



Save the Children



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS**

In September 2015, world leaders adopted ambitious global action plans through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The result was 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were developed to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

The 2017 Federal budget consultation provides an opportunity for the government of Canada to align the budget with Agenda 2030. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is the principle that no one is left behind and that no goal is met unless it is met for everyone. As Europe and the United States turn inward and the voices against immigration and global and regional collaboration get louder, Canada stands out for its calls for more inclusion, greater respect for multiculturalism and pluralism and as a champion of the most excluded including women and girls and Indigenous peoples. Canada must be a bold voice and be visionary in its implementation of Agenda 2030 as part of its domestic agenda as well as its international assistance strategy. Only by doing so, will Canada rise as a world leader in sustainable development.

If we are to succeed in our efforts to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we will have to fully realize our aspirations to ensure that international assistance and development reflect rights-based principles including universality, equity, participation, interdependence and interrelatedness, and accountability.

For the 'Canada is Back' commitment to be realized, Canada must have renewed and robust multilateral engagement on the challenges that face the world. That engagement will require increased investments over time. Goal 17 of Agenda 2030 calls for strengthened global partnerships and for developed countries to meet their ODA commitments to reach 0.7 per cent of GNI and further to focus .15 to .20 per cent of ODA to least developing countries. Specifically, Canada should invest its international development assistance strategically in the following ways:

RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Canada should champion a gender transformative approach to development and humanitarian work, and tackle the root causes that perpetuate gender inequality and unequal power relations. Through funding, policy development, technical support and demonstration of best practice, Canada should be a leader in funding gender transformative programming.

Health

Save the Children recognizes that Canada has been a global leader in maternal and child health. **Canada should continue to investment in:**

- I. The prevention of under-five mortality

2. Addressing child and early forced marriage, which is a key contributor to preventable maternal and newborn death; and
3. Must do considerably more to address access to reproductive health care for women and men, and especially for adolescent girls and boys
4. Increased Canadian investments to promote the reproductive and health rights.
5. Access to quality services and information, that is age- and culturally appropriate for adolescent girls and boys.

Education

1. Canada should **support the creation of a signature program/funding envelope** to invest and support **culturally relevant quality education for Indigenous children around the world**, that ensures the transmission of traditional languages and culture while preparing them to fulfill their life plans for the betterment of themselves and their communities.
2. **Invest in safe, accessible and quality education initiatives and support partnerships between the Canadian INGO and Canadian academic sector (colleges, universities)** to help to maximize learning for adolescents/youth,

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH/CLIMATE CHANGE

Save the Children applauds Canada's commitment to invest \$2.65 billion in climate change adaptation in developing countries.

1. Ensure climate investment prioritizes flows to local communities for climate adaptation and resilience.
2. Put young people at the heart of Canadian efforts to support inclusive economic growth; by supporting adolescent and youth programming which promotes social and economic empowerment for girls and boys to successfully transition to decent livelihoods and work, and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Such programming would include:
 - a. Promotion of integrated transferable skills (life-skills) training, including Adolescent Sexual, Reproductive Health, functional literacy and numeracy, financial literacy and savings, and disaster risk management through formal and non-formal education.
 - b. Access to decent and practice-based productive education which equips young people with market-driven and technical skills for sustainable, climate-smart industries. This may include apprenticeships, internships, entrepreneurship initiatives, and vocational training in both formal and non-formal education settings.

RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

1. Invest in a **Canadian Humanitarian Innovation Fund** to pilot scalable innovative solutions to challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance.
2. Ensure **dedicated funding for Gender Based Violence prevention and response in humanitarian contexts** from 2017-2020. Prioritize comprehensive and integrated programming and potentially research to build a stronger evidence base.
3. Canada, in line with its focus on fragility, children's rights and its leadership as a member of the High Level Steering Group should invest in **Education Cannot Wait** platform.
4. Provide access to a **pooled fund managed by vetted/recognized partner Canadian INGOs** to provide rapid response grants for medium to catastrophic scale sudden onset emergencies. The goal of such a pooled fund would be, for NGOs to respond to new crises on the ground within **one week** of the disaster occurring or being declared, and increase efficiency of disbursement and management of funding.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING

1. **The DFI should focus its investments on SMEs and social enterprises in developing countries** that are focused on responding to key development or environmental challenges.
 - a. Community level renewable energy projects
 - b. Development of new technologies for humanitarian response (ex. shelter and WASH systems)
 - c. New technology to improve yield, address food waste, improve transport/distribution systems for small-holder farmers, particularly women and youth
2. To increase Canadian public support for development – **increase the tax deduction for charitable donations so that it is in line with the tax deduction received for political donations**

PARTNERSHIPS WITH CANADIANS

1. Create funding and policies (including CRA policies) to **facilitate the secondment of private sector experts to NGOs in order** to facilitate skills building, communications and robust partnerships.