

Jessica Ferne

Director, Global Health Impact at CanWaCH (Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health)

Ottawa, ON, CA

Leader in disaster response, international development, youth & women-led programming, and sexual health & rights

Biography

Jessica currently serves as Director, Global Health Impact, with CanWaCH (Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health). In this role, Jessica leads CanWaCH's strategic efforts to strengthen Canadian monitoring and evaluation processes, capacity, and collaborations, in order to drive evidence-driven programming and decision-making, with the ultimate aim of improving the health and lives of women, children, and youth. Prior to CanWaCH, Jessica served as Director of Programs for a Canadian-based humanitarian organisation, where she led an extensive global portfolio of emergency response and development programs. A passionate health rights advocate, Jessica has also worked in diverse senior program management, technical expert, research, and evaluation capacities in Canada and abroad, with a particular focus on humanitarian action, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and youth engagement. Her work has taken her to multiple countries across South Asia, the Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Americas. Jessica currently serves as President on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Council for International Cooperation, an international development and education network working globally for social justice. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (University of Toronto), as well as a Bachelor degree in Philosophy (University of Ottawa). She has completed post-graduate certificates in Advanced International Project Management (University of Toronto), International Policy Analysis & Strategic Planning (Carleton University), and Humanitarian Response (Harvard University). Jessica is currently based in Ottawa, and speaks both English and French.

Industry Expertise

International Trade and Development, International Affairs, Non-Profit/Charitable, Government Relations, Women, Program Development, Health Care - Services

Areas of Expertise

Monitoring and Evaluation, Adolescent Health, Non-Profit Leadership, Program Management, Public Health, Policy Analysis, Human Rights, Youth Engagement, Women's Health, Refugee and Human Rights Issues, Sexual & Reproductive Health, Disaster Management, International Development, Humanitarian Assistance, Data & Analytics

Affiliations

President, Board of Directors, Ontario Council for International Cooperation

Event Appearances

Saviour Complex: Navigating Religion's Messy History & Current Role in Development
International Development Conference 2017, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus

Reflections on Moving towards the Sustainable Development Goals
Development Drinks, OCIC

From International Volunteer to Career: Pathways in International Cooperation
Go Global Expo

Responding to the Syrian Crisis - our work in Canada and abroad
When Art meets MSF

Witness: Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration
Standing Committee on the Federal Government's Initiative to Resettle Syrian Refugees to Canada

Needs of Syrian refugees resettling to Canada
Town Hall: Syrian Refugee Resettlement

Rewriting the Script: Queer-Positive Health Care in Action
32nd Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference

Sex Work and the Urban Environment
18th Congress on Women's Health Issues

Education

University of Toronto
Master of Public Health (MPH)

University of Ottawa
Honours Bachelor of Arts

Carleton University
Executive Certificate

Humanitarian Academy, Harvard University
Certificate

University of Toronto - School of Continuing Studies
Graduate Certificate

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