REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Care Policy Scorecard in Canada
A Policy Assesment of Canadian Care Systems

About Oxfam Canada:
Oxfam Canada is an affiliate of the international Oxfam Confederation networked in more than 90 countries as part of a global movement for change. Our mission is to build lasting solutions to poverty and injustice with a focus on improving the lives and promoting the rights of women and girls. We work directly with communities, partners and women's rights organizations to challenge the systems that perpetuate inequality and keep people poor. We challenge the policies, systems and institutions that trap people in poverty. In our advocacy and campaigning, we inspire the Canadian public to pressure the Canadian government, companies, and others to change policies and practices that harm women. We gather evidence and share our learning and research with other aid agencies, governments, local organizations and the public to show what works and what needs to change. Our work challenges traditional ideas of gender roles which contribute to economic inequality. We urge policy makers to recognize and redistribute unpaid care work, in Canada and globally.

Background:
The Care Policy Scorecard (hereafter, the 'Scorecard') was launched by Oxfam in September 2021. The Scorecard provides care advocates with a practical tool to measure and track government progress and commitments on policies that have a direct impact on care (unpaid and paid) and provides policy makers with evidence and information to make informed decisions on these policies. The Scorecard draws on the work of feminist and development economists and the ILO's 5R Framework to outline the key components of a care-enabling public policy environment: one that is able to recognize, reduce, redistribute and represent unpaid care work and adequately reward paid care work. This is accompanied by a set of policy indicators and questions to assess progress systematically and holistically across relevant public policy areas for unpaid and paid care work. Adapted to be used at multiple levels of government, the Scorecard allows researchers to carry out an assessment of the care public policy environment in any country to understand where there is positive progress, and where there are gaps and room for improvement. The Scorecard is intended to be used by civil society, government and academia alike. Whether you are a policy maker, work for an NGO or are a researcher, the Scorecard allows you to carry out an assessment of the care public policy environment in your country to understand where there is positive progress and where there are gaps and room for improvement. The indicators and assessment questions have been designed to have relevance across different socio-economic contexts and be used around the world to measure governments' progress towards an enabling policy environment on care, in line with commitments on SDG 5.4 and other international human rights obligations.

Purpose:
Canada's care economy has been pushed to its limit during the pandemic, after decades of underspending that had left care sectors (such as healthcare, child care, elder care, domestic work and others) in a state of disorder, caregivers overwhelmed and more people in need of care. Repeated lockdowns had a profound impact on the heavy unpaid household care responsibilities that disproportionately fall on women — not only in Canada, but around the world. At the same time, the care policy landscape in Canada is rapidly changing. New investments in early learning and child care are a progressive step forward by the Federal Government, but need to be measured, assessed and monitored as the policy rolls out. The pandemic has also exacerbated the continued gaps in the quality, accessibility, and investments in care systems and infastructure in many areas, including: long-term care, domestic work and migrant workers' rights, care for people with disabilities, service-based work, care infrastructure, and elder care. To build new care policies and improve and strengthen existing systems - there is a need for data to be collected across areas using an intersectional feminist research lens.

Research Objectives:

- Using the Care Policy Scorecard framework, capture timely research and original data in Canada assessing the care public policy environment (*this analysis will be initially focused on federal level actions, however potential scope for expanding into a few provincial or municipal level analyses*)
- Identify gaps, trends, and areas of improvement for care systems in Canada with an intersectional feminist research lens
- Draft a report to share findings, with the potential for spin off briefs focusing on specific areas

Methodology and Approach

1. Desk Review: This research will be anchored in desk research, which includes collecting of up-to-date information on care policy landscape within Canadian government at the federal level through targeted policy research, budget evaluations, and legislative reviews, Parliamentary testimonies, recent motions, announcements and statements across Government departments, programs
2. Supplementary targeted interviews: To validate desk research or to fill gaps not found in the desk review, supplementary data collection can include information gathering and network calls, focus group discussions and consultations with relevant actors (policy makers, civil servants, NGOs, academics) to validate and collect data that is absent from the desk review.
3. Scoring: Analysing documents, completing scoring and assesment criteria, validation workshop with stakeholders
4. Writing up results and final report

Proposed Timelines

- Collecting policy documents and sources of verification: June-July 2022
- Conducting supporting interviews, consultations with policy makers: July-August 2022
- Analysing documents, completing assessment criteria, validation workshop: August-September 2022
- Developing communications products, writing up results, report and dissemination launch: September-November 2022

Requirements

- Basic knowledge of research methods – ability to gather data and assess its quality, and an understanding of when and how to do interviews.
- Familiarity with policy- and/or law-making processes in Canada (at federal and provincial level)
- Ability to interpret policy documents – understanding the inclusions and exclusions therein.
- Knowledge of actors – including key non-government actors – involved in policy making, implementation, data collection, impact assessment, etc.
- Understanding of budgetary allocations and government spending in Canada (federal and provincial) to meet the requirements of the policy or legislation, and the on-the-ground realities.
- Understanding of budgetary trends.
- Familiarity with government monitoring and oversight processes.
- Experience of working with different trade unions, domestic worker groups or carers' organizations to understand the lived experiences of different categories of paid/unpaid care workers.

Application: Send your CV, a 1-page expression of interest detailing relevant research experience, and proposed budget (threshold $8,000) to Amar Nijhawan (amar.nijhawan@oxfam.ca) by June 17, 2022.