



CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH

Canada funds the Commonwealth and its institutions through assessed and voluntary contributions as a member state of the Commonwealth, in order to advance development priorities. Canada's support helps improve the lives of the more than 2 billion citizens of Commonwealth countries. It goes toward areas such as the empowerment of women, governance and the rule of law. Canada's support helps to address the unique needs of small states, amplifying their voices in multilateral forums.

In 2017-2018, Canada contributed \$7.9 million in assessed contributions to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation. Earlier, in 2015-2016, Canada renewed its institutional support to the Commonwealth of Learning for \$7.8 million over three years. Canada contributed \$2.6 million in 2017-2018 as part of that broader commitment.

By the end of 2017-2018, the Commonwealth of Learning's education resources and models had reached 580,380 learners (more than half were women and girls). As well, 120 institutions had taken up and implemented open, distance and technology-based learning models. Fifty governments and institutions had developed and adopted such learning policies for quality learning in Commonwealth countries.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO LA FRANCOPHONIE

Canada's commitment within La Francophonie enables it to promote its values and advance its development priorities. In 2017-2018, Canada contributed \$8.6 million in voluntary contributions to the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and \$3.6 million to the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie for the implementation of programming related to ODA.

Canada's support to La Francophonie contributes to numerous development outcomes. For example, between July 2016 and June 2017, Canada's contributions helped to strengthen the capacity of more than 18,400 teachers and tutors through the Francophone Initiative for Teacher Distance Training. This is a joint initiative of the OIF and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie. The initiative is being carried out in 11 countries: Haiti, the Comoros, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Chad, Togo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Canada has been the largest contributor to the OIF program in support of entrepreneurship for women and young people in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa. Canada contributed \$10 million to this program from 2015 to 2018. This investment supported collaborations with more than 37 business incubators in 13 countries in francophone sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2015, the program has strengthened the entrepreneurial capacities of 11,500 women and young people.

Canada has also contributed to OIF efforts to support the integration and enhancement of women and youth in policy and development processes. In November 2017, these efforts led to the launch of the Francophone Network of Women Entrepreneurs. This network aims to create a space for exchange, interaction and information for women entrepreneurs. Canada also actively participated in the development of La Francophonie Strategy for the Promotion of Equality Between Women and Men, Rights and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. This strategy will be adopted at the Francophonie Summit in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2018.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, is supporting efforts to strengthen health systems and improve the health of children, young girls and women—including mothers—in vulnerable situations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a result, in 2017-2018, 13 health policies and strategies to strengthen health systems were developed in eight countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname. In addition, 11,025 people (of whom 7,812 were women) were trained on gender-sensitive health and nutrition services. A further 11,000 women were sensitized to issues related to empowerment. These issues included entrepreneurship, leadership, participation, and right to paid work.

The joint efforts of Canada and the Pan American Health Organization also yielded these results in 2017-2018:

- in Nicaragua, 100% of children born to mothers in maternity waiting homes (over 11,000) were breastfed exclusively;