

## **Invest in Tomorrow: Canada's Vision for 2025 and Beyond**

As we approach 2025, Canada stands at a pivotal moment in its history. Our nation has long been recognized for its commitment to human rights, social justice, peace, global stability and prosperity, and global cooperation. With the world facing unprecedented challenges — growing global anti-gender and anti-rights movements to geopolitical tensions — Canada's leadership, in line with its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), is more crucial than ever. Central to this leadership is the recognition that investing in tomorrow, in the next generations, in particular women and girls, who have a fundamental right to live in a sustainable and safer world, is not only a moral imperative but also a necessity for fostering global prosperity, stability, and fairness.

Empowering young people, especially young women, is one of the most effective ways to drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and promote peace and stability. Research consistently shows that when young individuals are educated and given equal opportunities, their communities thrive. Young women's participation in the workforce and in decision-making processes leads to more resilient economies and stable societies.

By investing in health, education, and leadership for the next generations, Canada can catalyze transformative change, setting a powerful example for other nations to follow. This commitment in younger generations from the Global South also underscores our dedication to global justice and equity, ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or gender, has the opportunity to succeed in a fairer world.

In 2025, as we take on the responsibility of leading the Group of Seven (G7) in its 50th year, Canada has a unique opportunity to amplify its commitment to youth and gender equality on the global stage. By championing initiatives that support young people, especially women, we can help create a world where every individual has the chance to achieve their full potential. This vision aligns with our national values and reinforces our role as a progressive force dedicated to building a more equitable and sustainable future.

Now is the time for decisive action, and the international development sector is calling on the government to boldly invest in the future by focusing on four key areas:

**Unlocking Girls' Potential Through Education:** Around 130 million girls worldwide are out of school, including 32 million of primary school age. Education is fundamental to empowering girls and breaking the cycle of poverty. Canada will double down on the impacts driven by the Charlevoix Education Initiative and will launch a new global commitment to expand the education system's capacity to prevent violence, build social cohesion, and promote resiliency, recovery, and peace.

**Securing Our Investment in Women and Adolescent Health:** Women's health and access to sexual and reproductive rights are fundamental human rights. Canada will continue to advocate for comprehensive women's healthcare services, ensuring proper financing of key programs and empowering all women and girls with the resources and agency to control their bodies and futures, while staunchly opposing the anti-rights movement to secure rights for future generations.

**Leading on Global Climate Action:** As Canada prepares for the next COP meeting and to host the G7 summit, it needs to reaffirm its role as a leader in combating climate change. With mounting environmental challenges threatening ecosystems and livelihoods worldwide, Canada's global positioning becomes increasingly critical. Not only by championing ambitious emissions reduction targets, fostering international cooperation on green transition initiatives, and supporting climate adaptation and loss and damage funding and appropriate measures that address the needs of vulnerable communities, Canada can set a precedent for effective climate action. Canada has a unique opportunity to step up its leadership and rebuild trust with those least responsible for the growing impacts of climate change around the world. As a central player on the world stage, Canada has the opportunity not only to lead by example but also to inspire collective global efforts towards a greener and more resilient future for generations to come.

**Fueling the Body and Mind:** An estimated 783 million people globally are food insecure. Nearly one in ten people around the world go to bed hungry each night, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and chronic inequality. Food insecurity and chronic malnutrition disproportionately affects girls, hindering their cognitive development and future opportunities. Canada will spearhead a multi-year commitment to food security and nutrition programs to address these issues.

These investments are not just morally imperative; they are strategically sound. Studies show that empowering the next generations, especially young women, leads to increased economic prosperity, social stability, and overall societal well-being. By championing these issues, Canada not only fosters a more just world but also strengthens our global reputation as a progressive force dedicated to a future where every young person can thrive. Canada's leadership on these critical issues will inspire other G7 and G20 nations to follow suit.

We stand at a crossroads. Let us choose a future where our youth is not simply protected but empowered to reach its full potential.

The time for decisive action is now. Let Canada lead the way.