



Advocating for the human rights of older women
Défense des droits de la personne des femmes âgées

GRAN Update - January 2025

GRANs Participate in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, Human Rights Day, the UN's [16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence](#) is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls everywhere. On December 6th in Canada we also mark the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) on the anniversary of the massacre of women at the École Polytechnique in Montreal.

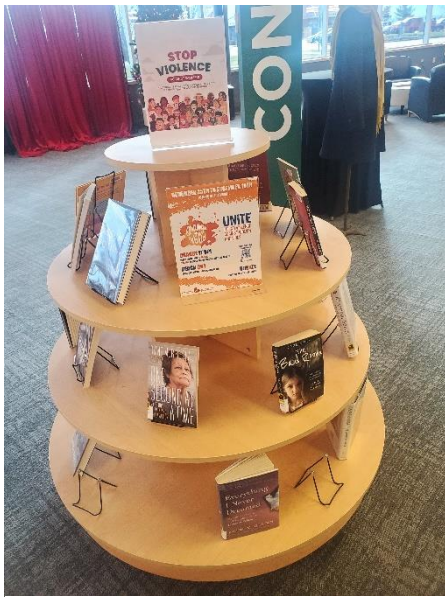
In the months of November and December, GRANs worked in their communities to raise awareness and build support for action on gender-based violence. Thank you to all GRANs who sent in pictures! The photos below show the results of much hard work, strong partnerships, and local connections. Check out the [Orange Campaign Photo Gallery](#) on our website for more.



GTA GRANs at flag raising at Toronto City Hall, with Mayor Olivia Chow



Greater Vancouver GRANs host *Orange the World* lunch.



GRAN Quinte Display, Trenton Library



Victoria GRANs attend December 6th Memorial Service



Ottawa Gatineau GRANs at Mayor's Proclamation on Gender-Based Violence



A Greater Vancouver GRAN "oranged" her own front door!

Child Hunger

The campaign planning team met recently to discuss next steps. We finalized plans for our upcoming Learning Event with Dr. Tina Moffat on Wednesday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m. ET. (If you've not done so yet, you can register [here](#).) As a follow-up to the Learning Event, we'll be providing a Letter-to-the-Editor template for you to use to raise public awareness about child hunger and malnutrition. You can submit it to your local newspaper or a community newsletter, or use the template to create a Facebook post or an email to those in your social network. We hope GRANs will think of creative ways to get the word out on child hunger to build public support for action by our government.

The campaign team also spent some time reviewing some of the upcoming plans of GRAN Regional and Watch Groups. For example,

- Ottawa-Gatineau GRNs are planning a learning event on February 20th with speakers from Save the Children and Feed Ontario.
- Members of GRAN Brighton will be making presentations to small groups in their community.
- GRAN's Education Watch Group is planning a learning event for us all on March 27th.
- Greater Van GRNs are organizing a workshop with the charity Feed the Hungry.



grandmothers
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des
grands-mères

grandmothersadvocacy.org

We are delighted with the way GRNs across the country are taking on this issue and would love to hear of outreach activities planned in other regions. Please let us know what's happening in your corner of the country.

The campaign team identified the need for additional resources to support your awareness-raising efforts, for example, a ready-to-go Power Point Presentation on child hunger and a list of useful resources with links to handouts, backgrounders, and videos, etc. We'll let you know as soon as they are ready! (In the meantime, check out the resources currently available on our [Child Hunger](#) webpage.)

**** An important reminder **** The postal strike is now over. If you haven't already, please send your [Act Now to Feed Our Future!](#) postcards to MPs (also available in [French](#)) and let us know how many you've sent (or distributed to others). Just send us a short email at info@grandmothersadvocacy.org We want to track our joint efforts.

Education

The Education Watch Group is planning a webinar in late March on the importance of school feeding programs. We are hoping to feature a local program underway on Vancouver Island as well as hearing from a representative from a UNICEF feeding program in Africa.

For decades, Canada has been one of the few wealthy countries without a national school food program. Instead, we have had a patchwork of offerings all over the country. Many of these programs, which might offer free breakfast, snacks, or lunch, have been forced to rely on donations, piecemeal funding, and volunteers. This is about to change. In April of last year, the government of Canada announced a commitment of \$1 billion over five years to create the

[National School Food Program](#), which will offer meals to hundreds of thousands of children annually.

Over 388 million children in at least 161 countries – 83% of all countries globally – receive free or subsidized school meals at school, according to the World Food Programme. Two programs, one in Manitoba, and the other in India, are examples of successful school meal programs. Take the time to read about them here: [Thirty More Schools Provide Student Meals](#) (Manitoba) and [Inside the World's Largest School Meal Programme](#) (India).



Climate Justice

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29) was held November 11-22 2024, in Baku Azerbaijan. This meeting of world leaders was named “The Finance COP”, as it was the occasion for renewal of international climate financing by wealthy nations. Sadly, the outcome of the negotiations was a grave disappointment to many, including developing countries and civil society organizations. See statements from [Climate Action Network Canada](#) (CAN-Rac) and [CAN International](#), and also this newsletter from [Power Shift Africa](#). While food was on the agenda again for this year’s COP with an entire day dedicated to food, agriculture, and water, recent analysis shows that very little climate financing reaches [small-scale farmers](#).



As this year’s COP was drawing to a close, there were calls from climate scientists, low-income countries, and former global leaders for a change in the way climate negotiations occur. While there is general agreement that these Conferences of the Parties are necessary for global climate negotiations, they fall far short of the urgent and transformative actions needed. See the [open letter](#) to Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and [this article](#) on how the COP process could be improved.

Mining Justice



Photo courtesy of The Guardian

El Salvador Overturns Metals Mining Ban, Defying Environmental Groups -- The landmark prohibition on metals mining in El Salvador in 2017, a world first, has been reversed by authoritarian leader Nayib Bukele, but the move has met fierce resistance from environmentalists. President Bukele pushed for the legislation that will grant government sole authority over mining activities, and on December 23, 2024, the El Salvador Congress voted to overturn the ban on metals mining,

prioritizing economic growth over environmental concerns. You can read more about what this might mean for the health and safety of El Salvador's watercourses and its citizens [here](#).

Deep-Sea Mining 101 -- Excerpt from *EcoWatch*: "There are many environmental reasons not to pursue deep-sea mining — its impacts on marine animals and the environment, as well as its ecological implications. As we stand on the cusp of a full transition away from fossil fuels to a world powered by green energy and a circular economy, it is essential that we focus our energies on sourcing minerals in a way that doesn't decimate habitats and ecosystems. To do this, we must prioritize increased critical minerals recycling, ethical land-based mining practices and improved product designs so that they can be used and reused longer without needing to be replaced, thereby reducing demand for these elements." Read the full report [here](#).

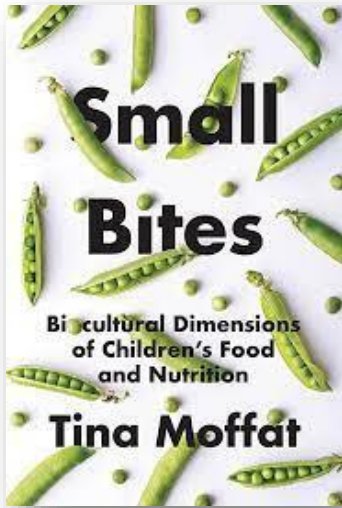
February Fundraising Campaign



Coming soon! February is GRAN's fundraising month. We do this just once a year to raise funds for our work together. Your donations support our advocacy efforts, our website, communications, and learning events, and also cover conference registrations and membership dues to our partner organizations. We also designate funds to support regional GRAN groups planning special events and outreach. We are proud to accomplish a lot on a shoestring budget!

Please know that any donation, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated and gratefully accepted. You can donate by e-transfer, online with a credit card (through PayPal), or by cheque. [Click here](#) to go to our donations page for further information. Many thanks for all the many ways you contribute to the work of GRAN.

Book Corner



Small Bites: Biocultural Dimensions of Children's Food and Nutrition by Tina Moffat

Anthropologist Dr. Tina Moffat is interested in how the children of the world are fed. In *Small Bites* she investigates how children are fed in school and at home in Nepal, France, Japan, Canada, and the United States. She draws on extensive anthropological research to explore the biological and sociocultural determinants of child nutrition and feeding. Are children naturally picky eaters? How can school meal programs help to address food insecurity and malnutrition? How has the industrial food system commodified children's food and shaped children's bodies? Dr. Moffat's work sets a course for food policy, schools, communities, and caregivers to improve children's food and nutrition equitably and sustainably.

The author will be our guest speaker at the GRAN Learning Event on January 22nd. You can read more about Dr. Moffat's research in [this review](#) of her book in the *Nepali Times*.

Action and Learning

Send postcards to MPs urging Canada to pledge \$750 million at the Nutrition for Growth Summit coming up in March. [Click here](#) for more details, with links to printable postcards in English and French.

Improvements in Child Nutrition: A Case Study from Nepal -- Join us for this GRAN learning event on Wednesday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m. ET with guest speaker [Dr. Tina Moffat](#) of McMaster University. Dr. Moffat's research focuses on maternal-child health and nutrition, food insecurity, immigrant dietary change, and social and cultural dimensions of food and nutrition. [Register here](#).