

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2026 Federal Budget

Results Canada

May 2026

Recommendation 1

Budget 2026 should establish a protected core minimum of \$5.5 billion per year for poverty-focused Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Recommendation 2

Budget 2026 should explicitly reaffirm Canada's 10-Year Commitment to Health and Rights by maintaining the previously committed annual investment of at least \$1.4 billion per year to 2030, including:

2.1 Reaffirm Canada's commitment to polio eradication through a renewed investment in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

2.2 Double down on Canada's support for tuberculosis elimination and pandemic preparedness by:

- investing \$125 million over five years in CEPI 3.0 to help ensure the world has safe and effective vaccines ready within 100 days of the next pandemic threat, and
- meeting its fair share contribution to global tuberculosis research and development by allocating 0.15% of total research expenditure annually to TB R&D

Recommendation 3

Renew Canada's commitment to children and youth by investing \$212 million per year for the next five years in global education.

Building Canada's future by investing in our world

The global landscape has shifted dramatically. Intensifying geopolitical competition, persistent conflicts, climate instability, and economic fragmentation are reshaping international relationships and testing the resilience of global institutions. At the same time, many traditional development partners are retreating from international cooperation and global health financing.

In this environment, Canada has an opportunity to strengthen its role as a reliable and forward-looking partner. Long-term investments in global development are strategic investments in economic resilience, global stability, health security, and future trade relationships.

As the rules based international order ruptures, middle powers like Canada have an opportunity to build a third path between the great powers. It is incumbent on Canada to remain a stable and reliable partner that builds and values relationships for the long-term.

As a key pillar of Canadian foreign policy, international assistance plays a vital role in deepening relationships with emerging markets. Countries that are healthier, more educated, and more economically resilient become stronger trading partners, more stable allies, and more reliable contributors to regional and global security. Countries such as South Korea transitioned from development assistance recipients into major economic and strategic partners through decades of sustained international cooperation.

Strategic international assistance helps create the conditions for inclusive growth, stronger institutions, and long-term prosperity. Investments in health, education, nutrition, and research build resilient societies capable of withstanding shocks, contributing to global markets, and participating in shared economic growth.

Yet hard-won global gains are increasingly under threat. Global ODA levels are declining, and poverty-focused assistance is being crowded out by domestic expenditures. In 2023–24, [nearly 30% of Canada's ODA was spent domestically](#), mainly on refugee and newcomer support. This marked the first time domestic ODA exceeded Canada's contributions to Sub-Saharan Africa. While supporting new Canadians is critical, Canada's international assistance must remain focused on long-term, sustainable poverty reduction overseas, particularly in the least-developed countries.

At the same time, the world is confronting overlapping crises. Progress against deadly infectious diseases is slowing. Climate shocks and conflict are driving humanitarian emergencies. Fragile states are experiencing growing instability. Declining investment in prevention is increasing the likelihood that local crises become global emergencies.

Canada cannot solve these challenges alone. But Canada can help shape a more stable and prosperous future by remaining a dependable partner that invests consistently, works collaboratively, and focuses on long-term outcomes.

For these reasons, **Budget 2026 should establish a protected and expanding core minimum of \$5.5 billion annually for poverty-focused Official Development Assistance (ODA) within Canada's overall ODA allocations.**

Prioritizing women, children, and adolescents

Global progress in child survival and maternal health has been one of the great development successes of the past generation. Since 2000, under-five mortality has declined by more than half due to improved immunization coverage, better nutrition, and expanded access to health services. But that progress is under threat. For the first time this century, child mortality rates are projected to rise.

Canada has long been a global leader in maternal, newborn, and child health. Through the Muskoka Initiative and Canada's subsequent 10-Year Commitment to Health and Rights, Canada helped mobilize international action and improve access to life-saving health services for women, children, and adolescents around the world.

These investments have delivered measurable results. Expanded immunization coverage, improved nutrition, strengthened sexual and reproductive health services, and increased access to essential care have helped save millions of lives while contributing to healthier, more resilient societies.

Maintaining the 10-Year Commitment is a strategic investment. Healthier populations are more economically productive, more resilient to shocks, and better positioned to contribute to stable and growing economies. By **explicitly reaffirming the 10-Year Commitment to Health and Rights and maintaining an investment of at least \$1.4 billion per year in global health**, Canada can continue to demonstrate global leadership while advancing its long-term economic and foreign policy interests.

Finishing the fight against polio

The world stands on the brink of eradicating only the second human disease in history.

Since the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988, global polio cases have declined by 99.9%. More than 20 million people who otherwise would have been paralyzed are walking today because of vaccines and coordinated global action.

Importantly, investments in polio eradication create broader health security benefits. Surveillance systems, laboratories, health workers, and emergency response infrastructure built for polio have repeatedly been used to detect and respond to outbreaks of Ebola, mpox, and

other infectious diseases. In 2025, for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo leveraged polio infrastructure and expertise to contain an Ebola outbreak.

As global development assistance declines and health systems come under strain, gains against polio risk reversal. Continued political and financial support is essential to ensure the virus is eliminated permanently.

Canada should reaffirm its commitment to polio eradication through a renewed investment in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Research, development, and pandemic preparedness

COVID-19 demonstrated the devastating consequences of global unpreparedness. An estimated 15 million people lost their lives, and the global economy lost up to US\$13.8 trillion. Future pandemics could cost the global economy over US\$700 billion every year.

In an interconnected world, health security has become inseparable from economic security and national resilience. Preventing the next global health emergency requires sustained investment in research, development, and innovation across vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

Scientific progress continues at remarkable speed, but the systems that sustain innovation are under growing pressure. Fragmented financing, geopolitical tensions, weakened development pipelines, and declining global health investment are slowing progress across diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Canada has an opportunity to help strengthen the global research and development ecosystem while also advancing domestic innovation, biomanufacturing capacity, and health security.

Pandemic preparedness depends on the ability to move quickly from detection to response. The 100 Days Mission aims to ensure that vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics can be developed and deployed within 100 days of identifying a new pandemic threat.

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) plays a central role in advancing this goal. CEPI supports rapid-response vaccine development and platform technologies capable of accelerating vaccine production against emerging threats. Investments in CEPI strengthen the systems needed to detect, contain, and respond to outbreaks before they escalate into global crises.

At the same time, strengthening preparedness also means investing in the fight against existing infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis remains the world's leading infectious disease killer, claiming more than one million lives every year despite being preventable and curable. Drug-resistant TB is increasing, millions of people remain undiagnosed or untreated, and existing tools remain outdated.

TB also affects Canada, disproportionately impacting Indigenous, northern, and newcomer communities.

Canada should build on its existing investments in TB R&D, which strengthen many of the same scientific and delivery systems required for pandemic preparedness. Organizations such as TB Alliance, Unitaid, FIND, and IAVI are improving access to innovations in diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines, strengthening global capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to infectious disease threats.

Supporting TB innovation also helps address the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance and contributes to stronger, more resilient health systems globally.

Investments in global health R&D across the Departments of Health, Industry, Defence and Foreign Affairs generate benefits that extend well beyond outbreak prevention. Building on those investments to reach our fair share contribution to global TB R&D will deepen support for scientific collaboration, strengthen vaccine and biomanufacturing capacity, create innovation partnerships, and deliver long-term economic returns.

Budget 2026 should position Canada as a leader in global health innovation and pandemic preparedness by:

- **investing \$125 million over five years in CEPI 3.0 to advance the 100 Days Mission and strengthen pandemic preparedness;** and
- meeting its fair share contribution to global tuberculosis research and development by allocating 0.15% of total research expenditure annually to TB R&D.

Education, stability, and economic growth

Education is one of the most effective long-term investments Canada can make in global stability and shared prosperity.

Every additional year of schooling increases individual earnings, strengthens workforce participation, and contributes to long-term economic growth. Countries with stronger education systems are better positioned to build resilient economies, attract investment, and become future trading partners.

Education is also directly linked to peace and security. Research consistently demonstrates that inclusive, quality education reduces the likelihood of conflict, strengthens social cohesion, and supports democratic participation.

In fragile and crisis-affected settings, education provides children and youth with safety, stability, and opportunity. It helps mitigate trauma, reduce inequalities, and strengthen resilience in communities facing displacement, violence, and economic hardship.

Investing in education is therefore an investment in prevention.

Rather than responding to increasingly costly crises after they emerge, Canada can help reduce instability before it escalates by supporting safe, inclusive, and quality education systems globally.

Budget 2026 should renew Canada's leadership in global education by investing \$212 million annually over five years to support children and youth, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Conclusion

Canada's prosperity and security are deeply connected to the stability and resilience of the wider world.

In a period defined by geopolitical uncertainty, economic fragmentation, climate disruption, and growing health threats, international assistance remains one of Canada's most important strategic tools.

Investments in global health, education, research, and poverty reduction strengthen economies, reduce instability, prevent crises, and build the conditions for long-term partnership and shared prosperity.

Budget 2026 is an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate leadership by remaining a reliable partner that invests in prevention, strengthens international cooperation, and helps build a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future.

Results Canada is a grassroots advocacy organization with a mission to generate the political will to end extreme poverty.