

News Release  
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**Seeking political party to realize Canada's global leadership potential**

Ottawa, October 9 2015. With just over a week before the elections, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) is disappointed with the limited attention given by political parties to global poverty issues. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, it will release a summary of responses from all parties on key international development questions.

“Canada has fallen behind in terms of its relative contribution towards international development efforts” said Julia Sánchez, the President-CEO of CCIC. “With a new set of global goals just [adopted at the United Nations](#), and the additional challenges posed by climate change and growing inequality, more than ever Canada needs to contribute its fair share and show leadership on the global stage”.

In reacting to the electoral platforms released by the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party of Canada, CCIC believes that both parties have missed an opportunity to put Canada back on track as a global leader in international development and humanitarian assistance.

“We can do better than this as a country, and we know that Canadians expect more from their government” highlighted Ms Sanchez. “Our overall global engagement has all but vanished, [as many reports have shown](#). Over the last decade, Canada has steadily decreased its contribution to development assistance, through a series freezes, cuts and budgetary lapses, registering the second largest drop in aid levels of any OECD country in 2014. During the same period, countries such as the UK and Norway have reached the internationally recognized goal of 0.7% of GNI, while facing more restrictive domestic economic conditions.”

The Liberal Party of Canada has made no commitment in its platform to reverse the cuts made in recent years, only stating that it would not allow any more lapses in ODA funding. Currently the NDP is the only party that has committed to increasing the development budget. However, this increase of \$500 million over four years is not sufficient for Canada to meaningfully contribute towards meeting the growing needs of the world's most vulnerable. This commitment will not even see Canada go above its current level of 0.24% of GNI, the second lowest level reached since the former Canadian International Development Agency was established in 1968.

Will political parties commit to re-establishing Canadian global leadership in the next parliament? CCIC has invited party leaders to complete a questionnaire on their positions on a number of issues related to global poverty and inequality, including the new Sustainable

Development Goals, women's rights and climate change. CCIC will share their responses on Friday October 16, on the eve of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct.17).

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