Canadians on the path toward a more equal world.
The launch of The MATCH International Women's Fund marks an important moment in the Canadian movement for women’s rights.
Getting here has not been easy - it has been a deep and deliberate process filled with thoughtful reflection and difficult questions. We have challenged ourselves to work in new ways, develop new partnerships, and carve out a brand new space for Canadians to lead in promoting and protecting women’s rights around the world.

One moment in history; a future of endless possibilities.
As I undertake the role of Chair of the Board of Directors, I am brimming with enthusiasm. I know the potential this organization has to impact the lives of women around the world - women who are Holding Ground and Breaking Ground in countless creative ways to advance women’s rights.
I am further encouraged by the fact that we have an organization, skillfully led by Jess Tomlin and her brilliant team, to bring Canadians very close to this cutting-edge work.

Together, we are changing the world for women.
The MATCH International Women’s Fund gives Canadians an important view on the most significant structural causes of poverty around the world, and the centrality of women’s rights in addressing these barriers.
We are here today because you stand beside us.
Together, we are providing the much needed support for innovative, women-led, and homegrown solutions to addressing inequality - whether in building the capacity of women peace negotiators in countries in conflict in Africa, defending indigenous women’s rights leaders in the Asia Pacific, or supporting South African women to challenge rape culture - we are standing beside these leaders in their fight.

The struggle for women’s rights can be won.
I am thrilled this time has finally come. As of 2013, Canada now has its own international women’s fund, which will tap into the knowledge, networks, and generosity of Canadians.
The struggle for women’s rights can be won. The world is increasingly paying attention to the injustices women face. Through this fund we can provide both the solidarity and the financial support to the women’s groups that are leading the way.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kerr
Incoming Chair of the Board of Directors
The MATCH International Women’s Fund
CREATIVE. FIERCE. DETERMINED. MEET THE MATCH FUND GRANTEES

We all know that improving the lives of women and girls is an immense undertaking - requiring years of effort, sustainable funding, and an unwavering commitment to social change. But no one understands this better than our grantee partners.

The ten women’s rights organizations we are currently supporting through The MATCH International Women’s Fund are creatively and courageously addressing some of the most pressing issues facing women in their communities. We are thrilled to introduce you to them below.

We are proud to stand behind the work of our grantees and are confident you will be too. After all, these partnerships would not be possible without your commitment to women’s rights. With your support, we are contributing to remarkable change for women.

Our grantee partners are women-led organizations based in the global South. Together, we are HOLDING GROUND & BREAKING GROUND to create a more equal world for women and girls.

AVIDES | Colombia
Helping women affected by displacement and forced disappearance uncover the truth and seek justice.

Association Biowa | Benin
Shifting attitudes and changing behaviours to reduce violence against women.

PacificWIN | The Pacific
Empowering indigenous women to be agents of change locally, nationally, and internationally.

Las Golondrinas | Nicaragua
Promoting and protecting the human rights of marginalized women sex workers.

Equifonia AC | Mexico
Monitoring the services available to survivors of sexual violence to ensure they have the support they need.

YFem: The Young Feminist Movement | Namibia
Unleashing the power of young women’s creative expression to advance women’s rights.

Boxgirls | Kenya
Developing young girls’ leadership while challenging gender stereotypes through boxing.

WMW | Jamaica
Using education and media to create a more just and creative world for women.

StudioMobile: Accent on Action | Georgia
Challenging sexist and homophobic media through feminist television and film-making.

Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust | South Africa
Developing creative ways to engage youth to prevent violence against women among the next generation.

CLARK JOHNSON - DOCUMENTING CHANGE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS

In the early 1990s, actor and director Clark Johnson travelled with his mother, The MATCH Fund co-founder Suzanne Johnson-Harvor, to meet some of the women’s rights organizations we were supporting in the global South. Not one to leave his camera behind, Clark made sure to document his trip.

Now, some twenty years later, Clark has returned to the scene to continue his journey documenting social change for women and girls. Pictured left, Clark has already visited some of our newest grantee partners in Kenya and South Africa, with plans to travel to Georgia for more filming soon.

Clark plans to use his footage, both old and new, to create a documentary about The MATCH Fund in honour of his mother’s commitment to women’s rights. We look forward to sharing more updates later this year.

© StudioMobile: Accent on Action
© YFem: The Young Feminist Movement
© AVIDES

© Clark Johnson
As I write this message, over 250 high school girls who were abducted from their public school on April 15, 2014 remain missing from the Chibo region in north-eastern Nigeria. In Syria, the refugee crisis has reached new heights and women and children continue to be the most vulnerable victims of this ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The MATCH International Women’s Fund remains relevant because women in these situations, and others, continue to find ways to survive and challenge gender, racial, sexual, and class inequality in the midst of significant challenges. The MATCH Fund stands as a women’s rights organization that is ready and able to work with our partners all over the world to amplify our voices and challenge structural and systemic gender inequality from an inclusive and intersectional perspective.

As I step down as Chair, I have no doubt that in the years ahead The MATCH Fund will become an even stronger voice to support women’s social innovation and to advocate for greater funding to advance women’s rights globally. Thank you to all who have supported us thus far. My responsibilities as a soon-to-be new mother will certainly keep me busy but I look forward to continuing to be part of The MATCH Fund’s momentous journey.

Best wishes,

Patricia Harewood
Outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors
The MATCH International Women’s Fund

MARCIA CARDAMORE - TAKING A BOLD STEP TOWARD A MORE EQUAL WORLD

Marcia’s remarkable career in both the technology and philanthropy sectors has been largely defined by a certain fearlessness – the willingness to be an early adopter, the courage to take calculated risks, and the desire to uncover the next bold move. It was these very traits that recently led her to make a significant investment in The MATCH International Women’s Fund.

Marcia chose to donate to The MATCH Fund because she believes it is the best vehicle for Canadians to fund grassroots women’s rights organizations around the world. Her donation supports her fervent belief that, together, we have the potential to create meaningful change for women and girls.

Thank you Marcia, and to all our Founding Members, for your generosity, leadership, and vision. To learn more about becoming a Founding Member of The MATCH Fund, please contact Julia Ehrhardt at ehrhardt@matchinternational.org or 1 855 640 1872.
WOMEN’S RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Sexual Violence in the Central African Republic.
Years of social and political unrest in the Central African Republic (CAR) have reached an alarming peak in recent months, marked by ongoing violence that has left hundreds of thousands of people dead, displaced, and struggling to regain order and peace.

The most recent figures indicate that over 600,000 people have been internally displaced in CAR and that there are now more than 300,000 refugees living in neighbouring countries.

Along with growing violence, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of rape (including gang rape), sexual mutilation, forced marriage, abduction, and sexual slavery of women and young girls. Women face the threat of sexual violence in their homes, as well as an increased vulnerability while collecting firewood and using unlocked public toilets. Following the deaths of their husbands, many women have also found themselves as the head of their household overnight, placing them at an increased risk to engage in survival sex in order to meet their families’ basic needs.

Women’s funds protecting women’s rights in Ukraine.
In times of political unrest, like other humanitarian crises, the unique consequences for women and girls are often overlooked.

With rising social insecurity, women often find themselves facing increased rates of sexual violence - both in the home and on the streets. Moreover, women are often the most affected by economic uncertainty, as they are often the first to lose their jobs, sometimes placing them at risk for human trafficking.

In Ukraine, with tensions rising in the east every day, women are currently in need of extra support to ensure that their rights continue to be respected amid the political unrest. The Ukrainian Women’s Fund is one organization doing just that.

Read more about the role women’s funds are playing in Ukraine in an op-ed by The MATCH Fund’s Executive Director, Jess Tomlin, in the Ottawa Citizen at bit.ly/womensvoicesinukraine.

NEW FACES AT THE MATCH FUND

Naomi Seminega provides executive and administrative support to The MATCH Fund Team. She is passionate about women’s rights issues, a passion that stems from her experience growing up in Rwanda. Naomi has worked in various capacities at: The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, Health Canada, Environment Canada and World University Services of Canada. She has an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from the University of Waterloo, holds a teaching degree from the University of Ottawa, and speaks 4 languages.

Beth Woroniuk has been a supporter of The MATCH Fund for many years. From Program Staff for Latin America and the Caribbean, to being a member of our Advisory Council, to sitting on the Friends of MATCH events committee, Beth has been involved with our work since 1988.

An ardent women’s rights supporter, Beth was inspired to get involved with The MATCH Fund when she first learned that there was an NGO in Canada focused on supporting women in the global South. It is our continued commitment to supporting grassroots women’s rights organizations that keeps her involved these 26 years later.

Today, Beth is also supporting the full participation of women in peace processes through her active involvement with the Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada.

Thank you, Beth, for your continued support over the years.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This past year, we launched The MATCH International Women’s Fund, held our first global call for proposals and selected our first round of grantee partners. We invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting on June 25 at 4pm in Ottawa at The MATCH Fund Office as we reflect on all that we have accomplished over the past twelve months and as we look ahead toward the opportunities 2014/2015 brings. For more information visit www.matchinternational.org/annual-general-meeting-2014/.

To RSVP, contact us at info@matchinternational.org or 1 855 640 1872.

“The MATCH Fund is not a handout. It’s solidarity. It’s movement-building.”
-Beth Woroniuk