

28. CANADA

ALPHABET SOUP: LINKING THE LETTERS TO PROMOTE EVALUATION USE

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INTRODUCTION

Looking at the various networks and organizations that support development evaluation can be a bit overwhelming. Within Canada, we are fortunate to have the Canadian Evaluation Society, a well-established voluntary organization of professional evaluators (VOPE). On the government side, there is the Centre for Excellence in Evaluation (CEE) of the Federal Treasury Board Secretariat, the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP), and Development within the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (formerly the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA]). At the international level, there is the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), the International Evaluation Partnership Initiative (EvalPartners) and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). On the education side, there is the Consortium of Universities for Evaluation Education (CUEE) within Canada. Have we missed any within the Canadian context? I am sure we have. Then there is the world.

This paper explores the complexity of the evaluation world first through a single country lens, then through the benefits of intra-country linkages and how these linkages and their inter-country connections contribute to creating enabling environments and promoting evaluation use.

THE CANADIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY

The Canadian Evaluation Society, established in 1981, advances evaluation, theory, knowledge and practice through leadership, advocacy and professional development. It is a bilingual organization (English and French) with 11 regional chapters and more than 1,900 members. The Canadian Evaluation Society offers:

- An annual national conference;
- *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*;
- Canadian Evaluation Society Fellowship;
- Connection to a national and international community of evaluators;
- Professional Designation Program;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Reduced rates for membership in the American Evaluation Association and the Australasian Evaluation Society;
- Canadian Evaluation Society Ethics and Evaluation Standards (adopted those developed by the Joint Committee for Evaluation of Education Programs); and
- Discounted association-based insurance plans and Professional Liability Insurance.⁸⁸

The Canadian Evaluation Society maintains formal relationships with the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation/EvalPartners, CUEE, the American Evaluation Association and Canadian Evaluation Society chapters. However, many of its members belong to other organizations within Canada—and globally—including IDEAS, CAIDP and other VOPEs.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CANADA (FORMERLY CIDA)

The Government of Canada is committed to sustainable international efforts that help people who live in poverty in the developing world. Guided by its Aid Effectiveness Agenda, Canada is making its international assistance efficient, focused and accountable.

Canada's development assistance focuses on three priority themes:

- Increasing food security;
- Securing the future of children and youth; and
- Stimulating sustainable economic growth.

88 Available at evaluationcanada.ca/txt/ces_brochure_e.pdf.

In addition to these priority themes, Canada leads global commitments such as improving maternal, newborn and child health. This initiative supports efforts to reduce the number of preventable deaths and improve the health of the world's most vulnerable mothers and children.

Canada also integrates three cross-cutting themes into all of its programmes and policies:

- Supporting environmental sustainability;
- Promoting equality between women and men; and
- Strengthening governance institutions and practices.

Canada reports on its programmes and projects and shares the results widely, focusing on maximizing value, delivering results, increasing ownership of development outcomes, increasing transparency and accountability, and building partnerships to accelerate development results.⁸⁹

AN OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS

With the initiation of EvalPartners in 2012, there is increasing emphasis on partnerships and working together towards the common goals of:

- Increasing individual evaluation capacity;
- Increasing institutional capacity of VOPEs; and
- Creating enabling environments within which evaluation can occur.

CONCLUSIONS

While new linkages are being formed, the lack of linkages within countries and across VOPEs needs further development. Key questions for discussion include:

- What are the benefits of intra-country linkages among the various evaluation organizations?
- How can the intra-country linkages contribute to improved inter-country linkages?
- Does there need to be a balance between intra-country and inter-country linkages? Between formal and informal relationships?
- How can that balance be attained?

89 Available at acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-5682956-GNR.

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