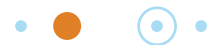




Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget



info@interpares.ca
Ottawa
May 19, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1. That the government establish a protected core minimum of \$5.5 billion per year for poverty-focused Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Recommendation 1.1. That the government mobilize greater public resources through wealth taxation to adequately fund ODA.

Recommendation 2. That the government triple its climate finance for the next five-year commitment (2026-2031) to a total of \$15.9 billion.

Recommendation 2.1. That the government increase its contribution to \$1.89 billion to the Partnering for Climate (P4C) initiative.

Recommendation 3. That the government maintain historic international development and humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected people in Burma/Myanmar and displaced peoples in neighbouring countries.

Recommendation 4. That the government double its funding for development, humanitarian, and peace and stabilization programming in Sudan, including a budget for a fully-staffed Special Envoy on Sudan, and direct at least 25% of its funding for Sudan towards local women-led organizations, frontline responders and grassroots initiatives.

Recommendation 4.1. That the government pause its free trade agreement efforts with the United Arab Emirates until support for the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces is withdrawn.

Recommendation 5. That the government honour its 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights, including ringfencing \$700 million of the \$1.4 billion (annual spending) for the neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), namely abortion, contraception, adolescent SRHR and advocacy.

Recommendation 6. That the government maintain ODA levels to Latin America to ensure Canada's longstanding commitments to human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding and civil society in the context of ongoing and proposed trade negotiations.

Recommendation 7. That the government maintain the LGBTQ2I International Assistance Program and increase funding to \$20 million annually.

Recommendation 8. That the government support agroecology and localized biodiverse food systems through research and financial and technical support.

INTRODUCTION

Inter Pares, a Canadian feminist social justice organization, welcomes the Government of Canada's pre-budget 2026 consultation process. Canada and the world are facing geopolitical turmoil, climate crisis and rising inequality. Inter Pares believes that Canada's safety, prosperity and wellbeing will come from upholding peace, justice and equality both at home and internationally. We offer these recommendations as a guide.

Recommendation 1. That the government establish a protected core minimum of \$5.5 billion per year for poverty-focused Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Canada's ODA must be compliant with the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA) to ensure that Canada's aid: contributes to poverty reduction; takes into account the perspectives of the poor; and, is consistent with international human rights standards. Canada's ODA should also be guided by the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) and be directed in greater proportion to Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) working in partnership with organizations in developing countries as a proven and effective way to improve gender equality, reduce poverty and build more resilient communities and societies.

Civil society in Canada and around the world is vibrant, with expertise that can be shared. Global Affairs Canada's *Partnerships with Canadians* program is a strategic investment for Canada, enabling partnerships with organizations in the Global South to advance development goals. Canada should increase funding to reach \$200 million in grants and \$300 million in contributions per year, while increasing public engagement funds to foster understanding and support for international cooperation and solidarity.

Recommendation 1.1. That the government mobilize greater public resources through wealth taxation to adequately fund ODA.

Canada loses over \$40 billion each year due to tax loopholes including: the capital gains exclusion, tax havens, corporate dividend tax credits, and tax breaks for oil and gas companies. According to a recent [report](#), the use of tax havens costs Canada an estimated \$15 billion in tax revenue annually. Canada can mobilize more funds by increasing taxation on wealthy individuals, increasing corporate taxes, acting to close tax loopholes and restrict the use of tax havens. Canada also should work for international fair tax and trade systems so that public funds are available for governments to invest in social infrastructure and public goods.

Recommendation 2. That the government triple its climate finance for the next five-year commitment (2026-2031) to a total of \$15.9 billion.

The Global South bears the least responsibility for climate change, but it suffers its worst effects. [Estimates](#) of climate related damage borne by lower-income countries alone are expected to reach \$1 trillion dollars by 2050. Canada and all rich, industrialised countries, owe an “ecological debt” towards impoverished and less industrialized countries. From a climate justice perspective, Canada must cut its own emissions and triple its climate finance commitment to 15.9 billion. Within this, Canada must triple adaptation funding (to \$6.36 billion, or 40% of Canada’s climate finance); double mitigation funding (to \$6.36 billion or 40% of Canada’s climate finance); and allocate funds for loss and damage (to \$3.18 billion or 20% of Canada’s climate finance). Funding should be provided as grants rather than loans or contributions for greater flexibility and efficiency.

Recommendation 2.1. That the government increase its contribution to \$1.89 billion to the [Partnering for Climate \(P4C\)](#) initiative, to fulfill its commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

[Recent analysis](#) shows mechanisms such as FinDev Canada provide very little funding for adaptation and have limited reach in vulnerable countries. Increasing funding to P4C will ensure greater access to adaptation funding for the populations most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Of the \$5.3 billion commitment to climate finance for the 2021-2026 period, only \$315 million (5.94% of the envelope) went towards P4C. Within a new commitment of \$15.9 billion, Canada must increase its contribution to \$1.89 billion to P4C to draw on Canadian CSOs’ experience and relationships with communities and co-develop locally appropriate solutions to the climate crisis as seen in the [Feminist Climate Action in West Africa](#) project.

Recommendation 3. That the government maintain historic international development and humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected people in Burma/Myanmar and displaced peoples in neighbouring countries.

Since the 2021 coup d’état, the military junta has waged a war against the people of Burma/Myanmar, leading to food insecurity, conflict, displacement, collapse of public services, economic failure, and the proliferation of scam centres and unregulated resource extraction. Ethnic resistance organizations, the National Unity Government and a popular resistance movement have fought against the junta militarily, while also working to establish their own governance structures and provide essential services. They are working together with civil society to build a future federal system that is democratic,

just, peaceful and absent of military rule.

Canada has supported these efforts through subsequent Burma/Myanmar and Rohingya strategies, as well as appointing an effective Special Envoy. Such patient long-term strategy in support of civilian governance and human rights is the only way to achieve regional stability and economic integration, as well as the people's aspirations for federal democracy.

Recommendation 4. That the government double its funding for development, humanitarian, and peace and stabilization programming in Sudan, including a budget for a fully-staffed Special Envoy on Sudan, and direct at least 25% of its funding for Sudan towards local women-led organizations, frontline responders and grassroots initiatives.

After three years of war, Sudan now faces the worst humanitarian disaster on the planet. Sudanese civil society—the foundation of any future sustainable peace—face existential threats. Prior to the war, Canada supported Inter Pares' local partners in Sudan working to build feminist movements to ensure a peaceful, democratic future.

Local activists and frontline responders in Sudan can access regions that international aid agencies cannot. They are [leading emergency responses](#) and providing life-saving services to civilians affected by war, despite extraordinary risks and funding constraints.

Inter Pares underscores the call by the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development for a Special Envoy on Sudan, recognizing the imperative of resourcing such an initiative.

Recommendation 4.1. To support peace, the government must pause its free trade agreement efforts with the United Arab Emirates until its support for the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces is withdrawn.

Recommendation 5. That the government honour its 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights, including ringfencing \$700 million of the \$1.4 billion (annual spending) for the neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), namely abortion, contraception, adolescent SRHR and advocacy.

In 2019, Canada made a historic commitment, building upon previous nonpartisan initiatives related to women's health. This commitment offered an effective and evidence-based approach that emphasized the importance of supporting the health of women and girls globally—that it is fundamental to women's rights. The goal was to reach \$1.4 billion in aid spending focused

the health of women and girls. Of that, \$700 million was targeted towards sexual and reproductive health, specifically the neglected areas of contraception, abortion care, adolescent health and advocacy. Without safeguarding women's and girls' SRHR needs, none of their political, economic or leadership potential can be realized.

Recommendation 6. That the government maintain ODA levels to Latin America to ensure Canada's longstanding commitments to human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding and civil society in the context of ongoing and proposed trade negotiations.

Canada has multiple trade agreements with Latin American countries and is currently negotiating new ones that exacerbate mining and critical minerals exploitation. This economic engagement should be aligned with Canada's international assistance objectives and include safeguards on human and environmental rights, as well as accountability mechanisms.

Canada should ensure adequate operationalization of key accountability and policy mechanisms, including the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Ambassador office.

Sustained ODA support in Latin America would reinforce Canada's credibility as a reliable and principled partner at a time when it is seeking to deepen trade relations in the region. Canada's engagement should be grounded in its commitment to ethical trade partnerships to ensure the advancement of inclusive democracy and human rights amid the growing backlash against civil society and gender and sexual diversity across the region.

Without these investments and mechanisms, Canada's expanded trade agreements in the region risk undermining human rights protections and eroding conditions necessary for sustainable development.

Recommendation 7. That the government maintain the LGBTQ2I International Assistance Program and increase funding to \$20 million annually.

In 2019, Canada committed \$30 million over five years to fund LGBTQ2I programming internationally, and \$10 million every year following. Escalating attacks on LGBTQ2I communities and severe funding gaps are leading to the erosion of LGBTQ2I rights globally. By ensuring continued support, Canada can signal itself as a leader that prioritizes inclusion and human rights. The LGBTQ2I International Assistance Program helps advance democracy, peaceful pluralism and human rights, by protecting one of the world's most vulnerable communities from criminalization and violence.

Recommendation 8. That the government support agroecology and localized biodiverse food systems through research and financial and technical support.

Canada's agricultural sector relies heavily on chemical inputs. This agricultural model has driven up emissions and [farm debt](#) with most profits being captured by input companies. It is also a leading contributor to biodiversity loss, and an increasing threat to human health. Canada's countryside has fewer farms and has become more vulnerable to climate shocks. Canada's reliance on global supply chains for inputs has also shown how vulnerable Canada is to sudden disruptions (trade wars, conflict), driving up the price of food and contributing to hunger.

Canada must change course and provide financial and technical assistance to farmers to transition to low-input, climate resilient approaches such as [agroecology](#). Canada should also provide greater support to [food sovereignty initiatives](#), including Indigenous-led, women-led and community-based efforts, to strengthen local food systems, shorten supply chains and improve equitable access to healthy and nutritious food.



ABOUT INTER PARES

Inter Pares – which means *among equals* – believes in solidarity, not charity, as an approach to international cooperation. Since 1975, Inter Pares has partnered with people, organizations and networks in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Canada to build and sustain movements for social justice.