CAUSE Canada Annual Report 2017/2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director	02
Letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors	03
CAUSE Canada: Who We Are What We Do	04
Values	06
Employing Local Leaders	08
Primary Health	10
Decent Work and Economic Growth	12
Technology and Innovation	14
Quality Education	16
Empowering Mothers to Reduce Inequalities	18
Year in Review	20
Financial Statements	22
CAUSE Canada's Partners The Board of Directors	24

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends.

The 2017-18 year was truly an energizing year for me as CAUSE Canada's Executive Director. Listening, planning, strategizing, fundraising, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and praying for the people we work with and for, and seeing the results of all this labour. It has been exciting.

I am happy to report that over the past year, CAUSE Canada, founded on the values of faith, justice, dignity, compassion, service, and excellence, has continued to use these standards as the foundation for our work.

In each of the countries, we have been developing monitoring and evaluation tools to better understand the changes that we are making and the areas where we might do better. One of the most useful ways we have begun to do this is by using the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as our own, and benchmarking our work to these targets and indicators.

Given that there are 17 SDGs, CAUSE Canada is focusing on specific goals and we still have much work to do in developing our capacity to benchmark our progress on these goals. This year's annual report however, focuses on reporting on the SDG indicators. I hope the information that we share will give you some insight as to how we are meaningfully contributing to the international global goals, as well as how we continue to demonstrate our evalues in all that we do.



We hope that as you read the 2017-18 annual report, it will remind you why CAUSE Canada was founded. The values and mission that inspired the beginnings of CAUSE Canada continue. We hope that you will also continue to partner with us for another successful year!

Gratefully,

Wendy Fehr

Executive Director



Letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Here at home, the major event of the year was the move of the CAUSE Canada office from Canmore to Calgary. This has greatly helped the organization, not least by reducing commuting time for our staff. Events such as the Canmore Rocky Mountain Half-Marathon and Gala in the spring were not only enjoyable and educational but very beneficial to the work of CAUSE Canada. We appreciate the generosity and prayers of our loyal supporters. Our thanks go to you all.

The Board of Directors has worked very hard over the last year including undertaking strategic planning focused on strengthening the sustainability of the organization, and a training to increase the Board's function. The Board committees have been very active this year and thanks are due to all Board and Committee members.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors these last four years, and my prayers go with the organization as it continues to move forward under God's direction and provision.

Sincerely,

Martin of Tweeddale

Martin Tweeddale Chair, Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

During the 2017-18 year, I am pleased to report that CAUSE Canada continued to make good progress under the leadership of our Executive Director, Wendy Fehr, and through the devotion of all our staff in Canada and in the countries where we serve. Thanks be to God!

Successes in our work include the continued development of the IMPACT program on maternal, newborn, and child health in Guatemala and Honduras. We are seeing great results from the work of our teams in Central America.

In Sierra Leone, the CAUSE Kids program continues to benefit children by enabling them, and particularly girls, to complete their education. As we focus on increasing the quality of education for children in Sierra Leone, the program is growing and evolving to ensure that children in rural communities are achieving literacy and numeracy in spite of the challenges of growing up in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Investing in People and Communities

Who We Are

Mission Statement: Inspired by faith in Christ, CAUSE Canada strives to be a catalyst for global justice. We provide sustainable, integrated community development in rural West Africa and Central America through authentic, collaborative, long-term relationships.

CAUSE Canada is a Christian-motivated international relief and development organization that strives to empower communities and individuals in disadvantaged regions to overcome poverty.

CAUSE Canada implements integrated community development programs that align with our organizational values, and commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

What We Do

CAUSE Canada implements responsive, integrated community development programs in geographical regions where there is an under-representation of international aid organizations.

In doing this we aim to:

- Target the most vulnerable and marginalized people as being the primary beneficiaries of CAUSE Canada's assistance and to encourage them to take full ownership of the projects that benefit them.
- Make long-term commitments to communities in rural areas of the developing world as a means of redressing the challenge of urbanization.
- Emphasize environmental stewardship, rejuvenation, and justice because a healthy environment is the cornerstone for building just and sustainable societies.

... and Working to Eradicate Extreme Poverty

Where We Work

- For more than 30 years, CAUSE Canada has worked in Sierra Leone, West Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world, and where 44% of the country's population live in extreme poverty. Only 1% of rural households have electricity and over 34% of the country's population is chronically malnourished. The overall life expectancy is just 51.3 years.
- In **Guatemala**, CAUSE Canada is working with indigenous populations in the rural Western Highlands. Guatemala has some of the worst poverty, malnutrition, and maternal-child mortality rates in Latin America. Approximately 80% of the 17 million indigenous people in Guatemala live under the poverty line. Indigenous women have an average of 3 years of schooling.
- CAUSE Canada is working in rural Honduras, where approximately one of five Hondurans live in extreme poverty. Due to intense levels of violent crime, many rural communities where CAUSE Canada works receive little or no government services, or any support from other humanitarian organizations.

Sierra Leone



Guatemala



Honduras



DIGNITY

The inherent worth of every person regardless of social status, disability, race, religion, or gender is the foundation of our work with marginalized communities. We recognize the potential of every person to develop his or her abilities in contributing to building a healthy society.



JUSTICE

All of our work is oriented toward promoting just, respectful, and peaceful relationships between all peoples, between humanity and God, and between communities and their environment. Promoting a holistic well-being, a "shalom", in communities is fundamental to improved quality of life everywhere.

FAITH

We are motivated and guided by our relationship with God as Creator and Jesus Christ as loving Saviour of all people, and by God's Word in the Bible, which calls us to sacrificially serve our fellow human beings, especially those who suffer most.





COMPASSION

CAUSE Canada, as a Christian faithbased organization, heeds the call of God to reach out to marginalized, oppressed, suffering, and deprived members of the human family.

SERVICE

Leadership as Christians means to serve. We are called to work diligently, without self-interest or a desire for material reward, for the poorest of the poor.



EXCELLENCE It is important to our efforts in orde

It is important to maximize the quality of our efforts in order that effective, long term, holistic transformation may occur among the people with whom we work, by the grace and for the glory of God.

Employing Local Leaders

"My faith in God is strengthened when I see His compassion and tenderness exhibited through other people, providing a glimmer of hope to those in the darkest corners of this planet."

- Rita Romero

Rita Romero is CAUSE Canada's Gender Advisor in Honduras. Her passion and her **FAITH** drive her invaluable work, facilitating and coordinating communities to address sensitive gender issues, such as violence against women. Her passion and care is evident in all of her work.

Rita is just one of 21 CAUSE Canada national staff working in Honduras. In each country where CAUSE Canada works, the frontline and management teams are comprised of national staff, who are largely from the regions where we are working.

CAUSE Canada is proud of its national teams. They are committed to helping their country and communities break out of the cycles of poverty and work toward a better future.

CAUSE Canada has a global team. We work to employ people in the countries and communities where we are working. In 2017-18, our team consisted of:



- 65 Sierra Leoneans
- 38 Guatemalans
- 21 Hondurans
- 7 Canadians
- 1 Ugandan

Rita Romero CAUSE Canada Honduras Gender Advisor

In 2017, as CAUSE Canada's IMPACT Program on maternal, newborn, and child health was beginning to be fully implemented, Rita Romero joined the team in Honduras. As a human rights lawyer, Rita is passionate about stopping violence and gender discrimination that Honduran women are challenged with daily.

Rita, with the support of the CAUSE Canada Honduras team, is transforming CAUSE Canada's ability to work on highly sensitive gender issues in rural communities in Honduras. Her solidarity with the people she works with, exemplifies her faith and compassion for the most marginalized people in communities.

Day in and day out, Rita strives to help individuals who suffer from extreme poverty, particularly those in mountainous, rural, and remote areas, who have not been given access to the basic human right of health.

Rita believes that the heart of Christianity is to surrender, to heal, and to revive that which is almost dead.

"My current mission is to rekindle the essence and energy of women that has been robbed from them, but for which they were born."

- Rita





Access to Essential Health Services

For women in remote and rural areas of Guatemala and Honduras, access to care during pregnancy and childbirth is hampered by poverty, distance to care, and discrimination.

The IMPACT Program for maternal, newborn, and child health is focused on building sustainable community solutions to inaccessibility. Traditional midwives in Guatemala are participating in training and certifications to build their skills to provide care for when women either cannot or choose not to deliver in a hospital.

In Honduras, building capacity and sustainability has meant that health facilitators in the communities have been trained and connected to the government health ministry to provide key services to women in the community.

While traditional midwives and community facilitators in rural Guatemala and Honduras cannot replace doctors or professional care at a hospital, they are providing culturally-sensitive care and access to services that decrease the barriers to essential health care.

Primary Health

Every day, around the world, 830 women die during pregnancy and in childbirth because they do not have access to care. Almost 100% of these deaths are in developing countries. CAUSE Canada has been working to reduce maternal and infant mortality since 1993.

In 2016, we established programs in isolated communities of Honduras and Guatemala, where the inequalities of healthcare are evidenced through high numbers of maternal and infant deaths in rural and indigenous areas of these countries. In these areas, it is critical to not only provide primary health care, but to support communities to seek **JUSTICE** to the inequalities that prevent them from accessing care.

CAUSE Canada is bringing culturally-appropriate health services and education to remote areas, and helping these communities advocate for their right to care.

- In 2017-18, CAUSE Canada trained and equipped 529 practitioners, mostly traditional midwives, to provide access to maternal and newborn care in rural and remote communities.
- CAUSE Canada is working in 128 rural communities in Guatemala and Honduras to help ensure families have access to maternal and newborn care.

In remote areas of Honduras, babies were not being registered as Honduran citizens due to inaccessible care during delivery. With CAUSE Canada's advocacy, barriers to legal registration have been decreased and more babies are now being registered as Honduran citizens.



Decent Work and Economic Growth

CAUSE Canada's Microfinance Program gives **DIGNITY** to poor and marginalized women in the rural regions of Central America and West Africa.

We provide small loans in combination with business training to female entrepreneurs to help grow their businesses, increase their household incomes, and provide employment for others in their communities. In the fight against poverty, we believe a best practice for long-term development is to provide opportunities to the inspired.

CAUSE Canada operates microfinancing programs in Guatemala, Honduras, and Sierra Leone. In 2017-18, we provided loans to:

- 570 women in the northern region of Koinadugu, Sierra Leone.
- 711 women in Honduras, including the minority populations of the Caribbean coast.
- 1,746 indigenous women in Guatemala where we are active in the regions of Comitancillo and Todos Santos, in the Western Highlands of the country.



To date, CAUSE Canada has supported thousands of women to gain economic independence through entrepreneurship.

From Poverty to Thriving Entrepreneur

In early 2016, Hawa Conteh, together with her husband and three children, were living in extreme poverty in the village of Kabenda, Sierra Leone. Upon learning of the CAUSE Canada microfinance program, the Salone Women's Empowerment Trust (SWET), she began attending SWET client trainings in Fadugu, a nearby community.

In late 2016, her commitment to the program was evident, and with the experience gained through several training sessions, the CAUSE Canada SWET team registered her as a client under the Hutuahuntay (meaning "togetherness") group in Kabenda.

Hawa started with a loan of 400,000 Leones (about \$65 CAD). At the end of 2017-18, she was in her fifth cycle of loans, borrowing 1,000,000 Leones (about \$170 CAD). She now has a thriving business and her repayment history is excellent.

"My dignity in my community has been restored due to the support that I have received from SWET. I now contribute in the running of our home and have almost completed constructing a house for our family together with my husband."

- Hawa





Innovation in Education

"When I entered my senior year of secondary school, I was keen in attending an advance school in Freetown due to the lack of learning materials in my district. This however, would prove to be very difficult due to my family's finances. Then I came into contact with CAUSE Canada's Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) in Kabala, allowing me to pursue my studies locally without me having to move all the way to Freetown.

The entire staff have helped me to do my online educational research on advanced subjects that would otherwise be unfamiliar to the local teachers. The program gave me free access to computer use and afforded me a constructive environment for reading, note-taking, and watching Khan Academy videos. All these helped me pass my West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination with flying colours!"

"The ILRC in Kabala made me what I am today."

- Abu

Thanks to CAUSE Canada's Integrated Learning Resource Centre, Abu is now enrolled in the Limkokwing University of Technology and Creativities in Freetown. He is studying for a BSc. Degree in Tourism.

Technology and Innovation

CAUSE Canada strives for **EXCELLENCE** as a cornerstone of its programs. One of the ways we are doing this is by using technology in innovative ways to increase the impact of our programs.

In Sierra Leone, only 43% of the population over 15 years of age is literate. This means that there are massive shortages of trained teachers. The Integrated Learning Resource Centre (ILRC) and Mobile Learning Labs (MLL) are using technology to improve the quality of education in rural communities in innovative ways.

In the communities of Sierra Leone where CAUSE Canada works, only 1% of the population has access to electricity. Using Open Educational Resources, offline servers, tablets, and solar charging stations, a whole new world of educational resources is opening to students. As a result, literacy levels are improving.

Given that so many of the teachers themselves have low levels of education, it is critical that we use the tools available to create new opportunities for all learners. We are using technology to create new opportunities, but we are also building community and utilizing the strong leadership of CAUSE Canada's national staff to encourage kids to learn and grow.

"At the ILRC, we teach students how to be fair, honest, trustworthy, caring, generous, responsible, patient, cooperative, respectful, accepting, and be friendly for future leadership positions." - Samuel, CAUSE Canada IT Tutor

1,288 students participated in Mobile Learning Labs in 2017-18.



Quality Education

Since 2006, CAUSE Canada has worked to make education more accessible for children in Sierra Leone, where even today, approximately one quarter of primary-aged children are out-of-school and participation in secondary school is low.

CAUSE Canada's education programs emphasize **COMPASSION** for children. We believe that it is not enough to have children attending schools, but that we must also ensure that they are participating in quality education that will provide them with the necessary literacy and numeracy skills.

We also believe that equal opportunity to quality education for all children will help Sierra Leone move past its status as one of the poorest countries in the world.

ACHIEVEMENTS in 2017-18:

- 84 junior and senior secondary school girls were supported by CAUSE Canada to provide afterschool mentoring and tutoring to 2,235 primary school children.
- 434 children 0-6 years of age participated in early childhood development programming.
- 5,186 children from rural communities attended primary school.
- CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone provided outreach to 261,895 out-of-school children.



Over 320,000 children participated in CAUSE Canada's programs and outreach in 2017-18.

Removing Barriers to Education

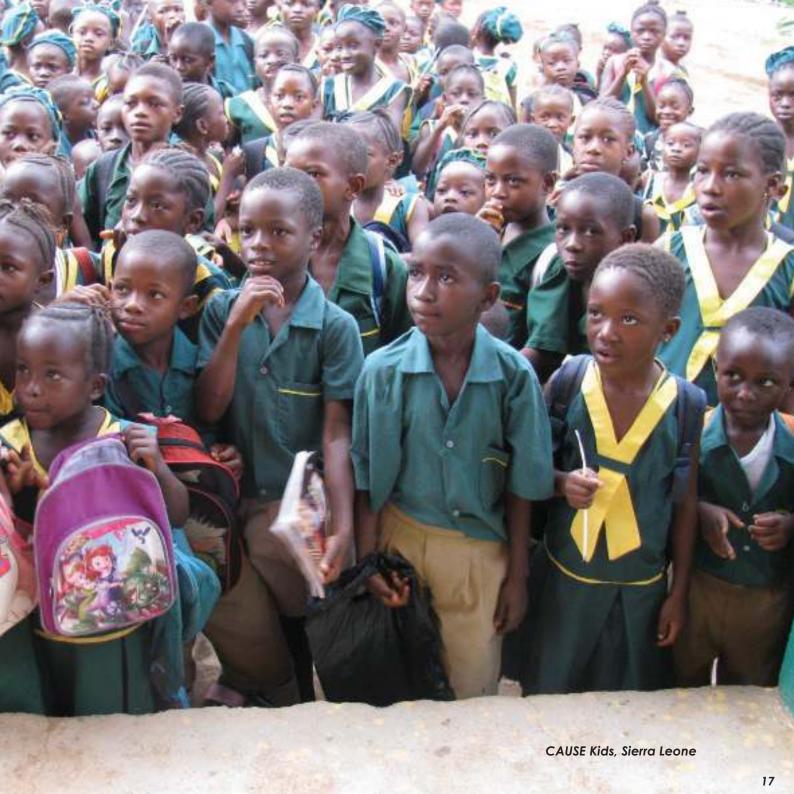
Dusu Gibateh is a 16-year-old girl living in Suliamania, Sierra Leone with her mother and older sister. She is the second child in her family. A few years ago, Dusu was attending the village school but had to drop out as her parents could not afford the required uniform, shoes, books, and pens needed to attend school.

CAUSE Kids became aware of her situation and intervened to cover these outstanding costs, enabling Dusu to return to school. Now in grade 7, Dusu wants to be a nurse and feels extremely blessed.

"I am very grateful to CAUSE Canada, especially the CAUSE Kids program because my dreams of becoming a nurse have come back to life. I was not alone in that situation. There are many other girls out here facing the same difficulties. I pray and hope that the CAUSE Kids program will reach them also."

- Dusu

Dusu is just one of thousands of kids supported by CAUSE Canada who would otherwise be unable to attend school.





Parents of the Kamasapi Community

The Kamasapi Mothers' Club in Koinadugu, Sierra Leone has developed a strong voice in advocating and ensuring the girls in their community attend school.

In 2017-18, the Mothers' Club engaged parents on a house-to-house basis visiting each family at least twice a month. This outreach has contributed toward a significant increase in the enrollment of girls in school.

"Before the establishment of the Mothers' Club with the help of CAUSE Canada, parents considered girls as one who should be kept at home for domestic work awaiting marriage. Education was not a priority"

- Amie Mansaray, Chairlady of the Kamasapi community Mothers' Club

"Girls were not meant to be in school. That was the understanding we used to have. However, through the awareness raised by the Mothers' Club and CAUSE Canada on the importance of girls' education, most parents now send their girls to school. We have now introduced by-laws to ensure girls are enrolled and retained in school and levy fines on parents who fail to send their children to school."

- Hassan Kamara, Town Chief, Kamasapi community

Empowering Mothers to Reduce Inequalities

CAUSE Canada is dedicated to **SERVING** communities to help them solve some of their biggest challenges. One way CAUSE Canada does this is through supporting Mothers' Clubs to lead change in their communities.

With CAUSE Canada's training and organizing, Mothers' Clubs are promoting access, retention, and completion of school. Mothers' Clubs are also facilitating children's protection, identifying and solving health and sanitation issues, and taking care of the most vulnerable with particular concern for the airl child.

In 2017-18, CAUSE Canada's Mothers' Clubs in Sierra Leone:

- Saved funds to provide schools with learning materials, to repair desks and chairs, and build fences around schools.
- Tracked the most vulnerable children and supported them to attend school.
- Cared for school gardens that provided fruits and vegetables for school lunches.
- Reared goats and increased their numbers to 51 before they were hit by illness and decreased to 30.

In 2017-18, over 2,100 Mothers' Clubs members dedicated time and support to providing proper nutrition and access to education for children in their communities.



Year in Review: CAUSE Canada

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. At CAUSE Canada, we strive to be a catalyst for global justice and are committed to the SDGs. We provide sustainable, integrated community development in rural West Africa and Central America through authentic, collaborative, long-term relationships. Here is a snapshot of our commitment:



Improving Learning Outcomes

In 2017-18:

- 100 teachers attended a three-day conference to increase their capacity to provide quality education in the classroom.
- 139 teachers received ongoing mentoring through CAUSE Kids.
- 22 teachers received bursaries to attend one year of training towards their Teachers' Certificate.
- 3,015 girls participated in education programing because of CAUSE Kids.

In 2018-19, we will:

Further focus on literacy and numeracy skills in grades one and two.
 These grades have been proven to be the most critical to ensuring children's long-term learning success.

In 2017-18:

- Trained Women's Committees in 128 communities in Central America to be advocates for women's participation in community leadership.
- Worked with men in Honduras to eliminate violence against women.
- Supported 128 girls in Sierra Leone through Junior and Senior Secondary Schools and University as an alternative to early marriage.

In 2018-19, we will:

 Continue to build our programs to prevent early marriage, and sexual and gender-based violence. Too many 12, 13, and 14 year-old girls are not going to school but instead getting married and having babies.



Gender Equality

...and The Sustainable Development Goals



In 2017-18:

 342 families in 5 rural communities gained access to safe drinking water through water access projects in Todos Santos, Guatemala.

In 2018-19, we will:

• Implement three new water projects in Guatemala.

In 2017-18:

Sanitation

 In Sierra Leone, only 1% of the population has electricity. CAUSE Canada continues to increase access to energy using solar power in our offices and small solar charging stations in our Mobile Learning Labs.

Technology and

Innovation

In 2018-19, we plan to:

 Provide Mobile Learning Labs in other contexts including rural Guatemala and Honduras.



Decent Work and Economic Growth

In 2017-18:

• 3,027 women participated in CAUSE Canada's microfinance programs in Sierra Leone, Guatemala, and Honduras.

In 2018-19, we plan to:

• Implement social performance metrics that help measure the impact of our economic development programing.

In 2017-18:

- 1,949 people participated in nutritional workshops in Guatemala and Honduras.
- 13,366 children benefitted from nutritional support and education.

In 2018-19, we will:

 Seek new opportunities to expand our efforts. Severe acute malnutrition is rampant in Comitancillo, Guatemala and San Luis, Honduras.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

ENDED MARCH 31, 2018		2018		2017
	Revenue			
FUNDING SOURCES 9% 3% 38%	Government of Alberta Microcredit Finance Revenue Events International Organizations Government of Canada Designated Donations General Donations CAUSE Kids Sponsorship Foundation Revenue Interest and Miscellaneous	\$	243,252 86,694 432,551 1,023,852 150,737 198,909 240,089 326,993 4,388	15,000 209,565 66,405 819,404 1,005,031 618,175 577,806 228,175
1470	Expenses		2, 707,465	3,539,792
21%	Amortization MNCH Program (Guatemala and Honduras)		61,160 1, 050,317	67,668 1,035,522
Government International Organizations Individuals	CAUSE Canada Programs (Sierra Le-		565,819	1,418,174
Foundations Microfinance Events	one) Microfinance Programs International Organizations' Programs		234,686 440,862	306,046
			2,352,844	2,827,410
EXPENSES GLOBAL OVERVIEW \$70,603	Support Expenses			
\$346,232	Administration Fundraising		346,232 70,603	353,070 155,200
	Total Expenses		2,769,679	3,335,680
\$\$2352,844	Excess of Revenue Over Expenses		(62,214)	204,112
Program Expenses	Recovery (Impairment) of Microcredi Loans Receivable Portfolio	t	(1,201)	(3,130)
	Gain on Disposal of Property & Equip.		159	
	Excess Revenue Over Expenses	\$	(63,256)	200, 982

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

MARCH 31, 2018	2018	 2017
Assets		
Current Cash Accounts Receivable Donated Investments Prepaid Expenses	\$ 181,326 40,746 22,402 8,484	\$ 296,478 9,253 22,402 4,456
	252,958	332,589
Capital Assets	 266,180 519,138	298,961 631,550
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities Deferred Contributions	40,935 28,610	37,513 74,793
Due to Related Parties	69,545 	112,306 23,000
	69,545	135,306
Microcredit Loan Obligation	100,290	83,685
	169,835	218,991
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets Unrestricted Net Assets	266,180 83,123	298,961 113,598
	349,303	412,559
	\$ 519,138	\$ 631,550



CAUSE Canada has earned the Seal of Accountability from the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (www.giveconfidently.ca). You can expect accountability, transparency, excellence, respect, and responsiveness from CAUSE Canada.

CAUSE CANADA'S PARTNERS

60 million girls Foundation

Abundance Canada

Agape Foundation

Anonymous

Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation

Banff Full Gospel Church

Butterfly Effect Microcredit Foundation

Compassionate Eye Foundation

Crossway Community Thrift

Donner Canadian Foundation

ELM Foundation

Fleming Foundation

Fondation Edouard Assh

Frank and Agnes DeFehr Foundation

Frank J. Flaman Foundation

Gateway Community Church

Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada

International Needs Canada

Mountain Baptist Church

Pamela Grigg Charitable Fund at the Calgary Foundation

Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation

River Park Christian Reformed Church

The Fellowship Foundation

The Olwen Priestnall Memorial Fund at the Calgary Foundation

Trinity Bible Church

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