



## **International Assistance – Backgrounder**

***“We support Canadian Aid -- we want Canada to be there -- whenever and wherever we are needed. We want Canada to help rebuild a world of hope, resilience and self-sufficiency. Together we can make a difference at home and abroad.”*** -- [Quote taken from *Bigger than our Borders* web site]

Yes, we can make a difference, but Canadian aid spending has dropped to 0.27% of GNI (Gross National Income), nearing an all-time low. This, in spite of the commitment Canada made in 1970 to a 0.7% target, our support for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the ambitious vision laid out in Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy to eradicate poverty and build a more prosperous and inclusive world.

A five-year review of Canada’s development work done by the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee concluded that Canada is not doing its share when it comes to official development assistance (ODA). It said, “Canada needs to increase foreign aid flows in line with its renewed engagement.” <https://bit.ly/2TpWaAy>

Canada’s Standing Committee on Finance (an all-party committee which provides Budget proposals to the Minister of Finance) recommended in 2019 that our government begin increasing its spending on Canadian aid beginning in Budget 2019, with 3-year rolling targets to reach our 0.7% target by 2030.

In its 2019 Election Platform, the Liberal Party (now government) committed to ***“...continuing to increase Canada’s international development assistance every year towards 2030, reflecting our commitment to realizing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.”***