



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

2018 August 3

Mr. Wayne Easter, MP
Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Request for Budget Support Consideration

Dear Mr. Easter,

The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is an historic national charitable organization, as old as the UN itself, providing a leading policy voice and convener of Canadians on multilateralism, with over 25 000 members from coast to coast to coast. Established in 1946, UNA-Canada was a founding member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and today holds the elected Vice-Chair, representing global civil society reach into over 100 countries.

Our mission is to educate and engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical international issues that affect us all. With a reach to 5 000 000 Canadians a year, UNA-Canada's engagement with Canadians confirms that citizens believe strongly that an effective United Nations is essential to peace and security and a more equitable, sustainable world. Recent (and recurring) polling by UNA-Canada shows that 88% of Canadians believe "Canada should be actively engaged with the United Nations". Meanwhile, 73% of respondents feel there "will be a positive impact on Canadians if Canada re-engages in a leadership role with the UN". The Association is dedicated to promoting constructive Canadian participation in the United Nations system and to *growing global citizens* in Canada who support the principles of the UN Charter, while recognizing Canada's presence and credibility at the United Nations enhances our larger defence, development, foreign policy and trade objectives.

UNA-Canada engages citizens and decision makers at every level of society and has an extensive international network. Through innovative programming UNA-Canada invests across generations, bringing empathy-based educational resources on citizenship, youth civic engagement, natural resources, gender, diversity, health, peace and the environment to the most marginalized within Canada and internationally while engaging more broadly to ensure community input and support. Our work is framed through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNA-Canada reaches to 5 million citizens each year. With a strong, historic, social infrastructure of 20 volunteer Branches and membership in every province & territory; partnerships across universities and colleges and schools; leadership roles in national and international civil society; relationships with governments, the diplomatic community; the private sector; and respected international reach through a disciplined network of UNAs, we proudly serve Canada's international aspirations. By *growing global citizens*, we are building a stronger, more outward looking Canada ready to innovate and build constructive relationships while continuing to provide leadership on the great challenges of our time.

Growing Global Citizens § Citoyens du monde à venir

UNA-Canada, as our National Board of Directors note regularly, shares a mandate with the Government of Canada, notably on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Development with Heritage and more. For 72 years, UNA-Canada has worked in a disciplined fashion to enhance Canadians' engagement with the UN and the respect and credibility of Canada at the UN through our global civil society membership.

On behalf of our members across Canada, our volunteer run Branches in communities large and small; our national board of directors, UNA-Canada offers the following recommendation for consideration as part of your deliberations on the federal budget. The recommendation is for support to implement a body of work conforming concretely to the objectives and directives to Cabinet on Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development, Environment;

UNA-Canada recommends that the Government of Canada provides support to the United Nations Association in Canada in the amount of \$10 million/year over a period of four years to provide:

Constructive and innovative dialogue and engagement for policy research & innovation with Canadians, civil society and stakeholders, including the private sector, provincial & territorial governments, the education sector, charitable sector on Defence, Diplomacy and International Development both to identify emergent issues of concern to Canadians and globally and to identify solutions and bring international voices and ideas to Canadians;

With an focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: support, develop, showcase, count, report and develop educational materials to meet Canada's obligations, engage with the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors on global issues. Partner with various levels of government to round up the important work on-going now to achieve the goals. Private sector, schools and other sectors have reached to UNA-Canada to ask – where is the place to report their initiatives?

Provide a permanent presence in New York, and smaller footprints in Geneva and Nairobi to the UN Agencies of peace & security; human rights; environment/sustainable development **to bring our arms-length credibility, made in Canada solutions; international community innovations and challenges to Canadians and support to Canada's leadership aspirations within the United Nations and its Agencies;** to international bodies; missions; private sector; global civil society; thought leaders; major stakeholders of priority (i.e. youth, women & girls); in support of,

Provide support to mobilize citizens and Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and those who influence them on the distinct and high value of having Canada **achieve an elected non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council** organizing delegations to bring Permanent Representatives to Canada to meet with elected officials; civil society organizations; business leaders; youth and others and to arrange high level opportunities to showcase the importance of small island states and countries of Africa and South America in New York, Geneva and Nairobi and other centres, like Washington, where helpful and where UNA-Canada has deep partnerships.

UNA-Canada is proud to have partnered with the Government of Canada over its 72 year history; to be the creator of the highly respected Pearson Peace Medal; to showcase the most robust work-integrated learning initiative for talented un- or underemployed Canadians to escalate the green economy through Canada Green Corps and to have the longest standing diversity/anti-racism innovative initiatives in Canada for close to twenty years. On behalf of the UNA-Canada team, we believe we can assist the Government of Canada in achieving its stated and aspirational commitments to Canada in the most cost-effective and powerful ways possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Kathryn White, President & CEO

c.c. Michael Klosevych, Chair; Francoise Bertrand, Director