



Conférence religieuse canadienne
Canadian Religious Conference
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Montréal QC H3T 1B6
CANADA

February 28, 2011

Hon. Beverly J. Oda
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Re: The restoration of funding to KAIROS

Dear Minister Oda,

On behalf of the Canadian Religious Conference and its 18,000 members across the country, I am writing to express growing concern about the continuing funding hiatus at KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives and to request the restoration of crucial funding to this vital organisation.

For over 35 years, KAIROS has been effective and has got results. Twenty-three partners in some of the world's poorest and most violent regions now remain without stable funding because of the rejection of KAIROS' original proposal. KAIROS re-applied under newly formulated criteria in March 2010 and, almost a year later, has yet to receive a decision regarding this re-application. We urge that the new proposal be funded as soon as possible so that vital resources can begin to flow again to the partners of KAIROS.

As it has developed, the crisis at KAIROS has raised profound concerns. We believe that there needs to be a new debate about the direction of international development aid in Canada and a clear rationale for decisions.

The immediate need at the moment, however, is the restoration of funding to KAIROS. We urge you to take that action now.

Respectfully,

Mary Finlayson, RSCJ
President