



Albertans are making a difference!!

Did you know that there are more than 50 Albertan organizations that are working to ensure that global human rights and poverty reduction targets are being met?

Albertans are making an incredible contribution to the betterment of our world – but so much more needs to be done. Now is the time for you to join with other Albertans to take on a leadership role!

Today, **July 7, 2007 (07/07/07)** is a significant date in the struggle for the alleviation of global poverty.

In September 2000, Canada joined 188 other countries in the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These 8 goals provide a framework for our commitment to the alleviation of global poverty by the year 2015.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality and empower women.
- Reduce child mortality.
- Improve maternal health.
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
- Ensure environmental sustainability.
- Develop a global partnership for development.

07/07/07 marks the halfway point for the achievement of these goals. Unfortunately, we are lagging far behind. In fact, if we continue at this pace we will not reach these goals by 2015!

There is very little in the 2007 Federal Budget that will help us achieve these goals. While the Budget promised an increase to global development assistance, it fails to improve Canada's Foreign Aid spending as a percentage of the Gross National Income. **This was a key promise of Stephen Harper in the last election!** It is estimated that Canadian Official Development Assistance will amount to 0.32% of our Gross National Income. This is not even half of the target of 0.7% to which Canada has committed!!!

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. ACGC and its members are committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and indigenous cultures. We work towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world with dignity and full participation for all.

We need your active involvement!!!

But what can I do?

In order for the Goals to be reached by 2015, a drastic change needs to happen. The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation and its member organizations are urging you to become involved and take action. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- Learn about the Millennium Development Goals. The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation website has some useful information. Check it out – www.web.ca/acgc.
- Contact organizations in your area that are working on these issues. Ask them how you can get involved. The ACGC website has a list of its member organizations – this is a good place to start!
- Make the links between the local and global. Poverty is not just an issue in developing countries. Rates of homelessness in Alberta are skyrocketing. Child poverty in this country is still at a critical level. Volunteer with local organizations that are working to make a difference here at home.
- Write or meet with your MP. Ask them about their commitment to the MDGs and how they are working to ensure that Canada fulfills its promises. Urge them to support and work towards establishing a timetable to reach the 0.7% target by 2015. The ACGC website has information that can help you write a letter to your MP.

Creating a better world is everyone's responsibility!! You can make a difference! Get involved!

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation

(For a listing of ACGC members please visit www.web.ca/acgc)