



# SPARK

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY CANADA

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## NEW YORK & WASHINGTON DC SUMMIT REPORT

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**SPARK**

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY CANADA

This year, Spark's inaugural summit on philanthropy took 53 participants to New York and Washington DC. The summit spanned 5 days and featured renowned philanthropists, US government officials and leaders of industry who represent, support, and advocate for communities at the frontline of philanthropy.

The objective of this summit was to convene innovators and philanthropists from around the world to aid students in understanding the depth and scope of increasingly complex global challenges, as well as opportunities for innovative ideas and practices to solve them.

Students had the unprecedented opportunity to interact with world class philanthropists, hear stories of their philanthropic journeys and experiences, as well as interact with them. Students also had exclusive presentations and private briefings at the UN headquarters, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Red Cross headquarters and the US Capitol.

The summit was a tribute to Spark's longstanding belief that, no matter what our backgrounds, we all share a desire to build a better future and inspire others.

It took an army, and the significant resources of our Founding Members, to pull this historic moment off and I want to thank all involved for helping make this moment happen.

The passion, the fierce intelligence, the raw talent and the eloquence that were on display at this summit was remarkable. We witnessed the next generation of leaders ahead of the curve and poised to make change.

We established the Spark Foundation because we believed that the most important thing we could do is invest not in any particular cause, but in our youth. We are working to cultivate a new generation of leaders that share the common goal of enhancing society. This group will shape the future in a meaningful way. Our investment was handsomely rewarded.

Below are just a few of the highlights, key themes and proposed actions that emerged from our discussions.

Sincerely,

*Abdul Ladha*

Abdul Ladha  
Director





NEW YORK



# DAY 1



## SPEAKERS

### STUART WEITZMAN



Stuart Weitzman, an American shoe designer and philanthropist. Stuart provided summit participants with insight into his philanthropic work within the fashion industry with his 'Look Good Feel Good Campaign'.

This campaign is committed to building schools in Guatemala, Ghana and Laos with Pencils of Promise, an organization dedicated to making quality education accessible to kids everywhere. Stuart is also an avid supporter of the US Olympic Committee. Summit participants had the opportunity to meet and engage with Stuart as he advocated for more young people to strive for change.

### ASIA KATE DILLION



Asia Kate Dillon is the star of the hit Netflix show *Billions* and the first non-binary gender identifying actor to be cast in a major television series.

Summit participants engaged with Asia through conversation, as Asia spoke of their work in the arts and the need for empathy, compassion and greater representation for minority groups in media. Compassion in all forms is one of the greatest attributes of philanthropy. It not only allows people to feel for those in need, but inspires them to create change and get up and make a difference.

NY SESSION 1

# DAY 1



## ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations opened its doors to Spark in an effort to share the broad range of initiatives it conducts. The UN is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States.

The UN is committed to maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

## UN YOUTH ENVOY

Summit participants had the unprecedented opportunity of engaging with a panel of several representatives of the UN Youth Envoy at the United Nations headquarters. They discussed the initiatives of the UN to improve the lives of global youth in the Youth 2030 Agenda. This agenda aims to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change.



The strategy is ambitious. It will guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the Organization's work fully benefits from their insights and ideas.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policy making and representative body of the United Nations. It is responsible for the deliberation of global issues, such as international development, peace, security, and law.



Representatives of the UN Youth Envoy guided participants in a private tour of the General Assembly Hall where the 193 Member States of the General Assembly meet once a year in September for the annual General Assembly session.

# DAY 2



## SPEAKERS

### RACHEL GERROL

Rachel Gerrol is the CEO and Co Founder of NEXUS, a global community founded to bridge communities of wealth and social entrepreneurship.

With over 4800 members from 70 countries, NEXUS works to unite young investors, social entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and allies to catalyze new leadership and accelerate needed political, societal, indigenous, financial, environmental, and equal justice solutions. Rachel engaged with summit participants, speaking to the importance and power of developing strong connections and global partnerships to effect change.



### AMIR DOSSAL

Amir shared his knowledge and experience with summit participants as a 25 year veteran of the United Nations. Amed served as the founding Executive Director of the UN Office of Partnerships, which he established in 1998 to manage the \$1 billion donation by media titan Ted Turner.

Amir Dossal is also the Founder and Chairman of the Global Partnerships Forum, a non-for profit knowledge platform, providing changemakers with the tools to build innovative partnerships to address economic and social challenges. As a social entrepreneur and innovator, Amir's work is an endeavour to bond the power of the private sector, governments, and civil society; in order to better serve the greater good.



### SERGIO FERNANDEZ de CORDOVA

Sergio Fernandez de Cordova is the Chairman of the PVBLIC Foundation, an innovative non-profit media organization that uses media to drive social change. PVBLIC works strategically to pair media space with key non-profits at the local, national and global levels, completing over 100 campaigns in over 50 countries. Sergio leads the foundations engagement with the White House and United Nations.

Sergio expressed his passion of connecting philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and political leaders via the many platforms he has influenced to summit participants. Today with a network spanning over 85 countries he enjoys keeping these networks focused on creating a better tomorrow.



# DAY 2

## SPEAKERS

### PETRA NEMCOVA

Petra Nemcova, former super-model and current Co-Founder of All Hands and Hearts – Smart Response, shared her personal philanthropic journey with summit participants.

All Hands And Hearts - Smart Response was created to efficiently and effectively address the immediate and long-term needs of communities impacted by natural disasters. All Hands and Hearts arrives early for first response and stays late to rebuild schools and homes in a disaster-resilient and sustainable manner. All Hands and Hearts has made a global impact rebuilding 239 sustainable schools in 18 different countries, and influencing the lives of over 1 million



### AMED KHAN

Amed Khan, renown philanthropist and founder of Elpida Home, shared his wealth of experience in international relief work with summit participants. Amed explained the development and reasoning behind the continued success of Elpida Home.

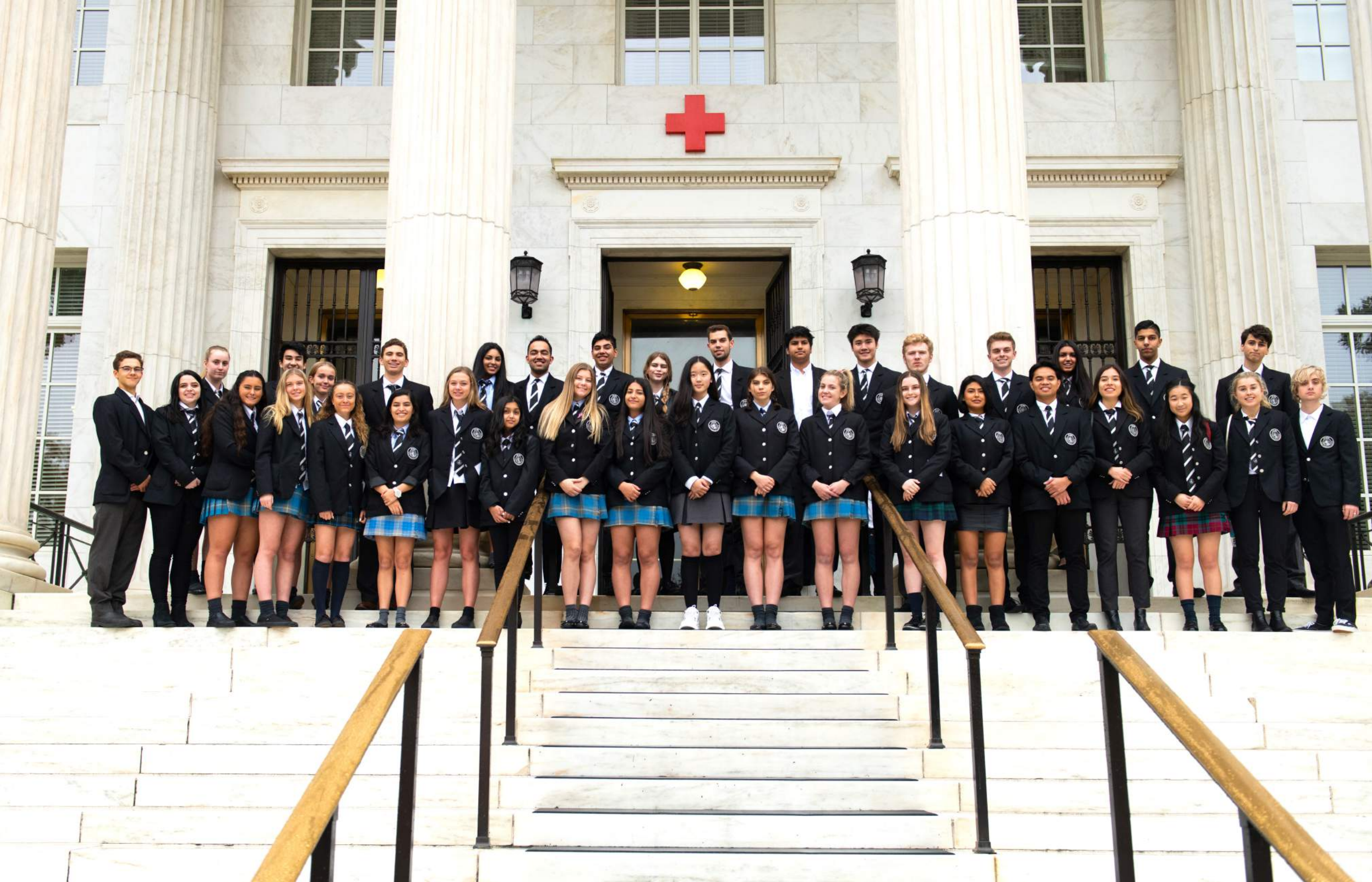
Elpida Home is an innovative non-profit organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece committed to providing a humane, dignified, and empowered living experience for refugees and other vulnerable groups. Elpida provides sustainable solutions in order to ensure refugees experience successful integration to society. Seeing the shortcomings of the humanitarian response in Greece, Elpida Home took on the mission of developing a camp that could host displaced people in a more humane manner. Over a one year period the project has helped rehabilitate and relocate over 400 refugees from Syria and Iraq.







WASHINGTON DC



# DAY 4

## ABOUT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS



Summit participants were enveloped in the rich history of the American Red Cross, which provides disaster relief, life-saving blood donations and vaccines, support for armed services and veterans, and emergency first-aid training across the United States and around the world.

From Latin America to Europe, the American Red Cross helps people in some of the world's most at-risk communities with nearly 182 million people globally benefiting from Red Cross services.



Participants were led on a private tour of the iconic American Red Cross headquarters, learning of the inception and continued development of Red Cross since its creation in 1881.

Today the American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, responding to over 64,000 disasters every year with the aid of over 500,000 volunteers and 35,000 employees.



AMERICAN RED CROSS



# WORLD BANK GROUP

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The World Bank Group is a global partnership of 189 member countries, committed to working for sustainable solutions that boost economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards. The World Bank Group is a global partnership of 189 member countries, committed to working for sustainable solutions that boost economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards. The World Bank Group is a global partnership of 189 member countries, committed to working for sustainable solutions that boost economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards.

RESILIENCE

# THE ABOUT WORLD BANK

# DAY 4



The World Bank is one of the most powerful institutions in the world, representing 188 member countries and a subscribed capital of \$253 billion.

Originally created in the 1940s, the purpose of the World Bank was to finance the reconstruction and development of countries affected by the Second World War.



Its objective today is to end Global Poverty by providing long-term low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to some of the world's poorest countries to finance development projects and programs.

The World Bank works in every major area of development, providing a wide array of financial products and technical assistance.



It works with banks & government, to improve education, health, and infrastructure. It also uses funds to modernize a country's financial sector, agriculture, and natural resources management.

Summit participants received an informational and interactive private briefing and tour of World Bank's history and current initiatives while in Washington, DC.

# WORLD BANK





# DAY 5

# ABOUT THE IMF



The International Monetary Fund is an organization of near global membership of 189 countries. It works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote employment and sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty around the world.

The IMF works by: keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries; lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties; and giving practical help to members.



The IMF was created in 1944 in order to build a framework for economic cooperation to avoid a repetition of the competitive devaluations that had contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Today, the IMF's core mission is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system and has access to \$1 Trillion to provide low-interest loans to help stabilize the economies of member countries.



Summit participants had unprecedented access to the IMF headquarters. Participants experienced a private speaker briefing on the IMF's role in the international financial system by an IMF representative currently working in Public Affairs in the regions of North, Central and South America.

This session gave participants direct insight into the inner workings and commitments of the International Monetary Fund.





## CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Summit participants had the extraordinary opportunity to engage with District of Columbia Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton on day of the 2018 US Mid-Term Elections.

Eleanor Holmes Norton is now in her fifteenth term as the Congresswoman for the District of Columbia. She came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member at three Fortune 500 companies.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Spark summit participants were provided with a private tour and briefing of the House of Representatives, where the US Congress meets.

The history of the U.S. House of Representatives is, in many ways, the history of America. Since it first convened, the House has passed into law many pieces of legislation with profound effects on the American way of life. Examples range from funding approval for the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1803 and the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery in 1865, to the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote in 1919 and the Clean Water Act in 1972.

## CAPITOL BUILDING

Participants also received a tour of the Capitol Building by interns working in the office of the Congresswoman, where they were able to gain insight on internship opportunities in US government.

The United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., is the meeting place of the US legislature. It is one of the most recognizable symbols of representative democracy in the world, where the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have met for more than two centuries. Today, it stands as a monument to the American people and their system of representative democracy.

The Spark Foundation was gifted the American Flag that was flown over the United States Capitol on November 6th, 2018. This is a monumental salute that memorializes Spark's inaugural Summit at a pivotal time in American politics.

# CAPITOL HILL





## FOUNDING MEMBERS CIRCLE

The Spark Founding Members Circle is a dedicated community of donors representing the model of philanthropic leadership. Their contributions are integral to Spark's sustained excellence and pave the way for Spark's future.

They include:

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***The Mangalji Family***  
***Goldcorp***

***The Ladha Family***  
***The Xue Family***

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***The Giustra Family***  
***The Lupton Family***

***Alison Volken***  
***Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation***

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***The McCord Family***  
***The Palffy Family***

***The Mindset Foundation***  
***The Assadi Family***

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***The O'Neill Family***  
***The Spooner Family***

***John & Chawna Volken***  
***The Ludwig Family***

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***The Doman Family***  
***Aziz Shariff***

***Sandy Elliott***  
***The Alibhai Family***

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***The Ball Family***

We would like to especially thank all of our parent chaperones: Tonya Ball, Darwin Schandor, Dedeshya Holowenko, Hanifa Ladha, Tracy Vogt, as well as Monti Samuel, Zahra Tinholt and David Vogt without whom this summit would not be possible.

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FOUNDING MEMBERS