

## No

*Here are some reasons why people might argue that the Canadian government **should not reduce spending** on foreign aid.*

### **Opportunity to fill gaps left by USAID**

Canada has long been associated with peacekeeping and democracy, but Trump's cuts to the United States Agency for International Development – the American agency that provides foreign aid and development assistance, commonly known as USAID – opens up an opportunity for us to take on an even greater leadership role in the area. This is particularly relevant now, as the United States had previously spent the most (\$64.7 billion USD, or approximately \$88.8 billion CAD) on official development assistance and cuts may leave millions in a lurch. Experts also warn that non-democratic powers like Russia and China may step in to expand their influence.

### **Not meeting United Nations target**

In 1970, a United Nations General Assembly resolution passed stating that members should aim to spend 0.7% of gross national income on official development assistance; last year, only four countries reached or exceeded this goal. While slightly above average (currently 0.33% of all member countries' gross national income combined goes towards official development assistance), Canada still sits at a little under half of this target at 0.34%.

### **Fixing structural inequality**

The majority of Canada's foreign aid goes towards the Global South (the exception being Ukraine since its war with Russia began), which includes all or parts of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Oceania. From around the late 1400s to early 1900s, the people of these areas were exploited and their resources were extracted which contributed to the economic advancement of European colonizers and settlers. These inequalities persist to this day, to the general benefit of the Global North including Canada. Reducing spending on foreign aid means failing to uphold our commitment to reduce inequality around the world.

### **Spillover effects**

Investing in peace, stability, and infrastructure in developing countries has positive ripple effects for the donor country. It can, for instance, open up new markets for Canadian businesses and investments, and having legitimate opportunities can steer young people away from being radicalized into criminal and/or terrorist groups.

### **Read More**

- [Foreign aid can help strengthen the economies of donor countries by boosting business](#) (The Conversation)
- [Canada should fill the void in democracy development left by the Trump administration](#) (Policy Options)
- [The economic impact of colonialism](#) (Centre for Economic Policy Research)
- [What do Canada's political leaders want to do with foreign aid?](#) (CTV)