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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Whether it’s been campaigning for universal cost coverage of medical abortion, launching a cutting-edge resource for sexuality education in schools, securing a major investment in global SRHR from Canada, supporting thousands with sexual and reproductive health information, or supporting sexual and reproductive rights defenders around the world to hold their governments accountable, my colleagues and I have been working tirelessly to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canada and globally. This past year, as you will read about in this report, we’ve made significant strides forward.

When we brought together three Canadian organizations to form Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights over three years ago, we did so to realize a three-fold vision: building a strong national voice on these important but contested issues; combining national and global work in health promotion, policy and advocacy to ensure these different aspects of work fundamentally inform each other; and organizing around a broad and intersectional sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda. On this last point, through our work we’ve been showcasing not only the interconnections between different sexual and reproductive rights issues but also their relationship to other human rights issues through collaborating with actors from diverse social justice movements.

On all of these points, this last year has made clear that we’ve brought this vision into reality. We’ve spoken out prolifically in the media and with decision-makers, we’ve worked to hold Canada accountable to its sexual and reproductive rights obligations, we’ve seen many successes in our work, and we are poised over the coming months to expand our team to make even further progress in achieving our vision.

I hope that you will feel proud of our work and accomplishments over the past year. As a supporter of Action Canada, you’ve made these possible.

In solidarity,

Sandeep Prasad, Executive Director
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

DEAR FRIENDS,

What is clear to me, as I look back over the past year, is that Action Canada has become a respected, and sought after, voice for a diverse range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues. With Sandeep’s leadership, Action Canada continues to learn and evolve as a new organization, while respecting the legacies and preserving the strengths of our predecessor organizations.

In just over 3 years, Action Canada has built a staff team of articulate and passionate individuals committed to SRHR issues. A team that continues to grow.

Considerable effort has been focused on the development of policies and practices—governance and operational—ensuring the new organization is effectively utilizing resources in the delivery of our services and programs.

And finally, I would like to recognize the Board of Directors and thank them for their willingness to engage and share their perspectives. Given the knowledge and skills each member brings to the table, we are continuously grateful they choose to give their time to Action Canada. In particular, I would like to thank out-going members, Shiv and Katherine—for their tireless support of the organization and SRHR.

Respectfully,

Cathy Steven, Chair of the Board
About Us

Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights is a progressive, pro-choice charitable organization committed to advancing and upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canada and globally.

We are an organization that works within Canada and globally to promote health, well-being, and rights related to sexuality and reproduction. Building on the strong histories of our three predecessor organizations, we cover a broad spectrum that includes directly providing support, referrals, and information; working with other groups and organizations on a range of campaigns using a collaborative, movement-building approach; and policy advocacy related to sexual and reproductive rights (including abortion), gender, LGBTQ rights, comprehensive sexuality education, and more.

Our Vision

All people everywhere have full control over, and are able to decide freely upon, all matters related to their sexuality, reproduction and gender, including their reproductive and sexual health.

Our Mission

To advance and uphold reproductive and sexual rights and health, in Canada and globally.

Our History

Following decades of activism, three of Canada’s leading sexual and reproductive health and rights organizations saw an opportunity for a strengthened voice in policy, health promotion, and access to information and a way to engage others across Canada and around the world in the sexual and reproductive health and rights movement.

The 2014 amalgamation allowed each of the three organizations to build on one another’s histories, strengths, and shared vision. Canadians for Choice (formerly CARAL) and the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada) would benefit from the policy expertise of Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD) and the organization’s international partnerships, while ACPD would profit from frontline knowledge and experience in Canada. A newly bridged gap between the national and global context was made and our shared history has set the stage for an organization that works in collaboration across all levels.

From partnerships with health care providers and activists on the ground to engaging decision-makers in Canada and around the world, movement building is at the core of everything we do.
The Canadian Federation of Societies for Population Planning is established as a national family planning association. The Federation becomes a member of International Planned Parenthood Federation in 1965 and incorporates in 1969 as the Family Planning Federation of Canada.

The Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law is founded, Canada’s first national group promoting abortion rights.

CARAL changes its name to the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League.

Canadians for Choice incorporates in 2002 and formally launches in May 2004, having formed out of the awareness and education wing of CARAL.

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights merges three of Canada’s leading organizations into one unified voice for sexual health and rights.

CFSPP becomes Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

Action Canada for Population and Development is formed as an offshoot of PPFC to ensure the Canadian government meets its 1994 Cairo Programme of Action commitments.

PPFC becomes the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health to more accurately reflect its mission.
PROMOTING SEXUAL HEALTH

ACCESS LINE
The Access line is a 24-hour Canada wide toll-free number that provides abortion referrals and information on sexual and reproductive health. Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, we are on the line every day talking to people from across the country who are facing serious barriers to abortion services and stigma-free sexual health information. We answered over 2,400 calls this year and were able to help international students without health coverage, people delayed by gate-keepers in their communities, and many in northern and rural areas who needed to travel hundreds of kilometers to access abortion. Hearing the unique stories from callers who we can support thanks to generous financial contributions underpins our work and the need to continue to collectively fight for everyone to have equal access to this essential medical service.

1-888-642-2725 and access@actioncanadaSHR.org

NORMA SCARBOROUGH EMERGENCY FUND
Over 40% of Access Line callers tell us that location is a barrier for them and often need financial support from the Norma Scarborough Emergency Fund, the only one of its kind in Canada. The Emergency Fund provides travel and accommodation assistance for those who do not have access to abortion nearby and would otherwise not be able to afford this essential medical service. Through donor support last year, the Emergency Fund assisted 18 trips across Canada and 5 out-of-country. Without the fund, folks who are not covered by provincial health care, who have tenuous immigration status, who live in poverty, who are marginalized in countless ways, would not be able to access abortion because of the excessive costs of travelling sometimes hundreds of kilometres away. Year after year, the Emergency Fund is drawn down to $0; it is clear the fund is filling an important service gap.
End of Year Highlights: Teaching Beyond the Basics

Just in time for the 2017 school year, Beyond the Basics launched as a huge success in Toronto. It brought together teachers and advocates thrilled to have a resource that supports their important work from a human rights approach. We have already held trainings in Ontario and Saskatchewan and over 100 copies are in the hands of educators across the country. Our online community is building momentum and growing every day.

beyondthebasics.online

BEYOND THE BASICS

From coast-to-coast-to-coast, everyone we talk to seems to have something to say about how their “sex ed” failed them. Sexuality education in Canada (when taught) remains highly uneven between schools and even teachers. Covering topics that range from anatomy to consent and healthy relationships, Beyond the Basics approaches sexuality education from a human rights perspective across all gender identities and sexual orientations with activities that help move students from receiving information to making decisions based on critical thinking skills and empowerment. Beyond the Basics was completed following years of hard work and consultations with educators and health care providers. It includes all original content and was launched just in time for back-to-school. The Beyond the Basics suite helps educators fill the gap with resources, activities, trainings, and an online community to support one another and build a movement. The book can be purchased at a cost-recovery rate online and includes access to the Online Hub for the latest up-to-date information. There is now a growing community of educators teaching Beyond the Basics, the seedbed for a full-scale campaign on high quality evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education in Canada.

actioncanadashr.org/beyondthebasics
SRH WEEK
Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week is a yearly national campaign that promotes sexual and reproductive health in Canada. In 2017, it took place from February 12–18 under the theme: Ready for some pillow talk? With the support of a National Advisory Committee of Canadian health care professionals, we built on the 2016 What’s Your Relationship Status campaign by creating the tools for health care professionals across Canada and their patients/clients to start the conversation for the best possible care. Clinics, public health agencies, schools, and non-profits across every province and territory in Canada received over 3,500 posters and participated in a successful social media campaign. SRH Week improves health care systems by engaging directly with providers who support comprehensive care and the people who need it most.

srhweek.ca
SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION HUB
The Hub hosts a legacy of valuable information built over years through consultation with sexual health and rights organizations, advocates, and health care professionals. Housed on the SRH Week website, it is the only bilingual online youth-friendly sexual health information source of its kind in Canada. Updated every year, this go-to resource supports health care professionals as well as patients/clients to destigmatize sexual and reproductive health care. Last year, over 30,000 visitors accessed the evidence-based judgment-free information they need to provide and receive quality care.

srhweek.ca

IUD INSERTERS DIRECTORY
The directory of clinics is dedicated to improving access to IUDs. We partnered with health care experts in IUD insertion, the Canadian Network for Intrauterine Contraception, to improve service provision and support comprehensive care. The project supports access to clinics and clinicians that provide IUDs with ease, minimal pain, high success, and low complication rates. It also directly connects us with health care professionals through teaching and training opportunities.

raice.ca

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS
Across Canada, there is a strong and growing network of organizations with shared values and a commitment to promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. They offer a range of clinical, subsidized, and free sexual health services, including education and resources related to pregnancy options, birth control, STI prevention, and counseling. Through joint advocacy, bulk purchasing of condoms, and addressing service gaps in policy and legislation, our collaborative work with associate organizations keeps us connected to local and provincial movements and the communities we support. We are mutually strengthened through the sharing of perspectives and realities across all areas of Canada, from Vancouver Island to the Maritimes.

actioncanadashr.org/associates

Interested in an IUC?
You’ve come to the right place.
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**BENTLEY AWARDS**
As part of their legacy, Helen and Fred Bentley generously support sexual health innovation and leadership through the Helen and Fred Bentley Awards of Excellence. The award is coordinated by Action Canada and comes with a monetary prize to support ongoing efforts in the field. The committee received a strong number of applications and was proud to award this year's two prizes to Planned Parenthood Regina's *Manachiwasin* (respect self) program and SHORE Centre's *Great Sexpectations*.

**HARRIS SCHOLARSHIP**
Dr. Walter Harris established the Phyllis P. Harris Scholarship in recognition of Phyllis P. Harris' devoted service to the ideals and work of Planned Parenthood in Canada (now Action Canada). The Phyllis P. Harris Scholarship provides encouragement and financial support to individuals showing promise of leadership, and encourages and supports research that will contribute to the effectiveness of the work of Action Canada and its partners. This year, scholarship recipient Meg Saxby created a set of resources that map and evaluate “sex ed” curriculums across the provinces and territories. The research supports ongoing advocacy efforts to ensure all students have access to comprehensive sexuality education in Canada.
The Minister of International Development invited us to be on Canada’s official delegation during the She Decides Conference where the Government pledged an initial $20M to address the gap left by the US Global Gag Rule. Along with our partners, we were instrumental in the creation of Canada’s Feminist International Development Policy and securing a $650M pledge for sexual and reproductive health and rights globally. Taking a leadership role along with six prominent Canadian civil society organizations, we are keeping the Government accountable to its international commitments. Together, we formed the Future Planning Initiative, a strategy to empower 18 million adolescent and young women with full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**UNFPA STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT**

Did you know Action Canada is the Canadian implementing partner of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)? This year, we partnered with UNFPA and Global Affairs Canada to launch the 2016 State of World Population Report at Global Affairs Canada for the first time in history. The Minister for International Development provided introductory remarks and our Executive Director spoke alongside panelists including the UNFPA, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs Canada. The Canadian launch represents a continued deepening of Canada’s strengthened support for global sexual and reproductive health and rights and the relationship between Action Canada, the UNFPA, and the Government of Canada.

**CAPPD**

The Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development is a forum for sitting Senators and Members of Parliament to build knowledge and exchange ideas on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, human rights, and development issues. As secretariat of the CAPPD, we have direct access to Federal decision-makers across all party lines through which we continue to push the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda forward in parliament. This year, CAPPD Chair Dr. Hedy Fry tabled a parliamentary petition on the US Global Gag Rule. Alongside our advocacy work, the petition helped secure a $650M investment from the Federal Government to help close the global funding gap for sexual and reproductive health and rights.
End of Year Highlights: Mifegymiso Wins

The Mifegymiso campaign has put the issue of abortion access on the map. In July 2017, we attended the Council of the Federation, an important meeting with all Premiers in Canada, to bring attention to the need for universal cost coverage of the pill. By early 2018, six provinces and two federal programs had already pledged coverage. Five provinces have rolled out their plans and we are working to make sure others follow suit. In October, we hosted a hard-hitting press conference with a historic multi-sectoral coalition that included the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Pharmacists Association, and the Canadian Health Coalition to demand better access to abortion. In response, the Federal Health Minister promised to work with provinces and territories to fix two-tiered access to medical abortion. This is the first time such a promise has been made and we are working to ensure that her pledge is fulfilled. Health Canada also recently announced the easing of all but one restriction that compromises access to Mifegymiso. With fewer barriers, we expect to see increased access to abortion throughout Canada, especially to rural and remote areas.

Access to the Abortion Pill

The abortion pill combination (branded as Mifegymiso in Canada) creates more choice and offers an important opportunity to increase abortion access in rural and remote areas of the country. As soon as Mifegymiso became available in Canada, we were engaging politicians and building momentum with health coalitions, professional associations, community activists, and the general public to ensure all people have increased access to reproductive choice. Within the first six months of our Mifegymiso campaign, three provinces had already pledged universal cost coverage of the pill and the Federal Government announced that eligible First Nations and Inuit people would be covered under Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB).

mifegymiso.com
UNIVERSAL COST COVERAGE OF MIFEGYMISO
SEXUAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE
The Sexual Rights Initiative is a coalition of national and regional organizations from all United Nations regions that has been advocating for the advancement of human rights related to gender and sexuality since 2006. The coalition bridges gaps to ensure feminist Global South voices and perspectives are included in key human rights arenas. It is the only coalition of its kind advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights at the UN Human Rights Council. As a Sexual Rights Initiative member, we recognize that most national organizations who represent marginalized communities, especially from the Global South, lack the resources or capacity to engage in global policy spaces. We strengthen the linkages between national and international advocacy with trainings for civil society and governments, accessible resources and tools, ongoing support, and regular collaboration with local organizations and activists. Action Canada is the administrative secretariat and program coordinator to the Sexual Rights Initiative. Members include Action Canada, Akahatá, the Coalition of African Lesbians, CREA (Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action), the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, and the Federation for Women and Family Planning.

MAJOR GAINS AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
The United Nations Human Rights Council is the foremost international space to hold governments accountable and advocate for human rights protections and policies. Alongside our partners in the Sexual Rights Initiative, we attended every session of the Council this year. Collective efforts in collaboration with local, national, and international organizations included high-level panels with UN officials and the submission of 15 national reports. All of this work led to major gains on sexual and reproductive rights, including the passing of resolutions that recognize the right to comprehensive sexuality education, the right to bodily autonomy, and the need for countries to repeal laws that discriminate against gender and/or sexuality.

End of Year Highlights: Historic Statement on Abortion Rights
A joint statement was signed by 285 organizations from around the world and delivered at the UN Human Rights Council in support of the September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. The Sexual Rights Initiative drafted the statement with the Center for Reproductive Rights and Ipas. This marked the first large scale statement on abortion rights at the Council and a historic moment in international advocacy.
LA W AND POLICY DATABASE

Access to up-to-date information on national laws, policies, and programs around the world is critical for defending and promoting sexual rights at the national and international level. The Sexual Rights Initiative developed and launched the Sexual Rights Database as a one-stop shop to access national Constitutions, laws, and policies related to a wide range of sexual rights. With this information in hand, advocates, organizations, and governments are empowered to engage in constructive dialogue, submit recommendations to the UN, hold governments accountable, and support the realization of sexual rights for all.

sexualrightsdatabase.org

End of Year Highlights:
Empowering Grassroots Advocacy at the UN

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process to review the human rights records of each of the 193 countries belonging to the UN. This year, the Sexual Rights Initiative relaunched the UPR Database to support this important work. The UPR Database allows advocates, governments, and organizations to access and search all sexual rights related recommendations and information on their implementation to help track human rights progress. Packaged in combination with the UPR Toolkit that was created by the Sexual Rights Initiative and International Planned Parenthood Federation, it is a powerful tool to hold governments accountable for sexual and reproductive rights violations and to advocate for changes to particular laws and policies that impact human rights related to sexuality.
# Financials

## Revenue

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$350,527</td>
<td>$313,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from other charities</td>
<td>21,634</td>
<td>69,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1,018,998</td>
<td>1,088,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships and awards</td>
<td>19,200</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>41,218</td>
<td>27,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,451,577</td>
<td>1,514,001</td>
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</table>

## Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td>1,094,878</td>
<td>1,219,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>160,827</td>
<td>172,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>74,444</td>
<td>49,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political activities</td>
<td>70,018</td>
<td>54,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>1,400,167</td>
<td>1,496,323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Excess Revenue for the Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$51,410</td>
<td>$17,678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ONLINE AND IN THE NEWS

You can find us on Twitter and Facebook as well as in the news—print, radio, and television. National media outlets like the CBC, the Globe and Mail, and CTV are featuring our voice more and more every year.

SOCIAL MEDIA  @actioncanadaSHR

Facebook
TOTAL REACH = 994,636
TOTAL FOLLOWERS = 7,206

Twitter
TOTAL REACH = 542,500
TOTAL FOLLOWERS = 2,065

MEDIA

6 BLOGS*

16 RADIO SEGMENTS*

41 NEWS ARTICLES*

2 TV BROADCASTS*

1 PODCAST*

5 OP-EDS

*FEATURED IN
DONORS

Donors make up a large portion of our undesignated revenues. These funds enable the Access Line, Emergency Fund, strategic policy action, and key resource development. Beyond the Basics and the abortion access work this year would not have been possible without the generous support of loyal, monthly, and major donors. New supporters are joining those who have given to this cause for generations. Thank you to all. Your donation is already hard at work.

“...I donate money to Action Canada to grow support for sexual and reproductive rights and education. I encourage other Canadians to do the same. Through our donations, we can challenge medical, social, and legal systems to remove barriers and to help ensure each person has access to the information and services they need.”

—Anonymous Major Gift Donor
A special thank you to all the individuals, coalitions, advisory boards, consultants, collaborators, movements, and organizations that make our work possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Action Canada Board members have a wide range of expertise on sexual and reproductive health and rights at both the national and international levels. Their invaluable knowledge and guidance supports us in strategically positioning the organization and its work.

Cathy Steven, Chair
Dr. Pierre M. LaRamée, Vice-Chair
Katherine McDonald, Secretary
Prof. Jennie Abell, Treasurer
Shiv Khare, Member

STAFF
The team is made up of passionate individuals with a diversity of experience working on sexual health and rights across issues, movements, and networks at the local, national, and international levels. It is their hard work and dedication that drive each and every one of Action Canada’s many accomplishments.

Sandeep Prasad, Executive Director
Tara Henderson, Director of Fundraising and Operations
Rosario Castro, Office Coordinator and Fundraising Assistant
Merry Sun, Finance Officer
Autumn Corvus, Technology Coordinator
Ani Colekessian, Communications Officer
Frédérique Chabot, Health Information Officer
Brittany Neron, Health Information Officer (Parental Leave Cover)
Makeda Zook, Special Projects Officer
Sarah Kennell, Public Affairs Officer
Darrah Teitel, Public Affairs Officer (Parental Leave Cover)
Meghan Doherty, Global Policy and Advocacy Officer
Stuart Halford, Senior Representative of the Sexual Rights Initiative to the United Nations in Geneva

VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers are a crucial part of the work we do. Thanks to them, we are able to offer 24-hour 7-days a week support to the people who need it most on our Access Line.

Ashling Ligaté
Hersha Goldberg
Krysta Williams
Lyne Jrade
Mélissa Boizot-Roche
Molly Hockin
Shelley Taylor
Simone Parniak

RESEARCH FELLOWS AND INTERNS
Meg Saxby, Phyllis P. Harris Scholarship Recipient
Rebecca Gill, Intern