

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the 2019 Budget**

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Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1: That the government adopt a clear timeline to increase Official Development Assistance to the OECD target of 0.7% of GNI.**
- **Recommendation 2: That the government allocate appropriate funding, as recommended by the UN High Level Meeting on TB in September 2018, towards integrated health care, accelerated research and development, and any other sectors that are identified as key in the eradication of tuberculosis globally.**
- **Recommendation 3: That the government reinforce and deepen its Feminist International Assistance Policy by focusing funding on the health and education needs of girls, especially adolescent girls.**
- **Recommendation 4: That the government monitor and report on the activities of the Development Finance Institute created in 2017 to ensure that they are in keeping with the SDGs and the Feminist International Assistance Policy**

Recommendation 1: That the government adopt a clear timeline to increase Official Development Assistance to the OECD target of 0.7% of GNI.

Our level of assistance has never reached the OECD target of 0.7% of GNI. In 2017, the budget for development assistance was just 0.26% of GNI, less than half the target, and below the OECD average.

The Finance committee recommended a substantial increase to international assistance last year. However, Budget 2018 offered a small increase in international assistance, which is barely enough to keep up with projected increases in GNI.

Canada's international aspirations, including a potential bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, require strong action to move Canada higher on the list of international donor countries.

Recommendation 2: That the government allocate appropriate funding, as recommended by the UN High Level Meeting on TB in September 2018, towards integrated health care, accelerated research and development, and any other sectors that are identified as key in the eradication of tuberculosis globally.

Tuberculosis is an airborne disease that does not respect international borders. It is also the biggest infectious killer today, claiming more victims than HIV and malaria combined. Every year, 10.4 million human beings contract TB and 1.7 million die of it. To add to the human suffering, there is also an enormous economic toll, as TB affects those in their most productive years. Last, but not least, TB is the epicentre of the crisis of anti-microbial resistance, with diagnostic tools and drug development lagging far behind needs. Eradicating this disease has to be a top priority for governments everywhere.

Canadians living in the North experience rates of TB on par with the poorest parts of the world, which makes us uniquely positioned to lead coordinated global action. At a minimum, the government needs to take on its share of the recommendations coming out of the upcoming UN High Level Meeting on TB. The government must be prepared to provide not only increased international assistance for TB control but also increased domestic funding for research and development to improve diagnostic tools and to produce better medicines. This will be a critical area of growth in the health and pharmaceutical industries and Canada needs to be well positioned to take advantage of it.

Recommendation 3: That the government reinforce and deepen its Feminist International Assistance Policy by focusing funding on the health and education needs of girls, especially adolescent girls.

It is now widely accepted that educating girls is critical to development of a nation. Educated girls are healthier and less likely to become child brides and teenage mothers. They are more inclined toward health seeking behaviour and their children, in turn, are better nourished and healthier.

At the G7 meeting in Charlevoix, Quebec, the Canadian government made a commitment to support girls' education in crisis situations. This is an important promise that must be funded. At the same time, there are other aspects to education that deserve attention.

- A big drop in girls' school attendance occurs between primary and secondary school. Physical changes, insecurity, inadequate sanitation facilities, and patriarchal attitudes all combine to keep girls at home after puberty. This is also the time when girls are likely to suffer diseases such as anemia that will impact not only their health but also that of their future children. Education funding requires complementary investments in nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation. These investments will reap rich rewards. Secondary school opens up the world of learning to girls, allowing them to explore their human capabilities and producing economic benefits to their families and to the world.
- While school attendance and school completion are fundamental goals, the quality of education is equally important. Achieving literacy and numeracy goals requires increased investment in innovation, teacher training, and technology, all of which requires the partnership and support of the international donor community.

Recommendation 4: That the government monitor and report on the activities of the Development Finance Institute, created in 2017, to ensure that they are in keeping with the SDGs and the Feminist International Assistance Policy

Development Finance Institutions cannot be regarded as a replacement for increased development assistance. Loans from DFIs mainly benefit middle income countries - not surprising, since they have the capacity to take on debt. The poorest countries, especially those afflicted by conflict or natural disasters require foreign aid grants. Investments in social services, because they do not yield a measurable economic return, are also more likely to require grant funding. Achieving the SDGs in these areas will necessarily require an increase in ODA.

Since the goal of the DFI is to bridge the gap between international assistance and the funding requirements of the SDGs, the test of its effectiveness is whether it draws in funding that fulfills that goal. The activities of the institution need to be monitored and the public needs to be informed.