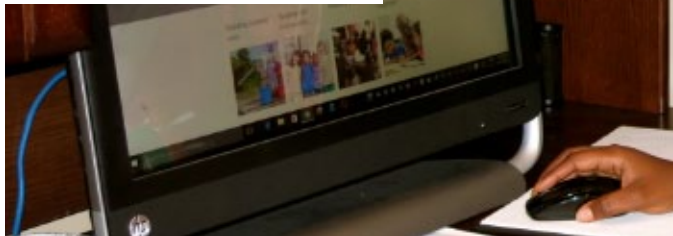
Organizations:

Canadian Association for International Nursing

Homeless Connect

Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton

Catherine Tsobgny



“I am firmly convinced that losing a language is akin to losing a cornerstone of your accumulated knowledge, history, culture, experience, and diversity.”

Catherine Tsobgny has lived in Cameroon, France, and Canada, giving her a unique outlook on the world which she applies to her social justice and international development work. After completing her Master's degree in International Corporate Management in Lille, France, Catherine moved to Canada and is now the Director of Marketing and Communications at the Cameroon-Canadian Foundation. The Foundation works to relieve poverty, advance education, and provide healthcare in Cameroon.

What first inspired you to make a difference in the world?

Although I am a French and Canadian citizen, I spent most of my childhood in Cameroon. In my family giving back was central to our education, so it seemed natural to get involved. Growing up, my parents always ensured we had food to give people in the

village when we went. After doing so one day, my mother pulled us aside and told us, “When you have been fortunate enough to be healthy, to have something to eat, clothes on your back, and parents to watch over you, you should always think of others less fortunate.” This has been my motto ever since

and what drove me to be involved in community development.

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

I am excited to be working on the Cameroon-Canadian Foundation's new language learning program. The program provides free sessions of English and African languages. For it, I organized a panel discussion on the social issues surrounding endangered languages. I am firmly convinced that losing a language is akin to losing a cornerstone of your accumulated knowledge, history, culture, experience, and diversity. While the population of people of African origin living in Canada – and particularly Calgary – has grown considerably, our languages and mother tongues are disappearing rapidly.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals are you the most passionate about?

I am passionate about all of them. As Ban Ki-moon said, “Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight.” Eradicating poverty is perhaps closest to my heart. Relieving poverty is essential because it has a ripple effect on all facets of society. Thus, I'm working with the Cameroon-Canadian Foundation to build an orphanage in Limbe, Cameroon. We provide orphans with a structure not only to access education, food, and a roof over their heads, but also the opportunity to make their dreams come true.

Age: 30

Hometown: Douala, Cameroon

Lives In: Calgary, Alberta

Works/ Worked In: Cameroon and Calgary



Organizations:

Cameroon-Canadian Foundation

World Map

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
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Sarah Hanafi
Christina Kruszewski
Kabir Nadkarni
Asha Siad
Fartoon Siad
Chelsey Smith
Ginger Sullivan
Catherine Tsobgny | 3 Michael Glazier | 10 Tahir Khan | 16 Catherine Tsobgny | 20 Elliot Cudmore
Anita Lazurko
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| 2 Neema Amadala | 4 Madeleine Pawlowski | 11 Tahir Khan | 17 Fartoon Siad | 21 Elliot Cudmore |
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Juma Mbambire
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Ginger Sullivan | | |
| | 9 Dalal Awwad | | | |



ACGC Members 2015

Interested in getting involved? Reaching out to an ACGC Member organization is a great way to start. With members working around the world in all kinds of different areas, someone is working in an area you care about. Many of our members also have Twitter and Facebook pages!



Ainembabazi Children's Project (ACP)
www.ainembabazi.org



Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan)
www.cw4wafghan.ca



Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA)
www.teachers.ab.ca



Canadians Reaching Out to the World's Children Foundation (CARO)
www.carocanada.ca



Altamas for Peace and Development Association
www.altamas.ca



CAUSE Canada
www.cause.ca



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



CEIBA Association
www.ceibaassociation.com



Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies
www.bridgesofhope.ca



Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
www.cawst.org



Calgary Board of Education Global Learning Program (CBE International)
www.cbeinternational.ca



Centre for Global Citizenship Education and Research (CGCER)
www.cgcer.ualberta.ca



Canada World Youth (CWY)
www.canadaworldyouth.org



Change for Children Association
www.changeforchildren.org



Canadian Association for Participatory Development (CAPD)
www.capdcalgary.org



D. Keith MacDonald Foundation
www.dkmfoundation.org



Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
www.devp.org



energy4everyone
www.energy4everyone.com



Canadian Humanitarian
www.canadianhumanitarian.com



Edmonton Public School Board
www.epsb.ca



Canadian Moravian Mission Society
www.moravian.ca



Engineers Without Borders
www.ewb.ca



Canadian Peacemakers International (CPI)
www.cpi-cpf.ca



Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning
www.fourworlds.ca



Ghost River Rediscovery Society
www.ghostriverrediscovery.com



Global Education Program, University of Alberta International (UAI)
www.international.ualberta.ca/globaled



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



John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (JHC)
www.jhcentre.org



Keiskamma Canada Foundation
www.keiskamacanada.com



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



Maharashtra Seva Samiti Organization (MSSO)
www.mssoonline.org



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



Marda Loop Justice Film Festival (MLJFF)
www.justicefilmfestival.ca



Mennonite Central Committee Alberta (MCC)
alberta.mcc.org



Micah Centre, King's University College
www.micahcentre.ca



Mission of Mercy (MoM Canada)
www.missionofmercy.ca



Nafasi Opportunity Society
www.nafasi-opportunity.org



One Child's Village (OCV)
www.onechildsvillage.org



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



Operation Eyesight Universal
www.operationeyesight.com



Optometry Giving Sight
www.givingsight.org



Oxfam Canada
www.oxfam.ca



Rainbow for the Future (RFTF)
www.rainbowtf.org



Rainbow of Hope for Children
www.rainbowofhopeforchildren.ca



ReadAfrica
www.readafrica.ca



Rotary Club of Edmonton (Downtown)
www.edmontonrotary.ca



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



Samaritan's Purse Canada
www.samaritanspurse.ca



Sinkunia Community Development Organization
www.sinkuniacommunity.org



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



Sombrilla International Development Society
www.sombrilla.ca



Tebi Kuma Ollennu Foundation for Community Development (TKOFCD)
www.tkofcd.org



True Vision Ghana (TVG)
www.truevisionghana.org



United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC)
cal.unac.org or edmonton.unac.org



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

Know A Top 30?



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Thank you to all of the 2016 Top 30 Under 30 participants, nominators, and nominees. The work you do is an inspiration to all!



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