Since launching The Fund, we’ve seen women’s movements rise up and buckle down, despite the roadblocks. Here are just a few of their many key moments and achievements.

3 YEARS AGO
- The UN general assembly adopts a resolution to end child marriage.
- Malala Yousafzai wins the Nobel Peace Prize
- Canada elects a feminist Prime Minister
- Millions of women around the world participate in the Women’s March

2 YEARS AGO
- The United States legalizes same sex marriage
- Black Lives Matter gains momentum worldwide
- Women in Iceland take to the streets for equal pay
- Women successfully protest abortion ban in Poland
- Women march in India to protest violence against women #IWILLGOOUT
- The Gambia bans female genital mutilation
- Nepal criminalizes banning women to cow sheds during their period

1 YEAR AGO
- The Gambia bans female genital mutilation
- Canadian teen runs 450 km in 11 days for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

TODAY
- Women in Nepal criminalize banning women to cow sheds during their period

ROAD TRIP: FROM PROTEST TO POLICY
Almost the very day that The MATCH Fund launched as a women’s fund in late 2013, sixty women across Saudi Arabia took videos of themselves driving a car. This gutsy protest defied the law that prohibited women from getting behind the wheel. Nearly a year later, Saudi women won the right to vote—though they still could not drive themselves to the ballot box. Then, just this fall, a landmark policy finally gave Saudi women the right to drive. This is the brave work of an underground women’s movement, the likes of which exist the world over.

Who hasn’t frantically scanned a map for the reassuring words, “You Are Here.”? We all know the feeling: wanting to situate ourselves in a landscape, craving to see where we have been—and where we are going.

The MATCH Fund has been on a journey in the last three years—launching as Canada’s only global women’s fund, putting $1 million into the hands of women, girls, and trans* folks, and bringing visibility to the vital work at the grassroots.

And where are you? You are here.

In fact, you have been with us every step of the way. Via The MATCH Fund, your support has floated to the farthest island of the Pacific, it has trekked the green mountains of Guatemala, and it has been sewn into the literal fabric of a Malawi community.

Great things happen when you are here. We can’t imagine the journey without you.

YOUR SUPPORT PUTS US ON THE MAP
A teacher and world traveler, Margaret Newall is a founding donor of The MATCH Fund who cares deeply about ending interpersonal violence. Having lived in Saskatoon, Montreal, Calgary, and Toronto, Margaret remembers teaching students who came from situations of domestic violence. She also remembers the terror she felt visiting her daughter, a grad student, in Montreal during the Montreal Massacre.

These experiences have fueled her career, her volunteerism, and her philanthropy. From her travels to India, Japan, and across South America, Margaret is left with one overarching sentiment: “how did I get so lucky?” Yet she finds that, often, people just need just a small boost to spark great change. “We can make this happen,” Margaret says. She specifically thinks back to a group of women farmers who wanted to sell their produce at a market on the other side of a wide river. The MATCH Fund helped this group purchase a boat, which not only helped them reach the market but also allowed them to make a living ferrying other community members across the river. “It’s about helping people to help themselves,” Margaret says—a funding model that truly goes the distance.
Climbing the nearly vertical trails along the Patanatic Route offers beautiful views of rolling mountains, swaying corn stalks, and cloud-studded skies. Beloved by tourists, this region captivates the imagination. And not just the imagination of the tourists! Your support traveled these trails to a group of 20 Mayan women who dreamed of starting an ecotourism business on their own terms. Generating a sustainable income, they offer tourists a glimpse into the community where Paraguayan migrants like Primitiva live. Tourists don’t usually go here. But your support did. Primitiva, an undocumented domestic worker, makes this commute to and from the city for work every day. No holidays or time off. You helped Primitiva and 3,700 migrant workers from Sol Y Verde learn about and stand up for their rights.

Walking through the streets of Kolkata, you’ll pass traffic jams of yellow taxis, colourful storefronts, and vendors selling kathi rolls wrapped in roti so thin you feel the heat of the meat on your fingers. You’ll also rub shoulders with approximately 4.5 million people. Your support travelled here to reach 650 women who, daily, sort through the trash that Kolkata’s inhabitants leave behind. Thanks to you, these women were trained in safely procedures and created a recycling social enterprise to, one day, raise them out of poverty.

It takes almost 24 hours by plane to cross from the northern to the southern tip of the Polynesian and Melanesian islands. Looking out the plane window, you see more than 100 islands, inhabited by Indigenous groups and separated by oceans, volcanoes, and mountains. It’s no wonder that women in this region feel disconnected and underfunded. Ahead of a UN meeting of Indigenous peoples, your support brought together 100 women and girls of the Pacific to discuss the issues that most affect them.

We have mapped the impact of your support during our first grantmaking cycle. Your dollars have traveled around the world and touched the lives of thousands of women and girls. Here are some of its destinations in the past three years:

- PANAJACHEL, GUATEMALA
- DOWA, MALAWI
- KOLKATA, INDIA
- THE PACIFIC
- SOL Y VERDE, ARGENTINA

Only a few major roads run through this rural region dotted with schools with names such as “There is Hope” and “Joyful Kids.” But despite aspirations of getting a good education, girls in this region miss 3-5 days of school per month due to lack of proper sanitary products. 60 mothers in this community came together to develop affordable, reusable sanitary pads. Your donations helped these mothers design and sell their products to other women, generating income and increasing access to local hygiene products for 1,500 girls.

From the Buenos Aires city centre, take the 365 I bus for about 1 hour and 15 minutes. From here, transfer toward the main square in Sol y Verde. Then it’s a 40-minute walk to the cramped community where Paraguayan migrants like Primitiva live. Tourists don’t usually go here. But your support did. Primitiva, an undocumented domestic worker, makes this commute to and from the city for work every day. No holidays or time off. You helped Primitiva and 3,700 migrant workers from Sol Y Verde learn about and stand up for their rights.