



Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) Recommendations for Budget 2016

Official Development Assistance (ODA) contributions by members of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) have remained stable at 0.30% of Gross National Income (GNI), and Canada has continued to see a decline to just 0.24%.

In 2014, Canada committed \$4.68B CAD to ODA down from \$5.09B in 2013 according to the OECD.¹ In Budget 2016, we have the opportunity to reverse this spending trend to ensure that our ODA funding is aligned with the level of ambition for our new Government to deliver results toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, we have the opportunity to provide a strong response to a changing climate; ensure we are assisting the world's poorest and most vulnerable people; increasing transparency aid transparency and incorporate reproductive health into Canada's commitment to Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH). It is important to note these opportunities are part of the ministerial mandate letters.

Net ODA

	2013	2014	Change 2013/14 %
Current (USD m)	4,947.2	4,240.0	-14.3
Constant (2013 USD m)	4,947.2	4,466.2	-9.7
National Currency * (million)	5,096.6	4,684.0	-8.1
ODA/GNI (%)	0.27	0.24	
Bilateral share (%)	71	77	

* Canada, Dollars

Report: Canadian Perspectives on International Development

In 2015, EWB, in partnership with the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, commissioned a Nielsen Opinion Quest public opinion poll to obtain an understanding of Canadians' perspectives about global poverty issues.² Key findings include:

- **There is a national consciousness in Canada about global poverty reduction**, with 94% of Canadians saying it is important to improve health, education and economic opportunity for world's poorest and 76% of Canadians agreeing we have a moral obligation to help expand health, education, and economic opportunity for the world's poorest.
- **Canadians want their government to take a leadership role in global poverty reduction**, with 62% of Canadians agreeing that Canada should be one of the leading countries in providing international development.
- **Canadians have a good grasp of how much the government currently spends on foreign aid, and 46% believe the government should spend more.**

Recommendations for Budget 2016

EWB and Canadians across the country ask the Government of Canada to commit to predictable annual increases in ODA:

1. Commit to a return to an ODA budget at least on par with the OECD-DAC average total in the 2016 Federal Budget, (0.30% of GNI in 2014).
2. The Government of Canada can—and should—enhance the country's leadership role in addressing global poverty by aspiring to surpass Canada's 2005 and 2010 official development assistance (ODA) levels of 0.34% of GNI before the end of the 42nd Parliament, as a step toward meeting the United Nations' target of committing 0.7%.
3. Commit to maintaining the principal focus of ODA on poverty reduction for the poorest by maintaining focus on sub-Saharan Africa and increasing funding to the world's poorest countries.

Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) invests in leaders and innovations to create a world free from poverty and inequitable development: a world of dignity and equal opportunity where everyone is able to realize their full potential. We are leading a movement with thousands of passionate members in Canada, as well as staff and volunteers in Canada and in our African partner countries.

For more information please contact Jason Clark, Campaign Manager, at jasonclark@ewb.ca or 613-804-3355

¹ Refer to the table featuring Canadian Net ODA flows from the OECD-DAC website: https://public.tableau.com/views/AidAtAGlance/DACmembers?:embed=y&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no

² The online survey of 1,008 across Canada and was conducted between January 22-25, 2015.