

## KEY QUESTIONS

### the big six

# 3

## Who are the main actors in Canadian development cooperation?

### PM provides strategic direction; GAC drives development policy

Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau, head of the Liberal Party, sets high-level development policy priorities. Under the PM's leadership, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the governmental department in charge of foreign affairs, also steers development policy. GAC, formerly the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFA-TD), was renamed in November 2015 under Trudeau.<sup>2</sup> GAC is comprised of three formerly separate departments and thus is under the leadership of three ministers: the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, and the Minister of International Trade.

GAC is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, currently Chrystia Freeland (Liberal Party). With oversight from the Foreign Minister, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Marie-Claude Bibeau (Liberal Party) sets development policy, and makes funding recommendations to the Cabinet. The Deputy Minister of International Development, Peter Boehm, manages GAC's development policy units and budget allocation. Deputy Minister Boehm is also the PM's Sherpa for the G7 and Nuclear Security Summits. Relevant units within GAC are: 1) the Global Issues and Development Branch, which manages multilateral policies and contributions, 2) four geographic branches managing country programs, 3) the Strategic Policy Branch, and 4) the Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch, responsible for partnerships with CSOs and the private sector.

Minister of International Trade, Francois-Phillipe Champagne, works with the Ministers of Finance and International Development and La Francophonie on development financing issues. The Department of Finance, currently headed by Bill Morneau (Liberal Party), manages core contributions to – and Canada's relations with – the World Bank, in consultation with GAC.

Parliament in Canada is composed of the House of Commons, the Senate, and the Monarch of the United Kingdom (represented by the Governor General). Within the

House of Commons, Standing Committees review government policies in specific areas. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE) scrutinizes the operations and management of GAC. During parliamentary debate of the budget, the FAAE holds hearings with the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie. However, amendments to GAC's budget lines are unlikely under a majority government like the current one (for more details, see Question 5, what are the important decision-making opportunities in Canada's annual budget process?).

The House of Commons' Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) is responsible for budgetary policy, including Canada's development assistance. FINA invites CSOs, the public, and other stakeholders to submit suggestions by August each year on the next year's budget as part of a pre-budget consultation process.

The Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy, released in 2016, outlines the guiding principles and objectives underlying the government's engagement with CSOs in alleviating poverty and delivering humanitarian assistance. It lays out several principles and high-level objectives for Canadian CSOs. This includes giving a voice to the marginalized, promoting community-government engagement, and increasing accountability and aid effectiveness through the enhanced involvement of individuals in decision-making processes. GAC convenes CSO representatives annually to discuss the implementation of this policy.

Beyond these key decision makers, there are important fora in which development discussions and decision-making occur. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), headed by President Jean Lebel, is a Crown Corporation, and an independent, publically-funded institute. The IDRC is a key vehicle of Canada's development cooperation, and is mandated to support research, tools, and leadership to address development problems. The government appoints the Board, which along with the Centre Management Committee guides the direction of the center. The Management Committee includes four regional directors and directors from main

<sup>2</sup> DFATD was the result of an earlier merger 2013 of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), under Prime Minister Harper.

program focus areas.

Since 1944, Export Development Canada (EDC) has been Canada's state-owned export credit agency. Headquartered in Ottawa, it comprises 17 regional offices across Canada and permanent representations in 12 foreign markets. EDC is mandated to support trade between Canada and other countries, and promote Canada's competi-

tiveness in the international marketplace. Its current President and CEO is Benoit Daignault. Canada's fledgling Development Finance Initiative will be housed within EDC, making it a new actor in Canada's development landscape.

CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

