Partners for progress
Canada is one of the world’s leaders in supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women; exemplified by the gender-balanced Cabinet of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Canada’s tenfold increase in funding during the first year of UN Women in 2011 was a crucial show of support to the new organization.

Sharing common goals
Canada and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. Women’s economic and political participation, prevention of violence against women and girls and engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes are common goals.

Canada is a global leader in the promotion and protection of women’s rights and gender equality. These issues are central to Canada’s foreign and domestic policies. Canada is committed to the view that gender equality is not only a human rights issue, but is also an essential component of sustainable development, social justice, peace and security. Protection and advancement of human rights remains a central foreign policy priority for Canada, both in bilateral discussions and in multilateral forums. In 2017, Canada launched its first ever Feminist International Assistance Policy which aims to contribute to global efforts to eradicate poverty by empowering women and addressing inequalities.

Canada was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which sets international standards for eliminating gender discrimination. In 2002, Canada ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2000.

“As leaders, we need to act to show that truly, time is up.”
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaking at Davos 2018 on sexual harassment.

Banner photo: 16 March 2016, New York - During a public conversation at UN Headquarters, in the context of the 60th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on global leaders to do more to ensure gender equality and promote women’s empowerment.
Together we achieved:

The Government of Canada was the inaugural funder of the innovative platform [www.empowerwomen.org](http://www.empowerwomen.org), a global movement for women’s economic empowerment. The platform connects people globally to take action for women’s economic rights and opportunities and provides a voice as decision makers and leaders. The online portal enables individuals to further their aspirations and economic goals. Members are women and men from the private sector, civil society, academic, government agencies and international organizations in more than 190 countries, including many youth. Empower Women provides tools and resources, so that women can find decent work, start and grow prosperous organizations and businesses that create equal opportunities for both women and men.

Gender Indicators

Canadian funding for the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Initiative allowed UN Women and the United Nations Statistics Division and other partners to accelerate existing efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. The project developed a platform for international data and metadata compilation; developed standards and guidelines for measuring assets and entrepreneurship indicators, and piloted data collection on assets and entrepreneurship in several countries.

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces

The city of Winnipeg was the first Canadian city to participate in the UN Women Flagship Global Initiative on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces in December 2013, together with Manitoba Status of Women, aboriginal-led organizations, and other community partners. The City of Edmonton, Montreal and London are now Canadian Safe Cities, and in 2018 the City of Edmonton hosted the Global Forum for Safe Cities. Other Canadian cities are exploring their participation in the programme.

Alliances with Canadian companies

The private sector is a key partner for advancing gender equality and empowering women. Canadian companies, such as Bombardier, Deloitte Canada, Goldcorp, Mountain Equipment, Schneider Electric and Sleegers Kirkwood-Pearce have demonstrated their commitment to advancing gender equality through signing the CEO Statement of Support for the Women’s Empowerment Principles, a joint initiative of UN Global Compact and UN Women which offers guidance to businesses on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

Claiming Rightful Roles in the Economy

Supported by Canada’s contributions towards regular resources, UN Women has made significant progress towards the economic empowerment of women and girls. In 2018, more than 50,000 women had increased access to, and control over, productive resources in 26 countries.

Over 31,000 Canadians, including 20,760 men, have made HeForShe commitments in Canada, as part of the UN Women-led solidarity campaign, launched in 2015 by actor Emma Watson, to engage men around the world to stand up in addressing inequalities. More than 1.3 million have signed up around the world. PM Trudeau is a HeForShe Impact Champion for Youth.