



SDG 17 focuses on the need for global partnerships and collaborative processes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

**The Learning
Institute**

Many community foundations are exploring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within their planning, granting, convening, Vital Signs and more. This Fact Sheet is part of a series that focuses on specific SDGs to engage and inspire community foundations of all sizes to deepen their work around these goals.

What is this approach?

The [targets of SDG 17](#) include working in partnership with countries recovering from colonization to advance the SDGs through financial aid, debt sustainability assistance, investment, knowledge and technology sharing, fair trade and market action, and capacity building. SDG 17 embodies a spirit of global cooperation with targets that encourage international partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaborations to achieve the SDGs.

Today the world's 15 richest countries account for 84.3% of global wealth ([source](#)). They have generated much of this wealth from colonization ([source](#)), and currently more wealth from countries recovering from colonization flows to the more affluent nations ([source](#)), than the other way around. In 1970, the world's richest countries pledged to donate 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to support development in these countries ([source](#)). While official development assistance (ODA) reached record highs in 2020, this was still only 0.32% of donors' GNI versus the pledged 0.7% ([source](#)). Remittances in 2020 were almost three times the amount of ODA, while the debt burden of countries recovering from colonization has remained largely unchanged since 2015 ([source](#)). If countries recovering from colonization are expected to take action on the SDGs, then the richest countries need to shift power and wealth to create an equitable approach.

In terms of partnering for the SDGs, international cooperation is lagging behind ambition with less than half of 114 countries reporting progress in strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs in 2018 ([source](#)). Canada's financial assistance to countries recovering from colonization has increased slightly to 0.31% of GNI, and Canada accepted the highest number of refugees in the world in 2018 ([source](#)). However, 0.31% is still significantly less than 0.7%. Canada still significantly benefits from colonization and, despite promising a "nation-to-nation" partnership, significantly underfunds Indigenous peoples ([source](#)).

With multilateral and global partnerships already challenged by scarce financial resources, trade tensions, technological obstacles and a lack of data, the COVID-19 pandemic has administered an unprecedented shock to the global system. The pandemic has focused attention on the crucial role of global partnerships. The interconnected global economy requires a global response to ensure that all countries and territories, in particular countries recovering from colonization, can address the compounding and parallel health, economic and environmental crises in order to recover better.

— [UNITED NATIONS SDG 17](#)



Canada's national approach to SDG 17 includes a commitment to the global community and continued support for international partnerships, innovative financing, transfers of science and technology, and data transparency. The national co-leads for SDG 17 are Global Affairs Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. Their national approach to SDG 17 brings a strong focus on supporting women, girls and gender-diverse individuals both at home and abroad. At home, Canada is embracing the principles of SDG 17 through a whole-of-government approach that brings together departments and agencies to collaborate in achieving the SDGs.

Canada's national approach to SDG 17 focuses on (source):

- Meaningful and active engagement with the civil society sector and fostering a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can thrive around the world.
- The Feminist International Assistance Policy, placing gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and gender-diverse individuals at the heart of global cooperation.
- Support for voices and knowledge from countries recovering from colonization through research and support for academic communities.
- An expanded engagement with the private sector in support of sustainable development.
- Well-planned and well-managed immigration as essential factors to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and long-term prosperity.
- Prioritizing international assistance to communities made vulnerable to climate change.

While a core focus of SDG 17 is support for countries recovering from colonization, Canada's approach must also include reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, given the ongoing legacy of colonization and the continued wealth Canada generates from Indigenous lands. The 94 Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) emphasize the need to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). A total of 144 countries, excluding Canada, voted to adopt UNDRIP in 2007. Canada only passed UNDRIP into law in 2021. Adoption of UNDRIP means Canada recognizes that "Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination." The TRC also calls on Canada to update the citizenship process for newcomers to include education on Indigenous peoples and their histories, including the history of treaties and the traumatic legacy of residential schools. Because of this country's history and commitment to UNDRIP, any discussion of advancing SDG 17 must include reconciliation.

At the local scale, SDG 17 means partnership and cooperation between all individuals to achieve the SDGs in our communities.

Local approaches to SDG 17 include support for:

- Local refugee resettlement programs.
- Cultural exchanges between communities.
- Local multicultural societies, centres and events.
- Educational programs around and support for human rights, including UNDRIP.
- Fair trade products and Fair Trade Town designation.
- Community collective impact projects that bring together diverse community groups to solve local problems.
- Global citizenship education in schools, colleges and universities.

Why is it important for grantmakers?

Canadians tend to value partnerships and collaboration. A 2015 poll of 1,008 Canadians found that the vast majority (94%) said it is important to improve health, education and economic opportunity for the world’s poorest people ([source](#)). There are currently 7,624,610 people living in 27 Fair Trade Towns across Canada, all of which have committed to supporting the principles of fair trade through ethical and sustainable purchasing choices ([source](#)). Between November 2015 and February 2016, Canadian individuals and community groups collaborated to sponsor 40% of the 25,000 Syrian refugees resettled in Canada ([source](#)).

Canada’s population makeup is also changing. Newcomers account for 22% of the population in Canada ([source](#)), while large cities have much higher newcomer populations (44% in Toronto and 38% in Vancouver) ([source](#)). Indigenous populations are growing at faster rates than non-Indigenous populations ([source](#)).

Canadian grantmakers can respond to these values and trends and embody the ethos of SDG 17 through a growing focus on collaborative grantmaking. This includes collective impact partnerships with other funders, civil society organizations, Indigenous-led organizations, governments and the private sector.

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Fair Trade

Fair trade changes the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in countries recovering from colonization. The fair trade approach enables farmers and workers to have more control over their lives and decide how to invest in their future.

— [FAIR TRADE INTERNATIONAL](#)

Canada still faces multiple challenges for achieving SDG 17, and grantmakers are a key component for achieving a whole-of-society approach to the SDGs. The support of grantmakers is required to make Canada a more just and welcoming country and to advance belonging. The pandemic has seen a rise in “othering” and a fear of difference. Anti-Asian hate crimes have increased across the country. The Vancouver Police Department registered an increase of 717% in anti-Asian hate crimes in 2020 ([source](#)), while a poll of 2,471 respondents (including 956 new Canadians) the same year found that 64% of newcomers were afraid of rising discrimination during the pandemic ([source](#)).

There is also growing concern with the rise of racist and anti-immigrant far-right nationalists and white supremacy groups that are increasing in number and activities in Canada ([source](#)). The Government of Canada recently launched [a program to support multiculturalism and anti-racism initiatives](#), and there is an opportunity for grantmakers to do more to confront racism and support collaboration in their communities.



In an interdependent and interconnected world, countries’ ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not only determined by domestic efforts, but also by actions taken in and by other countries. Such spillover effects need to be measured and understood to achieve the SDGs.

— [SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK](#)

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Spillover Effect**

In a highly interdependent world, countries' actions can have positive or negative effects on other countries' ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). International spillover effects occur when one country's actions generate benefits or impose costs on another country that are not reflected in market prices, and therefore are not "internalized" by the actions of consumers and producers. Such spillover effects can undermine other countries' efforts to achieve the SDGs.

— [SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK](#)

The SDGs are universal: they apply to all countries everywhere, and they are integrated. This means that progress or failure on one goal will have impacts on all the others. Canada's progress on the SDGs should not come at the expense of other communities around the world, and grantmakers need to consider this "spillover" of their grantmaking activities here in Canada. An example of a negative spillover might be purchasing low-cost plastic products or clothing for a community garden fundraiser. Although the event would advance food security (SDG 2) locally, the purchase of the items may negatively impact workers (SDG 8) or their environment (SDG 14 and 15). Positive examples with no spillover could include incorporating fair trade products and policies into grantmaking, and building relationships with Indigenous-led organizations as well as organizations that work internationally. Canada ranks 20th out of countries with the highest spillover effects ([source](#)); this poses a challenge for grantmakers to ensure that any progress on the SDGs at home is not having a detrimental effect on communities abroad.

At the national scale, [Alliance 2030](#) brings together domestic and international organizations to support work on the SDGs at home and abroad. A collaboration between many organizations advancing the SDGs and hosted by Community Foundations of Canada, Alliance 2030 brings together over 1,500 organizations to share ideas, raise awareness and build relationships for SDG action.

Community foundations are also part of a global movement of community-based philanthropy; 2,400 organizations around the world are creating many opportunities for international partnerships, learning and collaboration to advance the SDGs ([source](#)).



Alliance 2030 is a national network of organizations, institutions, and individuals committed to achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. We believe these goals can be accomplished both in Canada and abroad by working creatively and collaboratively at both the local and global level.

— [ALLIANCE 2030](#)

In Canada, community foundations are coming together to take action on SDGs by weaving local-global connections, welcoming newcomers, valuing diverse cultures and supporting new forms of partnership and collaboration:

- The Victoria Foundation supported [entrepreneur training for newcomers](#), including 14 refugees from Syria, and provided access to micro-lending and networking events.
- Edmonton Community Foundation supported the [Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative](#), which seeks to meet the unique food security needs of ethnocultural minority communities.
- Hamilton Community Foundation participated in the [Welcoming Communities Task Force convened by Mohawk College](#), which led to the development of a multi-year action plan to ensure newcomers and international students feel safe and welcome in the community.
- Rideau Hall Foundation, in collaboration with CFC and Universities Canada, runs the [Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships \(QES\)](#) program. The program supports global citizenship through a community of young leaders and scholars that are engaged in global issues, international education and cultural exchanges. QES is supported by the Victor Dahdaleh Foundation.
- Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF) and the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation (CND CF) have partnered with the Immigration Partnership of Waterloo Region to launch the [Immigration Partnership Fund for Immigrant and Refugee Initiatives](#). This fund supports refugees arriving in Waterloo Region. In 2021, KWCF donated an additional \$20,000 to the fund to support the resettlement of Afghan refugees.

Common principles to get started

SDG 17 is an opportunity to explore your community's global connections and relationships with local First Nations. How do newcomers and Indigenous peoples experience your community, and do they feel like they belong? Which individuals and local groups are working on global issues, advancing Indigenous rights or partnering with communities in other countries? How do the issues that you are working on connect with those of other community foundations around the world?

01 Learn and understand

- Use Vital Signs and Vital Conversations to better understand the unique needs of newcomers and Indigenous peoples in your community. See the [South Saskatchewan Community Foundation's 2016 report focused on newcomers](#), or [Edmonton Community Foundation's 2019 report focused on Indigenous women](#).
- Learn more about SDG spillover effects by visiting the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\) website](#).
- Read the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and explore how you can incorporate its principles into your work. See this [guide for funders and UNDRIP](#) by International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, and this [guide on Indigenous charities](#) by the Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.
- Learn more about the organizations and individuals in your community that are working on global issues. Visit the [SDG Movement Map](#) to find international groups in your community or visit the webpage of the [Inter-Council Network](#) to connect with your provincial network.

02 Strategic grantmaking

- Provide unrestricted funding to Indigenous-led organizations.
- Fund community campaigns and support services to end hate crimes. See Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation’s support for the [Together Project](#), which brings a “restorative justice responses to Islamophobic hate incidents.”
- Provide targeted funds to support newcomers to integrate and thrive in their new communities.
- Fund the work of multicultural societies and centres that value various cultural expressions within Canadian communities.
- Maintain dedicated funds so you are ready to respond to refugee crises when they arise and provide ongoing support for resettlement. See the [Immigration Partnership Fund for Immigrant and Refugee Initiatives](#).
- Support global citizenship education programs in your community. See the work of the [Global Citizenship and Equity Education Professional Network](#) and the [Canadian Commission for UNESCO](#).

03 Lead and collaborate

- Consider becoming a [Fair Trade Workplace](#) and encouraging your municipal government to become a [Fair Trade Town](#).
- Learn about local Indigenous communities and how you can partner with them. See how the [Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta](#) facilitates partnerships with local Indigenous communities.
- Partner with other community foundations and grantmakers to create pooled funds and collaborate in supporting newcomers. See the [Immigration Partnership Fund for Immigrant and Refugee Initiatives](#).
- Partner with educational institutes to help international students, and support cultural and learning exchanges with students from countries recovering from colonization. See the work of [Mohawk College](#).
- Learn more about collective impact approaches by visiting the [Tamarack Institute website](#), and explore ways to partner with new stakeholders in your community and across the country.
- Consider using the SDGs as an opportunity to collaborate with new partners, including organizations that are working on the SDGs internationally, and explore learning and collaborative fundraising opportunities. See CFC’s [SDG Guidebook and Toolkit](#).

Resource list

The Circle

- Resources and invitations to the philanthropic sector to relearn a way of knowing that is in alignment with Indigenous ways of knowing, being and stewarding resources.

Philanthropy's Role in Addressing the Global Refugee Response Crisis

- A short online article that provides an overview of grantmaker approaches.
- An outline of four key challenges for funders working with refugee resettlement.
- Six strategies that funders often use when supporting refugees.

Philanthropic Strategies to Support Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- A 32-page report that provides case studies of philanthropic support for refugees.
- Pages 8-27 present case studies from around the world.

SaskCulture: How Can We Build It in Our Organization?

- An online tool kit for developing a culturally competent approach to community building.
- Resources for integrating diversity into your own organization.
- Resources for understanding and supporting multiculturalism in your community.

Community Foundations and International Giving

- Pages 7-10 look at steps and tools for getting started in global engagement.
- Pages 10-13 focus on networks and mechanisms for supporting global initiatives.

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through Fair Trade

- A 20-page report that looks at the role of local authorities in supporting the SDGs through fair trade practices.
- Useful ideas for engaging with municipalities in fair trade initiatives.

#ShiftThePower: The Rise of Community Philanthropy

- Provides an overview of the global movement of community philanthropy organizations.
- Explores the role of community foundations as international development actors and the growth of global alliances and collaborations among foundations.

The Intersector Toolkit: Tools for Cross-Sector Collaboration

- A report that provides support for organizations looking to collaborate outside their sector including with government, the private sector and civil society.
- Pages 4-7 provide an overview of the key steps and tools for collaboration.
- Pages 8-41 provide detailed descriptions of each tool and how to use them.

Community Foundation Strategic Alliances: Partnering for Impact and Sustainability

- Pages 5–8 provide case studies of effective collaborations between community foundations with a focus on Canadian examples.
- Pages 8–14 explore areas for collaboration including programs and community funds.
- Pages 20–26 look at key stages of collaboration and provide success strategies.