

Statement from the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
on
International Youth Day 2026: "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"



On this [International Youth Day](#), August 12th, we are called to recognize that, although young people grow up in very different environments, they share common hopes for safety, opportunity, a voice, and a livable planet. The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) stands in solidarity with youth in Canada and in countries facing profound economic, social, and climate challenges, affirming that sustainable development and youth development are shared responsibilities that must be advanced through international cooperation and strong partnerships.

Canadian youth are invited and encouraged to see their activism, volunteering, and policy engagement as part of a wider global movement, working alongside their peers in **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, **Landlocked**

Developing Countries (LLDCs), and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** — the primary, though not exclusive, focus of this year's theme. These young people often confront the sharpest impacts of poverty, climate vulnerability, and digital exclusion, yet they continue to lead meaningful change in their communities.

The NCWC encourages young people across Canada—especially those from communities experiencing their own forms of marginalization—to join the Council, collaborate with youth in other regions, and advocate for equitable access to education, decent work, digital connectivity, and mental well-being resources for all young people, wherever they live.

Across borders, youth are already driving solutions in entrepreneurship, digital technology, community organizing, and climate adaptation, demonstrating that they are innovators and problem-solvers, not passive recipients of support. The NCWC invites Canadian youth to contribute their initiatives and ideas to this global tapestry of action and to participate in the international online campaign, where young people around the world will share messages of hope, encouragement, and collaboration.

We also call on all NCWC members, affiliates, and networks to use their platforms to amplify youth voices by circulating digital cards, infographics, and video messages, while highlighting stories of youth leadership from Canada and from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. By sharing these materials widely, inviting youth into NCWC, and encouraging institutions to invest in young people as equal

partners in decision-making, we can help ensure that recognizing our different contexts strengthens global solidarity and that no young person—whether in Canada or elsewhere—is left behind.

To Join the National Council of Women of Canada – Click [HERE](#)

** Please note that Youth 16-18 (\$15 annually) and Full-Time Student 18-25 (\$25 annually)*

** Please note that fees can be waived if needed and that we are looking to attract youth to many committees and to the formation of a Youth Committee itself.*