

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's Official Development Assistance.

In accordance with Canada's Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, we continue to meet the criteria of the Act and we are proud with our long-standing efforts to reduce poverty around the world, while also taking the perspectives of the poor into account and aligning our efforts with international human rights standards.

In order to improve accessibility and transparency, this year's report is delivered via a dynamic online platform. This platform enables Canadians to engage with visuals and clickable media to support easier access to information, with better linkages to showcase the work of Canada around the world.

The Prime Minister has given me the mandate to refocus international assistance on the poorest and most vulnerable and on fragile states. He has also asked me to position Canada as a leader in development innovation and effectiveness, including by strengthening aid transparency and supporting better data collection and analysis, and by examining current and new aid delivery mechanisms and partnerships.

After a year of consultations with over 15,000 people in 65 countries, I am proud to have launched Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. This policy reflects the contributions of stakeholders and remains true to Canadian values. The priority action areas are based on clear evidence and take into account Canada's experience and comparative advantage. The policy is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to eradicate poverty by the year 2030. It is also aligned with the Paris Agreement, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. Canada has adopted the new Feminist International Assistance Policy to promote gender equality and help empower all women and girls. For Canada, this is the most effective approach to reducing poverty and building a more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous world.

For our assistance to have the greatest possible impact, we must be not only determined, but also creative, flexible and rigorous in our approach. We must be innovators ourselves and encourage innovation through our funding mechanisms and by forming new partnerships. Canada now has the capacity to play a leading role on the international stage. This leadership is translating into results. I am lending my

voice to supporting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls in all of their diversity. They can count on the commitment and expertise of Government of Canada staff in Ottawa and in our missions around the world, as well as the invaluable contributions of our many Canadian partners, with whom we are strengthening our ties.

In 2016-2017, Canada provided \$5 billion in official development assistance. This report summarizes the contributions of 19 government departments and agencies, and collaboration with over 500 Canadian partners and various international and local organizations, to support sustainable development around the world.

As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I believe that all Canadians can take pride in the contributions we have made to making the world a better place, and being leaders in pushing the boundaries of change. The Canadian spirit of generosity and compassion is apparent in the continued work of Canada to do its part, helping the poorest and most vulnerable by implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that no one is left behind. This report showcases stories and results of Canada's efforts in 2016-2017 to help end poverty and build a better world.



The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie