

## Joint Statement: Saskatchewan Civil Society Organizations Call for Urgent SDG Action

We, the undersigned Saskatchewan civil society organizations, Board of Directors, and members of the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC), join together alongside SCIC during Global Goals Week 2025 to reaffirm our shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to call for urgent action at home and abroad.

In 2015, United Nations Member States made a universal commitment to “leave no one behind” through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One year later, Project Everyone, UNDP, and the UN Foundation launched Global Goals Week, an annual event dedicated to action, awareness, and accountability for the SDGs. This week brings together communities, civil society organizations, academia, and nations to advocate for urgency, push for progress, and scale up solutions that benefit both people and the planet.

Ten years after world leaders made their promise, and with only five years left, progress is dangerously off track. The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025 finds that only 35% of global targets are on track or making moderate progress, nearly half are moving too slowly, and 18% are regressing. Canada’s own reporting shows growing disparities, with the Prairie provinces seeing some of the steepest setbacks. Saskatchewan in particular has faced worsening poverty, with the highest rate in the country in 2021 at 9.1%.

The challenges we face are interconnected: escalating conflicts, the worsening climate crisis, entrenched gender inequality, widening economic gaps, and soaring debt burdens. Progress made has been fragile and unequal, with women, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups disproportionately affected. As civil society organizations, we see every day how these global crises manifest locally in our communities, schools, and economies.

But solutions are also clear, and they are already being led in our communities. Across Saskatchewan, our members are advancing gender equality, climate justice, inclusive leadership, and human rights. For example, Wapi Kihew, Attention to Creative Solutions Inc., is integrating traditional ecological knowledge into sustainable land management, engaging Indigenous youth in hands-on environmental activities, and strengthening the link between cultural heritage and sustainability. These local actions demonstrate that Saskatchewan plays a crucial role in building global solutions.

The SDGs give us a shared blueprint to:

- End poverty and hunger.
- Ensure gender equality and the full participation of women in economies and public life.
- Protect our climate, lands, and waters for future generations.
- Build prosperity that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

As Malcolm Toland, Executive Director of SCIC, affirms: *“Our members are proving every day that global citizenship begins at home, in schools, in communities, and in the partnerships Canadians build across borders.”*

Achieving these transformations will require massive investment, robust policies, and urgent action. We call on the Government of Canada to amplify its support for civil society leadership in driving SDG progress, and to invest in the financing, partnerships, and accountability mechanisms necessary to meet the urgency of this moment.

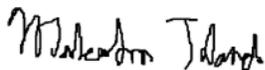
We also call on people across Saskatchewan to join us: learn about the SDGs, share stories of local success, and support initiatives that make our province, and our world, more just, sustainable, and inclusive. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to a more equitable future for all.

The road to 2030 is short, but our collective power is strong. Together, we can keep the promise of the Global Goals and create a future where everyone can thrive.

*This joint statement is accompanied by a media release which can be read on SCIC’s website.*

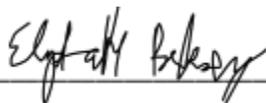
Signed,

The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation  
Malcolm Toland, Executive Director



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*One School One Farm Shelterbelt Project*  
Elizabeth Bekolay, Executive Director



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*Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan (RCE Saskatchewan)*  
Dr. Roger Petry, Co-Coordinator



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Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS)  
Ali Abukar, Chief Executive Officer  
*Ali Abukar*

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Climate Justice Saskatoon  
Sherry Olson, Volunteer  
*Sherry Olson*

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Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network, Luther College, University of Regina  
Colleen Strauch, Director Nonprofit Voluntary Sector Studies

*Colleen Strauch*

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Office of Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan  
Matt Wolsfeld, Research and Engagement Specialist

*M. J. Wolsfeld*

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EnviroCollective Network  
Rob Deglau, Chair

*Rob Deglau*

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USASK Political Science & Global Studies Certificate  
Martin Gaal, PhD, Lecturer & Coordinator

*Martin Gaal*

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Prairies Africa Partnership  
Edward Agbai, PhD, Executive Director

*Edward Agbai*

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Mennonite Central Committee, Saskatchewan  
Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director

*Eileen Klassen Hamm*

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Change for Children  
Lorraine Swift, Executive Director

*Lorraine Swift*

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KAIROS Regina  
Daniel M. Beveridge, Member of the executive group, past chair

*Daniel M. Beveridge*

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Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan  
Mrs. Kerrie Isaac, Executive Director

*Kerrie Isaac*

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United Nations Association in Canada-Regina Branch  
Temi Olaleye, Co-President External

*Temi Olaleye*

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Saskatchewan Polytechnic  
Dr. Larry, S. Rosia, President & CEO

*L. Rosia*

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Development & Peace - Caritas Canada  
Michelle Dinter-Linski, Animator (temporary)



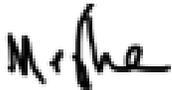
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University of Regina  
Christ Yost, Vice-President (Research)



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University of Saskatchewan, International Office  
Meghna Ramaswamy, Director



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SCIC Board of Directors  
Dr. Carol Henry, President



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SCIC Board of Directors  
Gareth Charpentier, Member



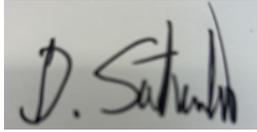
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SCIC Board of Directors  
Judy Klenk, Vice-President



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*Canadian International Council, Saskatoon Branch  
Dan Sutherland, President*



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