

Most public policy research and advocacy by CCIC members is directed towards the Government of Canada and, through it, towards multilateral institutions like the United Nations and its agencies, the World Bank, the IMF, NATO, or the World Trade Organization. Some of it addresses multilateral institutions directly. Work that addresses the corporate sector is also included. Increasingly, companies in the private sector and international regulatory bodies have greater impact on people's lives than national governments, and this is reflected in the focus of policy research and advocacy by many of the members. The study does not survey the programs of CCIC members working with partners on policy research and advocacy in relation to governments in the South.

For each of the policy areas above there is a broader policy community, typically composed of government officials, elected representatives, corporations, the media, organizations in civil society, and individual activists, academics, and researchers, not to mention the public at large. This map looks only at one component of civil society -- the organizations, institutions, and churches that concern themselves with international co-operation.

The survey shows the international co-operation sector at a time of transition. Organizations that have traditionally worked on programs overseas are taking a greater interest in Canadian public policy. Organizations that have focused primarily on Canadian domestic issues are finding national boundaries less relevant. The labour movement, the environmental movement, the peace movement, the women's movement, and the human rights movement all overlap with the international co-operation sector. Each is an international movement and increasingly internationalist in outlook. It is far beyond the scope of this study to survey each of these larger movements, however. The result may be that the total capacity for work on the goals and objectives embraced by the CCIC's policy program is not accurately reflected in each policy area.

Despite a long-term increase in the level of interest and activity by Canada's international co-operation NGOs in policy research and advocacy, there has been a decline in capacity in recent years. This was evident with almost every interview. The most seriously affected were NGOs that have relied primarily on CIDA for their funding, but all organizations have been affected by declining revenue to some extent. Many have had to reduce the staff and resources devoted to policy work, to focus on a smaller range of issues, or to close down their policy work completely. It is unfortunate that this should be happening at the very time the Government of Canada and many multilateral organizations are making serious efforts to include organizations in civil society in their policy processes.