**Guidelines**

**Purpose**
The purpose of the ACIC Member Southern Speakers Symposium Fund is to provide opportunities for Southern partners to dialogue with Atlantic Canadians on issues and demonstrate impact of efforts in international cooperation.

ACIC will make funds available to support the participation of international guests to the region to speak at ACIC’s annual symposium from **June 15-17th, 2017 in Sackville, NB**. Funds can be used for both international as well as regional travel costs. The ACIC member will be responsible for organizing travel logistics and providing funds for the speaker. Please note, however, that meals and accommodation during the symposium will be covered by ACIC\(^1\). ACIC would be pleased to provide accompanying letters of support where required for travel visas.

Up to **$3000** is available to help cover travel costs associated with having the Southern partner visit Atlantic Canada.

ACIC member applicants are encouraged to consider how the individual’s background and area of work pertain to the overall theme of the symposium. Please note, however, that there are many intersecting issues arising from the theme that we have chosen which will attract broad-based participation as well as a spectrum of contributing expertise.

Though not a requirement, consideration will be given to the value added to the ACIC member’s work or additional public engagement opportunities that may exist in conjunction with the speaker’s participation in the ACIC symposium.

**Symposium Theme**

**Common Concern:**
**Standing Together as Global Citizens**

There is no denying the seismic shift in recent times of the global political landscape. The election of a demagogue to the most important political position in the world, volatile referenda and electoral results in Europe, and racist, war-mongering, misogynist and anti-planet discourse, heard also in Canada, are cause for common concern. What role can Atlantic Canadians engaged in promoting social justice locally and globally play in countering these forces that threaten the values of global citizenship - human rights, democratic participation, rule of law, public deliberation based on dialogue and access to accurate information, and environmental sustainability? In a world where civic space is also closing or shrinking in many developing countries, affecting partners with whom we work, we want to learn from and share with Southern partners. What approaches have they taken to respond to these pressures? What effect will the current climate have on their work going forward? How might Canadian civil society organizations respond?

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\(^1\) As these costs are covered by the symposium registration fee, the fee will be waived for the selected speaker. Note, however, that registration through the symposium website will still be required for information purposes.
If we are to embrace hope over despair, we can be inspired by the millions who joined the Women’s Marches in January 2017 highlighting women’s rights as human rights. We can be encouraged by Canada’s ambitions to increase its presence on the world stage, the ratification of the Paris Agreement to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and international aid priorities that point to a stronger focus on the rights of women and girls. We can be reassured by our government’s commitment to international peacekeeping initiatives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. And closer to home, we can be heartened by the outpouring of support to welcome Syrian and other refugees into our Atlantic Canadian communities. But is it enough?

Though we may not be able to change the events of the recent past, we can take action to keep them from changing us. We will be more effective if we are able to stand together as individuals, organizations, and communities who share progressive internationalist and humanist values. The symposium will bring together international cooperation practitioners, environmentalists, youth, indigenous leaders, human-rights activists, immigrant associations, feminists, local governments, civil society leaders, issue-specific experts, advocates and academics to encourage dialogue across sectors. The symposium will create a learning environment through a combination of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and workshops that will strengthen individual and collective capacity to engage Atlantic Canadians and provide them with the tools to confront climate change denial and counter misogynist, racist, and xenophobic narratives. Most importantly, in bringing diverse voices together, we hope the symposium will lay the groundwork for further concerted action and collaboration based on a spirit of global solidarity that will contribute to the “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.” [UN, Transforming our World, 2015]

Eligibility

- Proposals must be submitted by an ACIC regular member (not individuals).
- ACIC accepts funding proposals from members in good standing – payment of membership dues must be up to date.
- Applicants must not have any outstanding final reports still to submit from previous ACIC-funded projects.

Submission Deadlines

All proposals must be received by 4:00 pm (AST) March 15th, 2017. A selection committee will review all proposals after the deadline and results will be announced in early April. Completed applications may be sent to carolyn@acic-caci.org.

Reporting

A financial and brief narrative report is due by August 31st, 2017.

Please note that Application Form is a separate document.