Alliance 2030: Canada and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

March 23, Vancouver Public Library

Alliance 2030: Canada and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was a day-long meeting hosted in Vancouver on March 23 by Alliance 150, British Columbia Council for International Co-Operation (BCCIC) and Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). The event brought together the public, private and philanthropic sectors to reflect on what can be done to advance the country's role in achieving the SDGs, including the formation of an emerging network called Alliance 2030.

The event was opened by Shane Pointe, Knowledge Keeper of the Musqueam First Nation who spoke about our need to act quickly, decisively, and together.

We then moved into a panel discussion with Mike Simpson, BCCIC, Julia Sanchez, Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), and Andrew Chunilall, Community Foundations of Canada. They spoke to the present interconnected challenges the world faces, and how people are already mobilzing to act through the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

"We thought people would be put off by the huge nature of these goals, but it was exactly the opposite" said Mike Simpson of the BC Council for International Cooperation. He explained how the SDGs differ from the last set of UN goals — the Millennium Development Goals — in their transformative, integrated, and universal nature. That is, they think big, act together, and apply to everyone, everywhere, both at home and abroad.

> *We need to say no to the status quo. My dear friends and relatives, we need to be quicker. We need to be strong in our convictions.*
>
> — SHANE POINTE

The connections started emerging in the conversation. All these things are connected, they are all important and they all need to happen sort of simultaneously. What our organization is doing needs to be linked up to what everyone else is doing. It's a chaotic, complicated and ambitious story. If we are uncomfortable then we are probably having the right conversation, we are thinking differently, we are challenging the status quo.

– MIKE SIMPSON, BCCIC

Andrew Chunilall of Community Foundations of Canada spoke to how such wide-ranging global goals are relevant to small organizations that work locally, saying "we have truly become a global country, we are global citizens, and we interact that way. So when it comes to building communities it makes sense that thinking globally is the right way to go. Thinking globally doesn't replace local focuses. It just deepens our perspective on how to do community building."

What does success look like for the SDGs and initiatives like Alliance 2030? Julia Sanchez from the Canadian Council for International Cooperation sees "a sense of inspiration, and the realization that there are so many people out there working on the SDGs. Success would be that we are all part of a mosaic pushing in the same general direction, and using the same common language as parts of a whole. There are challenges - one of the risks that I see is that we go back to working the same way that we've been working, in our silos....we need to start making connections here in Canada. Be transformative. Look at the root causes. Be universal. Leave no one behind."

Following the panel, we then moved into group activities which began with a mapping exercise to identify which organizations were working towards which of the goals. The results of this exercise are available in the Appendix of this report. Participants then spent time in different small groups, discussing their organization's relationship to the goals. They identified which goals they were directly working on, and talked about their perceptions of what needed to be happening in Canada to advance progress.

After lunch, the conversation pivoted from a micro discussion on individual goals to a macro discussion about the SDG framework and how we can work together to advance them. JP Bervoets, Community Foundations of Canada, spoke about the community foundation movement and the experience building a network for Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation called Alliance 150. This experience led to the creation of the National Conversation Series on Canada and the SDGs, hosted in collaboration with other partners. JP shared what we've heard during this conversation series, including a desire to pivot Alliance 150 to a network focused on advancing the SDGs in Canada.

Melody MacLean, Community Foundations of Canada, then gave an overview of the forthcoming Alliance 2030. Similar to what was created for Canada's 150th, the Alliance serves as a network, digital platform, and resource for organizations across sectors seeking to advance the SDGs in Canada and abroad. Melody shared the new Alliance 2030 brand and an overview of the new digital platform and podcast, launching in April. She then shared additional resources and opportunities, including:

- IISD's SDG Knowledge Hub
- Generation SDG Summit, April 22-25 in Waterloo
- SDSN Canada, launching May 7-8 in Waterloo
- Together 2018, Fall 2018 in Edmonton

Following this presentation, Audrey Bélanger Baur from Statistics Canada presented a proof of concept for an interactive data platform that disaggregated SDG-related data by province and territory. These presentations set the stage for the afternoon discussions, summarized next.

Discussion

Throughout this conversation as well as previous conversations in Ottawa and Toronto, we heard about the importance of collaboration when it comes to achieving the SDGs. Participants felt that cross-sector communication around the SDGs was currently an issue, and that there was not enough exchange about who is doing what pertaining to the SDGs. They suggested that rather than pursuing individual solutions, more inter- and intra-sector discussion was needed to reach consensus on solutions so resources were more efficiently mobilized with increased impact.

Participants also highlighted the need to start talking about Agenda 2030 and not just the Sustainable Development Goals, as they are an aspirational framework. Additionally, participants felt a need to translate Agenda 2030 into the Canadian context to better guide stakeholders, and move it forward as one holistic concept rather than prioritizing a subset of goals.

After hearing about the forthcoming Alliance 2030 network, participants were asked to discuss how the network could assist with some of the needs, as well as brainstorm what other recommendations would be useful to collectively advance this work.

Alliance 2030

There were multiple recommendations for Alliance 2030 that are already being built into the platform, including:

✅ Connecting IISD's SDG Knowledge Hub's Canadian content to the Alliance 2030 platform
- *Suggestion to include academic research and make it easily available*

✅ Creating a calendar of webinars, dialogues, and workshops that are hosted by Alliance 2030 and other organizations in the network
- *Suggestion to include an archive to people can search for trainings that have existed and reach out to organizations who provided them*

✅ Organizational profiles of everyone in the network, where organizations can post their needs and offers

✅ Create the ability to drill down by region and connect with organizations at the local level

These features will be available on alliance2030.ca shortly. Participants also made a number of recommendations that may be incorporated into future iterations of the site, including:

Data

The need for data was a common theme throughout the event, and the presentation from Statistics Canada sparked discussion around a public central data platform that aligned with Canada-relevant SDG indicators. Participant recommendations included: data disaggregated by municipality, simplified versions of CANSIM tables, and a list of CANSIM tables that is relevant for each SDG indicator.

One group suggested that a searchable list from Statistics Canada that lists all the SDG indicators and their related CANSIM tables be made available by the end of 2018. They described this as 'essentially metadata sheets that explains exactly how we would find data indicators'.
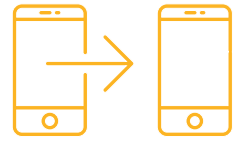
This group also suggested that all this SDG-related data and information should be kept available and accessible past 2030.

Additional Recommendations

Participants provided a number of other recommendations for an Alliance 2030, which are shared here in no particular order. If you have any ideas for how to advance these, please get in touch with us at mmaclean@communityfoundations.ca.

- Establish a collective impact measurement between NGOs

- Create an interactive platform mapping organizations with their work (and related SDG goal) on a national scale through Alliance 2030 — Inspired by BCCIC's work in the province www.bccic.ca/map/

- Use the Alliance 2030 network to do an online "Ask the Expert", like an online community of practice

- Host a series of regional dialogues on specific topics and workshops that provide tools, training, and demonstrations of what is working

- Host an Annual National Conference

- Create a space to share the best practices and failures

- Educate the grassroots and bring SDGs down to community through ways that can make it easier for the public to understand

- Provide opportunities to empower groups like youth or Indigenous communities

- Use stories to enhance community engagement

Appendix

SDG Mapping Exercise

These notes were compiled from photographs and as such, there may be errors and omissions.

1 NO POVERTY

- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
- Canada Without Poverty
- Central Okanagan Foundation
- Check Your Head
- City of Surrey
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Food Banks Canada
- International Community Empowerment Foundation (ICEF) Canada
- Kenoli Foundation
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Reconciliation Canada
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- SFU Local Economic Development (LED) Lab
- Vancouver Foundation

2 ZERO HUNGER

- Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)
- Alternatives North
- Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment
- Community Foundation of North Okanagan
- Euterra
- Food for Thought
- Good Food Network
- ICEF Canada
- Kenoli Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- Zero Waste Canada

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- BC Health Coalition
- Bridge for Health
- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment
- Check Your Head
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Community Foundation of North Okanagan
- Dr. Courtney Howard
- Ecocentury Technologies
- Health Canada
- ICEF Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Jump Foundation
- Kenoli Foundation
- Language Partners BC
- MEC
- Metro Vancouver Alliance
- Providence Health Care
- Public Health Agency
- Reconciliation Canada
- Shanti Uganda
- Ukkiukkut Consulting
- UNICEF Canada
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- West Coast LEAF

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

- Aurora College
- BC Teachers' Foundation
- Canadian Commission for UNESCO
- Capilano University
- Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment
- Check Your Head
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Ecocentury Technologies
- Education Beyond Borders
- Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education
- Global Centre for Pluralism
- HER International
- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
- Indigenous Services Canada
- ICEF Canada
- Jump Foundation
- Kenoli Foundation
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Simon Fraser University (SFU)
- SFU Centre for Dialogue
- Squamish Nation
- UNICEF Canada
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vanwest College
- Zero Waste Canada

5 GENDER EQUALITY

- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
- CARE Canada
- City of Surrey
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Ecocentury with UN Women
- Elizabeth Fry
- Equitas
- ICEF Canada
- Inter-Council Network
- Jump Foundation
- Kenoli Foundation
- March International Women's Fund
- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Oxfam Canada
- Reconciliation Canada
- Shanti Uganda
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- West Coast LEAF
- Women's Enterprise of Central Okanagan
- Yellowknife Rainbow Coalition

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- Canadian Water Resource Association
- Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (CEGN)
- Ecology North
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Greenpeace Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- ICEF Canada
- Kenoli Foundation
- Okanagan Water Board
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- SFU Pacific Water Research Centre
- Zero Waste Canada

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- AKI Energy
- Arctic Energy Alliance
- Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- Climate Action Network
- Climate Guides
- Creatively United for the Planet
- Ecology North
- ICEF Canada
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow
- SFU Faculty of Environment
- The Pembina Institute
- Ukkiukkut Consulting
- Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Atkinson Foundation
- B.Corp
- Canada Society for International Health
- Check Your Head
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Economic Development Commission
- Indigenous Services Canada
- International Community Empowerment Foundation
- Labour Unions
- Living Wage for Families
- McConnell Foundation
- Metro Vancouver Alliance
- One Earth
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Reconciliation Canada
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- UNICEF Canada
- Victoria Foundation
- Zero Waste Canada

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Euterra
- ICEF Canada
- Inter-Council Network
- One Earth
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Reconciliation Canada
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- Zero Waste Canada

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- Atlantic Council for International Cooperation
- Alternatives North
- BC Coop Association
- Canadian Society for International Health
- Check Your Head
- Circle on Philanthropy
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Ecocentury Technologies
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Journey Home Kelowna
- Metro Vancouver Alliance
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Reconciliation Canada
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- SFU
- Ukkiukkut Consulting
- UNICEF Canada
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- Volunteer Canada
- Yellowknife Rainbow Coalition

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Burke Mountain Naturalists
- Canada Green Building Council
- Canadian Commission for UNESCO
- Canadian Water Resources Association
- City of Surrey
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Climate Guides
- Community Foundation of North Okanagan
- Ecocentury Techologies
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Global Empowerment Coalition of Central Okanagan (GECCO)
- Health Canada
- ICEF Canada
- Inter-Council Network
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Imagine Kelowna
- Living Building Challenge Northwest Territories Collaborative
- Metro Vancouver Alliance
- One Earth
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Pembina Institute
- Public Health Agency
- PwC
- Reconciliation Canada
- Rick Hansen Foundation
- Salmon Beyond Borders
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- SFU Faculty of Environment
- SFU Pacific Water Research Centre
- Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC)
- Ukkiukkut Consulting
- UNICEF Canada
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- Zero Waste Canada

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- Centre for Indigenous Peoples, Nutrition and Environment
- Check Your Head
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Climate Guides
- Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Health Canada
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Kenoli Foundation
- One Earth
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Public Health Agency
- PwC Sustainable Business Solutions
- Sandra Hamilton, Procurement Advisor
- Simon Fraser University
- Vancouver Foundation
- Zero Waste Canada

13 CLIMATE ACTION

- Aware Whistler
- Bird Studies Canada
- Canadian Coalition on Climate and Development
- Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Climate Action Network Canada
- Climate Guides
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Ecocentury Technologies
- Ecology Action Centre
- Ecology Ottawa
- Energy Justice
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Euterra
- Green Budget Coalition
- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
- ICEF Canada
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Indigenous Climate Action
- Jump Foundation
- My Sea to Sky
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Plan Canada
- RavenTrust
- SFU Faculty of Environment
- Sierra Club
- Squamish Climate Action Committee
- Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (PwC)
- Ukkiukkut Consulting
- Zero Waste Canada

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

- Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (CEGN)
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Climate Guides
- Coastal Ocean Research Institute
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Ecology North
- Future of Howe Sound Society
- Georgia Strait Alliance
- Howe Sound Biosphere-Reef on Institute
- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Marine Institute
- Marine Life Sanctuaries Society
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ocean Wise
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Subsea Society of Howe Sound
- Zero Waste Canada

15 LIFE ON LAND

- Assembly of First Nations
- Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (CEGN)
- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- Centre for Indigenous Peoples, Nutrition and Environment
- Climate Guides
- Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
- Indigenous Climate Action
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- SFU Faculty of Environment
- Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- Zero Waste Canada

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- Auditor General of Canada
- BC Civil Liberties Association
- Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation
- Circle on Philanthropy
- Community Legal Assistance Society BC
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- Community Foundation of North Okanagan
- Dogwood Initiative
- EcoJustice
- Equitas
- Fresh Outlook Foundation
- Future of Howe Sound Society
- Global Centre for Pluralism
- Green Party of Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- International Centre for Human Rights Education
- Justice Education Society at ISC
- Lawyers Without Borders
- Leadnow
- MATCH International Women's Fund
- Metro Vancouver Alliance
- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Northwest Territories Association of Communities
- Reconciliation Canada
- Social Impact Firm
- Some society for International Health
- UNICEF Canada
- West Coast LEAF
- Women's Peace and Security Network Canada
- Vancouver Foundation
- Volunteer Canada
- Zero Waste Canada

All Sustainable Development Goals

- Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC)
- Community Foundation of North Okanagan
- Discourse Media
- GECCO
- Global Affairs Canada
- Global Citizen Events
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Jump Foundation
- Kathleen Lane Management Consultant
- Kelly Lovell/MyEffect
- Klaudia Watts Director of Foundation for Environmental Stewardship
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- McConnell Foundation
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- PwC Sustainability Consulting
- Simon Fraser University
- Statistics Canada
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network Canada
- University of British Columbia
- Waterloo Global Science Initiative