Panel Discussion

“Demise or Reincarnation: Perspectives on Canada’s Role in International Cooperation”

Brian Tomlinson, Mayme Lefurgey, & David Gallagher

June 13, 2013

Brian Tomlinson (see PDF of print out/PPT)

“CSOs and the Post-2015 Development Goals: Global trends in enabling conditions for CSOs”

Brian Tomlinson, Executive Director of AidWatch Canada, will highlight global issues and trends in the enabling conditions that affect the capacities of civil society organizations to contribution effectively to development outcomes and strategies. In the coming year, governments and CSOs will be increasingly focused on national and global processes to reach consensus on new development goals to succeed the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Globally, CSOs are working with the international community to advance key social, political, economic and environmental justice issues in a post-2015 framework of sustainable development goals. Establishing and protecting a robust CSO enabling environment, in which CSOs can fully pursue their diverse mandates, empowering and giving voice to people living in poverty, the marginalized and discriminated, is essential to shaping and realizing progress on post-2015 goals. Brian will draw from a recently published State of Civil Society Report by CIVICUS (socs.civicus.org), which focuses attention on both deteriorating conditions affecting civil society in many countries as well as good practices that stress the centrality of a vibrant civil society in promoting democracy and development.

Brian 5 priorities:

1. Take advantage of ODA Accountability Act – protect mandate of International Development
2. Need to become knowledgeable on Post-2015 development goals – be a part of the debates
3. Tackle disabling environment throughout the world – document and pressure people
4. Focus on political process – talk with Liberals, NDP and Conservatives – educate about changing context and realities with political constituencies leading up to 2015
Mayme Lefurgey (see PPT presentation)

Mayme holds a BA in Sociology from Mount Allison University (MTA) as well as an MA in Gender and Peacebuilding from the United Nations Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica. Upon graduation, she relocated to Malawi where she worked as a gender specialist for the Office of the President and Cabinet’s Department of Public Service Management of the federal government. This position was an internship as part of a Canadian International Development Agency IYIP Program.

Mayme is currently working on completing her second MA in Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation at the UNESCO Chair program of the University of Innsbruck in Austria. She also works as a Domestic Violence Outreach Coordinator in Restigouche County as well as interns as the Social Media and Campaign Coordinator/Women and Girls Education Program Associate for the African diaspora-based organization, Make Every Woman Count.

Mayme has been involved in a variety of other extracurricular and leadership experiences such as, Shinerama national campaign advisor for Cystic Fibrosis Canada, a recent intern for the United Nations Development Program, Co-president/creator of Global Brigades MTA and the UPEACE Students for Gender Equality club leader. Currently, she volunteers as part of the Red Cross’s disaster management team and co-leads the project Tilimbikile, which supports the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi (http://padsforempowerment.com/).

David Gallagher (see PDF of notes)

David has worked in the field of international cooperation for close to 40 years, with organizations such as CUSO, Oxfam and CARE International.

He currently is a consultant specializing in the areas of programme development and evaluations, and has done work in Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, South Africa as well as Nova Scotia. He will present a short historical perspective on the political context within which Canada's international assistance works.