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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WEEKEND, March 6-8, 2015



International Women's Day is an opportunity for anyone to get involved, and Plan Canada has created a number of ways for Canadians to take action. CONTRIBUTED

Lots worth celebrating, progress still to be made

Plan Canada. Because I Am A Girl tackles gender inequality around the globe

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TRAPLIN
For Metro

For more than 75 years, Plan, one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies, has been working to end global poverty in an effort to improve the lives of children worldwide.

Plan works in 70 countries, including 51 developing nations. One of its main initia-

tives is the Because I Am A Girl campaign, which aims to end gender inequality, promote women's and girls' rights and lift them out of poverty.

International Women's Day is being marked around the world Sunday, and Plan Canada is using the opportunity to shine the spotlight on gender inequality.

"These days are exciting for us because, while we talk about gender issues all year in our work, when International Women's Day comes around, it's an opportunity for us to engage more broadly with people who may not do that day in and day out like we do," said Kristy Payne, Plan Canada's

How you can donate

Plan Canada offers numerous donation options. Commit to a monthly sponsorship or make a one-time donation, in-

cluding giving a Gift of Hope through its ethical gift-giving program. To make a donation, visit plancanada.ca.

vice-president of communications and public engagement.

"We're excited because it's an opportunity to recognize women's rights and achievements and to get everyone around to celebrate how far women have come."

While International Women's Day is a time to celebrate, it's important to acknowledge there are still many

challenges women and girls face all over the world, but also here at home.

Payne said one of the ways we can help end global poverty is acknowledging the connection between education and women's empowerment.

"Sixty-two million girls around the world aren't going to school. We know that education for women and girls is

key," she said, adding that for every year a girl stays in school, her potential income will increase by 15 to 25 per cent.

Plan Canada has created a number of ways for Canadians to engage in their cause, on top of simply making a donation.

For starters, Payne encourages all Canadians to visit becauseiamagirl.ca, a site dedicated to providing information on the issues that affect women and girls. As well, you can share your ideas on how to create brighter futures by using #brighterfuture on social media.

Plan Canada is also part of an alliance of more than 100 organizations that are urging

Canadians to sign the Up For Debate petition, which calls for a nationally broadcast leaders' debate during the next federal election, focused on women and girls at home and abroad.

For all of these initiatives, Payne said it's just as important for men and boys to get involved as it is for women and girls, and added she has noticed an increase in male participation.

"They are change makers. They are the ones who can make sustainable change and share different viewpoints with their peers, so we often get men and boys wanting to be engaged in our work."

Management Certificate for Women (MCW)

Congratulations to the first cohort!

22 women have invested in this unique professional part-time program designed by women for career women to develop and increase their management and leadership skills.

The next program begins in September.

www.sprott.carleton.ca/mcw

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