Our commitment to increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of K-12 education is further illustrated by the creation of the “Context Matters” research program. This has been established by CODE to lessen the reliance of practitioners in Africa on external evidence by supporting local research and promoting international alliances that improve Africa’s ability to develop meaningful solutions to contemporary problems in education. This year we announced our first call for submissions at the Pan African Literacy for All Conference in Abuja, Nigeria resulting in support for our first cohort of four scholars with the second call coming soon.

This year saw the conclusion of CODE’s very successful Reading Kenya early-grade literacy program. Based on the principles of gender equality, active learning/active teaching and the use of mother tongue language in the classroom, this four-year program was delivered in partnership with the National Book Development Council of Kenya (NBDCK) and funded by Global Affairs Canada and centred on Maasai communities in rural Kajiado County. A third-party evaluation conducted of the program showed that it exceeded expectations—improving student reading and writing performance in all three instructional languages: Maa, Swahili and English. The evaluator concluded by saying, “Reading Kenya is one of the best implemented and results-producing projects that the Team has had the pleasure to evaluate.” An exciting example of a dynamic and self-sustaining literate environment for Kenyan children and their families.

The ongoing success of CODE’s Burt Awards, which this year announced a Grand Prize, or All-Star, competition for African Young Adult Literature, is also a testament to CODE’s impact. By celebrating local authors and local publishers who create exceptional books for young adults in Africa, the Caribbean and Canada, and by delivering those books to classrooms and libraries across the regions where we work, CODE continues to inspire new generations of youth to engage, read, and learn.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without you, our volunteers, partners, and donors. Because of you close to 600,000 children around the world were able to access the quality education that they deserve last year alone. Your donations mean that well-trained teachers and supportive communities are empowered with the skills and learning materials needed to make an impact on the lives of the world’s children and youth—now, and well into the future.

Thank you for sharing in our vision of a literate world, for working alongside of us to make it happen, and for believing in our ability to continue to work together to do so much more.

Thank you.

Scott Walter,
Executive Director, CODE

Incredibly, next year will be CODE’s 60th anniversary. It’s a milestone that must have been hard to imagine back in 1959 when a small group of visionaries representing the education, publishing and library professions in Canada agreed to launch a “Books for the Developing World” project. But from those first efforts was born a vision to which CODE remains true to this day—that of a world where every young person can pursue their education and realize their full potential as literate, empowered, self-reliant citizens. Delivering on this vision is the foundation of our work and I am once again proud to present this year’s Annual Report, not only as a record of CODE’s impact, but as an illustration of how we have built on our experience and drawn from evidence to place learning at the very heart of our approach to quality education.

For example, the evidence shows that when girls develop literacy skills they improve not only their own economic prospects, health, and well-being, but also those of their families, communities, and countries. It’s critical that CODE’s programs truly enable women and girls to learn and succeed. Results from Reading Kenya, Mozambique’s BETTER and Reading Liberia 2020, just to name a few, demonstrate that we are doing exactly that. Through a gender-centred approach to the professional development of teachers in appropriate teaching methodologies, these programs have made possible learning opportunities that help girls and boys alike realize their right to a quality education.
The world is facing a global learning crisis:

- **274 million** primary school age students in low and middle income countries aren’t learning basic skills like reading and writing.
- Girls continue to face **significant barriers** to education.
- A critical **shortage of trained teachers** is impacting children’s access to quality education, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.
- A lack of high quality and relevant learning materials is **impacting children’s learning**.

International organizations need to work more closely with local partners, institutions, governments, and communities to build the systems that can provide children and youth with the quality education they deserve.

But with your help, CODE is improving educational opportunities for all girls and boys by:

- Improving the **skills of educators**
- Improving the **quality of learning materials**
- Building the capacity of **local education systems**
- Delivering programs that empower women and girls to **learn and succeed**
- Conducting research and evaluation to ensure that the education children do receive is contributing to learning and skills development.

**CODE’s Impact**

**CODE’s Vision**
A world where every young person can pursue their education and realize their full potential as literate, empowered, self-reliant citizens.

**CODE’s Mission**
CODE enables people to learn by developing partnerships that provide resources for learning, promoting awareness and understanding, and encouraging self-reliance.

**CODE’s Work**
We do this every day by working with local partners to provide:

- **Sustained access to culturally relevant, high quality** learning materials for children and youth
- **Professional development** of educators to equip them to effectively teach reading, writing, comprehension and critical thinking skills
- **System-wide support** to local and national education and library systems, publishing sectors, teacher training institutions, and communities
- **Focused research** and evaluation to improve the quality of education ensuring that all children and youth have access to the high quality education they need to reach their full potential

...but only with your help.
CODE’s Programs

When you improve education you improve health, increase employment opportunities, advance human rights, and alleviate poverty.

Building on nearly 60 years of experience, and drawing from the most up-to-date evidence, CODE works with local partners to create a better future for children and youth all over the world through education. CODE accomplishes this through a unique comprehensive approach to education that focuses on increasing the skills of educators, improving the quality of learning materials, building the capacity of local education systems, and delivering programs that empower women and girls to learn and succeed.

Our impact? In 2017-2018, 597,998 children and youth benefited from the professional development CODE provided to 6,549 of their teachers and librarians, from the support provided to 1,733 of their schools and libraries, and through the delivery of 101,767 copies of high quality, relevant reading materials into their hands.

Liberia

Contributing to the country’s recovery from three decades of civil war and the crippling Ebola outbreak of 2014, CODE’s Reading Liberia 20/20 program aims to increase the quality of education for 25,000 students by the year 2020 through the professional development of educators, the publication and distribution of high quality, relevant reading materials, and support to local libraries.

Sierra Leone

Working in partnership with long-time local partners, The Association of Language and Literacy Educators (TALLE) and PEN-SL, and with the support of the Global Partnership for Education and Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, CODE delivered two interrelated programs in Sierra Leone: Revitalizing Education Development in Sierra Leone (REDiSL) and Reading Sierra Leone 20/20.

Highlights from this year include the development of a teacher training curriculum that was adopted by the Ministry of Education and which was

The Royal Canadian Navy hosts students from the Girls Accelerated Learning Initiative on the HMCS Kingston and HMCS Summerside at the Freeport of Monrovia, Liberia.

Liberia This Year:

- 4,407 boys and 4,396 girls benefited
- 31 schools and libraries served
- 424 educators trained
- 2,395 books distributed
- 29 writers and publishers trained

Sierra Leone

CODE also delivered a successful pilot program designed to increase girls access to education. The Girls Accelerated Learning Initiative provided after-school mentoring to 173 over-age girls in five project schools, increasing their chances of completing primary education, and supplying them with the skills and confidence they need to continue onto to secondary school. The results of this program were so impressive that CODE and local partner WE-CARE have received the support of 60 million girls Foundation to scale up the program to 25 schools across the country next year.
A lack of books in local languages is one of the main challenges facing Ethiopian children and youth. CODE’s Ethiopia Beyond Access program uses technology to develop ebooks, reading apps, and games that make it easier for library users to access high-quality reading materials and make learning fun!

Working in partnership with US-based NGO IREX, CODE-Ethiopia, the National Archive and Library Agency and Ethiopia Reads, CODE provided young readers and their families with access to tablets through their local community libraries, transforming them into modern community information hubs.

Kenya
A highlight of this past year was the successful completion of CODE’s four-year Reading Kenya program. Delivered in partnership with the National Book Development Council of Kenya (NBDCK), and funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, Reading Kenya worked with teachers, librarians, authors, and publishers to support literacy education in schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and improve children’s reading and writing skills in Swahili, English and Maa. The result?

• Reading Kenya students outperformed students in non-Reading Kenya schools in all three instructional languages demonstrating literacy scores that were more than 20% higher than those of students in non-Reading CODE schools;

• Reading Kenya educators demonstrated increased knowledge and application of effective reading and writing promotion and instruction strategies in the classroom;

• A total of 172,133 copies of culturally relevant and engaging books in Swahili, English and Maa were produced and distributed to students in 70 program schools over the four years;

• Girls in the program were motivated to pursue their education and to become community leaders.

Reading Kenya has demonstrated that increasing children’s access to education is just the beginning. When children arrive at school they also need access to high quality and relevant reading materials.
High-quality learning materials and well-trained teachers inspire students in Kenya to learn.
Another highlight from this year were the gender sensitization activities organized for teachers in partnership with researchers from McGill University. Student teachers were taught how to use their cell phones, tablets and other mobile devices to create short videos to address gender inequality in their teacher training classrooms, focusing on issues like sexual health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence, motivating teachers to be the agents of change among their colleagues and students.

Context Matters
Research on literacy has largely been carried out in high-income countries and contexts, even though the greatest need for literacy programs are in low-income countries, and African countries, in particular. CODE’s Context Matters program was developed in response to this dynamic in order to support meaningful literacy research undertaken by African researchers in the countries where CODE works.

This year, we launched our first call for submissions during a panel facilitated by CODE’s Executive Director, Scott Walter, and partners from the Canadian Faculties of Education at the University of British Columbia and McGill University at the Pan-African Literacy for All Conference in Abuja, Nigeria. CODE is offering up to five research awards which will be announced next year.

Not only will this program provide invaluable insight into future directions for CODE programs, by funding local African literacy research it will also strengthen local research capacity, support the development of international partnerships, and help local leaders, partners, and governments develop meaningful to contemporary problems and influence policy.
In 2017, the Canadian Government redoubled its efforts to improve the quality of life for women and girls all over the world by introducing their new Feminist International Assistance Policy. At CODE, empowering women and girls to learn and succeed has always been critical to our mission. When girls complete basic education and develop sustainable literacy skills, they improve not only their own health and well-being, but also that of their families, communities, and countries:

- they marry later and have fewer children;
- infant mortality rates and maternal deaths decrease;
- rates of HIV/AIDS infection are lowered;
- health outcomes for their families improve;
- and the chance that the next generation will be educated increases significantly.

Here are just some of the ways that CODE’s programs empower girls to learn and succeed every day:

**In Liberia**: fewer girls are enrolled in school compared to their male peers, while girls who are enrolled in school are often over-age in relation to their grade level. Over-age girls in early primary grades have a tough time adjusting to the school environment and are less likely to make the transition to secondary school. The result is that many girls tend to drop out of school to marry before even reaching their 18th birthday. But thanks to your support, exciting possibilities are in reach for girls enrolled in CODE’s Reading Liberia 20/20 schools. Here specially trained female teachers mentored 173 girls at five project schools to accelerate their learning, helping them re-join their peers in a more appropriate grade and giving them the skills and confidence they need to succeed.

**In Kenya**: CODE’s Reading Kenya program improved reading and writing performance for girls in the marginalized communities of Kajiado county. Reading Kenya was so successful in empowering girls in part because of the training sessions that CODE provided to education officials, families, and community leaders where they discussed the important of girls’ education. Girls in Reading Kenya were also being taught by female teachers who themselves had been empowered through the Reading Kenya training they received and through their access to new books, written by female authors, and dealing with issues impacting girls.

**In Mozambique**: student teachers (half of them women) increased their knowledge about sexual health and reproductive rights, while also engaging in activities that promote gender equality in their communities so that when they graduate these teachers will excel in their field and serve as role models for their students. In just one example, a team from McGill University worked with teacher educators to create “cellfilms”—short videos created using their mobile devices—that explored gender issues. When these videos were shown to student teachers in the teacher training institutions, they inspired discussions about gender-based violence, early pregnancy, and the equal sharing of workloads. Just one example of how the innovative use of technology can improve awareness about gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and influence education policy and practice.
The CODE Burt Awards
Children learn best when the stories they read reflect their own lives. This is why we support local authors, illustrators and publishers to create relevant, high quality books for young people through the CODE Burt Award for Young Adult Literature.

The CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature
This year, 7,464 copies of the Burt Award winning books were delivered to 512 schools and libraries, and 188 community literacy programs in Trinidad and Tobago Guyana, Barbados and Jamaica, reaching over 62,000 youth.

CODE also worked with local partners, Bocas Lit Fest, and the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago to host an author tour that brought four inspiring Burt Award winning authors, including Trinidadian authors Tamika Gibson (author of Dreams Beyond the Shore published by Blue Banyan Books), and Danielle McClean (author of The Protectors’ Pledge published by CaribbeanReads), and Guyanese author Imam Baksh (author of Children of the Spider published by Blue Banyan Books), to 14 schools in some of the most disadvantaged regions of the country.

The CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Young Adult Literature
The 2017 CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Young Adult Literature ceremony was held last year in Edmonton, Alberta at the amiskwaciy Academy, an Indigenous high school serving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students. Hosted by CBC’s Shelagh Rogers and past Burt Award author, Patti Laboucane-Benson, the ceremony celebrated the three winning authors Katherena Vermette (author of The Break published by House of Anansi Press), Aviaq Johnston (author of Those Who Run in the Sky published by Inhabit Media) and Susan Currie (author of The Mask that Sang published by Second Story Press).

CODE Burt Award authors (l to r) Tamika Gibson, Danielle McLean, Imam Baksh, and Florenz Maxwell having fun promoting reading and their books during the 2017 author tour.
A Tribute to Donor Bill Burt

The CODE Burt Awards for Young Adult Literature are made possible through the generous support of the Literacy Prizes Foundation and William “Bill” Burt. Inspired by the role that books and reading played in his own life, Bill Burt envisioned the CODE Burt Awards program as a way to reward authors and publishers of great books, and to put those books into the hands of young people who need them.

In October 2017, we were all deeply saddened by the news that our dear friend and benefactor, Bill Burt, passed away. Bill was an exceptional individual and philanthropist who envisioned a world where young people in great need would have access to great books, written with them in mind.

Upon releasing the news of his passing, CODE received an overwhelming number of emails and letters from partners, authors, publishers, and individuals from all over the world expressing their sadness as well as their deep gratitude for the opportunities that Bill’s generosity provided.

Motivated by his legacy, the great work he inspired will continue as CODE and Burt Award partners continue to build on the many successes of the program that bears his name.

We have used [the CODE Burt Award books] to guide our work of infusing Aboriginal perspectives throughout the curriculum. [The] main use has been in building staff’s capacity around Aboriginal education or developing units to support the literature.

The CODE Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature

Local partners, the National Book Development Council of Kenya, CODE-Ethiopia, and Children’s Book Project of Tanzania distributed 10,340 copies of their 2016 award winning titles from to schools and libraries across Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

This year also saw CODE announce an “All-Star” Grand Prize competition of the CODE Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature. The 2017 Grand Prize winning book, Waiting for the Sun by Elshadai Tesfaye will soon be published by Ethiopia-based publisher, Whiz Kids. The Honour
book, *The Step-Monster* by Ruby Gokal is published by Digitbooks in Ghana. Both books have been purchased by CODE and will be distributed along with the 2018 National Award winners in each country in 2018.

**Ethiopia**

The 2017 CODE Burt Award for Ethiopian Young Adult Literature was awarded to *Somebody’s Daughter* by Hiwot Walelign.

In addition to the Award ceremony, CODE-Ethiopia organized two author events and reading promotion activities that involved more than 900 young people, teachers, librarians and school administrators from ten schools.

**Ghana**

The Ghana Book Trust (GBT) received 12 submissions from seven local publishing houses. One of these submissions was a prepublished title indicating that publishers are producing Young Adult titles independent of the CODE Burt Award competition—an encouraging sign for sustainability of the local publishing industry.

This year the Ghana Association of Writers (GAW) partnered with GBT to organize the award ceremony to announce the 2017 national winner and finalists. Agnes Gyening Asiedu, author of *A Nightmare* received the winning prize, and the finalists included Vera Akumiah author of *Ebony Girl*, Elizabeth Irene Bastie author of *Leo’s Time* and Ruby Yarya Goka author of *To Kiss A Girl*.

**Kenya**

In 2017 local partner NBDCK not only managed the adjudication of their own national competition, but also the first Grand Prize award ceremony.

NBDCK received 21 submissions from nine publishers to the 2017 CODE Burt Award for their National prize competition—demonstrating steady growth in the Young Adult literature sector of Kenya’s publishing industry. Out of these submissions, the jury named *A Boy Named Koko* by Adipo Sidang as their 2017 winner.

**Tanzania**

In 2017, CBP received 10 submissions from five publishers for the 2017 CODE Burt Award for Tanzanian Young Adult Literature competition. The 2017 National winner was *The Little Missionary with Golden Paper Knife* by Elias Mutani.

CBP also hosted a four-day writing workshop for 10 aspiring writers. The workshop was facilitated by Rick Book, an instructor of English and Literature at Seneca College in Toronto, Canada. One of the exciting outcomes from this workshop was the seed for an ongoing writers support group to be organized by the participants.

101,767 high quality, relevant books distributed

IMPACT 19 2017-2018 Impact Report
Popular Kenyan literary blogger, James Murua, award-winning Indigenous musician and founding member of A Tribe Called Red, Ian Campeau, and Trinidadian radio mega-celebrity, Rod’ey, have just one request: #ReadWithMe!

In 2017 the CODE Burt Award program launched a new reading promotion campaign designed to promote the love and habit of reading among African, Caribbean, and Canadian First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth. A social media campaign that features celebrity Reading Champions and local partners, Read With Me is a call to action—inviting young people to participate by championing reading in their own communities.

Since launching in September 2017 the campaign has helped CODE promote reading to whole new audiences in fresh new ways, increasing our reach on Facebook and twitter (using the hashtag #ReadWithMe) and impacting hundreds of young people, educators, government officials, and community leaders who attended live events, including Trinidad and Tobago’s Ministry of Education and National Library Service, as well as the Jamaica Library Service, who were eager to join the campaign.

Canadian media covering the campaign included SAY Magazine, the only lifestyle magazine in the world created by and for Indigenous people. Their Spring 2018 issue featured Reading Champion Ian Campeau and Burt Award winning books. In Tanzania the Read with Me campaign was featured in Fema Magazine, which is published by Tanzania-based Femina Hip and reaches over one million youth through schools, reading clubs, TV and radio.

Celebrity Reading Champion, Ian Campeau and student from amiskwaciy Academy, Edmonton Alberta

Burt Award Impact Since 2008

1,470 local writers and editors trained on creating quality relevant reading materials in 60 workshops in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and the Caribbean.

101 titles received the CODE Burt Literary Award. 14 of these have been approved for use in national education curricula.

292,000 copies of the CODE Burt Award books distributed to 2,900 schools, libraries, community centres, and other literacy organizations in Canada, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Caribbean.

190,760 copies of the CODE Burt Award winning titles sold independently by their publishers.
CODE’s 2017-2018 Impact

597,998 children and youth benefited

1,395 program schools provided with instructional support, library support, and high quality reading and learning materials

497 teacher trainers trained to deliver high quality teacher education workshops

338 community and school libraries established and/or supported

6,449 educators trained to use teaching and reading promotion strategies that improve learning outcomes for children and youth

195,276 library visits by boys and girls

251 authors, illustrators, and publishers trained to create high quality reading materials for children and youth program countries

15 titles awarded with the CODE Burt Award

8 community workshops held to promote girls’ empowerment and education

99 librarians and teacher-librarians trained

13 Ministries of Education engaged in CODE programs, ensuring long-term, system-wide sustainability and impact

384 reading clubs and activities held

101,767 copies of high quality, relevant books distributed

27 new children’s and YA titles published in local and national languages

150,000 copies of high quality, relevant books distributed

CODE on Campus, a national initiative of the CODE Foundation, is supported by the Government of Canada.

All Thanks To You!

President’s Circle ($100,000+)
- Atlantic Gold Ghana Ltd
- CODE Foundation
- Literary Polis Foundation
- R. K. Reardon Charitable Foundation

Visionary ($25,000+)
- International Book Bank
- International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)

Leadership ($10,000+)
- Thomas W. Lane
- Manitoba Teachers’ Society
- The Estate of W. H. Nairn
- Maurice Walsh
- Gaurika Prasad

Major Gifts ($5,000+)
- The Alberta Teachers’ Association
- Christopher O. Bird
- Foundation Development
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- Doris H. Low

Leader Builders ($1,000+)
- Sharon A. Scott
- Afghan Heritage Library
- Arab American Association of Canada
- Asian Library
- Baku Education Action
- Boccia Family
- Cape Breton University
- Classic Books
- Denis D’Entremont
- Donal Meade
- Evan A. Smith

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Global Affairs Canada
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CODE gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada.

2017-2018 Impact Report
2017-2018 Impact Report
Financials

We are grateful for your gifts and for the confidence you place in CODE. We take care to ensure that every dollar you donate to us works hard to advance literacy and education for children around the world.

Here is a snapshot of our finances from the past year. For more information, you can view our audited financial statements on our website at code.ngo.

Our 2017-2018 audited financial statements by PricewaterhouseCoopers are available on our website code.ngo.

**Our Revenue**

- **45%** Donations
- **40%** Global Affairs Canada
- **14%** REDiSL
- **1%** Miscellaneous

**Our Programs**

- **26%** Program Operating Costs
- **29%** Professional Development of Educators
- **16%** Strengthening Education and Promoting Gender Equality
- **14%** Learning Materials
- **4%** Program Management
- **11%** Program Monitoring and Assessment

**How We Invest**

- **83.4%** Program Delivery
- **5.8%** Fundraising
- **4.7%** General Administration
- **1.7%** Communications
- **1.6%** Research Context Matters
- **1.4%** Program Development and Implementation
- **0.3%** Amortization

CODE reported a net revenue of $96,436 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

**CODE Boards/Ambassadors**

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