



News release
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2016 CCIC Awards Recognize Innovative and Effective Public Engagement Campaigns and Women's Rights Projects

Ottawa, May 11, 2016. At a special Awards Dinner taking place at the National Arts Centre, and in the context of its annual conference, the [Canadian Council for International Co-operation](#) (CCIC) awarded four prizes to Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) working in international development, in recognition of their innovative and effective projects.

“Every year, it is both a pleasure and a challenge to recognize the most innovative and impactful projects in the sector, as we have so many amazing nominations to choose from”, indicated CCIC President-CEO Julia Sánchez. This year the Awards fell into two categories: best Public Engagement Campaigns (engaging Canadians on global issues) and Women's Rights Projects.

“2015 was an exciting year for all of us involved in global issues, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement and a federal election at home” said Ms. Sánchez. “With these Awards we recognize two organizations who were successful in engaging Canadians on key development issues, and two who have implemented an impactful project on the ground in relation to women's rights,” she added.

The Awards Dinner brought together 150 people from the international development and humanitarian assistance community and Canada, and featured opening remarks by MP Karina Gould, Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of International Development.

In the **Public Engagement Campaigns category**, the winning organizations are:

-The [Ontario Council for International Co-operation](#) (OCIC) for its photojournalism project called ***Transformations: Stories of Resilience, Partnership and Positive Change in Nepal.***

Transformations was launched during International Development Week 2016 through a number of activities, with physical and online exhibits. The project uses photojournalism as a tool to demonstrate the direct impact of a very effective partnership between two very small organizations working in solidarity to empower the most marginalized women in rural and remote communities in Nepal, despite complex socio-economic and political challenges in a post-humanitarian crisis situation.

-[16 CCIC member organizations](#) who actively engaged in the ***Up for Debate*** campaign and contributed to its success.

Up For Debate was a public advocacy campaign to get all federal party leaders to participate in a public debate on women's rights as a part of the 2015 federal election. The intention of the campaign was to

put women's rights at the centre of each party's thinking as they developed policy platforms throughout the election. When leaders wouldn't come to the table, Up For Debate went to Plan B and pushed for one on one exclusive interviews with each leader on the issues. This campaign brought together domestic and international organizations to advocate for collective changes and commitments by our government.

In the **Women's Rights Projects category**, the winning organizations are:

-[Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights](#), for its **effective merger of three sexual and reproductive health organizations and for creating a stronger voice for sexual and reproductive rights and health, both in Canada and globally.**

Through amalgamation, this organization has built a foundation where their global and domestic policy agenda's inform one another, and where questions of health access and equity are informed by a broad network of organizations and allies, and individuals both in Canada and globally. As part of national and global movements and in conjunction with partners in the Global South, Action Canada continues to work in global advocacy spaces like the UN Human Rights Council as well as domestically on SRHR policy issues relevant both in Canada and globally.

- [Léger Foundation](#) and partner organization SWAYAM, for the project entitled ***Reduction of Gender inequality and Gender Based Violence in West Bengal, India*** and for the long standing partnership between the 2 organizations.

Since 1997, supported by the LÉGER Foundation, SWAYAM has helped thousands of women address violence and inequality in their lives and communities. The current 3-year project focuses on empowering women survivors of violence and creating a society that rejects patriarchal norms that either ignore or validate gender-based violence. While gender-based violence in West Bengal has gained worldwide attention, SWAYAM is a leading force consolidating civil society to fight for women's rights.

The CCIC Innovation and Effectiveness Awards were created in 2013 to celebrate excellence in international development and humanitarian assistance.

-30-

Notes:

- The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) is Canada's national coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs) working globally to achieve sustainable human development. Our members represent a broad range of CSOs working in international development and humanitarian assistance — from faith-based and secular groups to labour unions, cooperatives and professional associations. CCIC seeks to end global poverty and to promote social justice and human dignity for all.

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