



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada

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February 22, 2011

Hon. Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada is the only national ecumenical women's organization. Founded in 1918, we are representative of ten denominational church partners including the Anglican, United, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Friends, Mennonite, Salvation Army, Evangelical Lutheran, and Disciples of Christ. WICC provides a voice for a large segment, if not the majority, of the Christian women in Canada and our programs are shared with many other denominations including Pentecostal and African Methodist churches. Through the annual World Day of Prayer we are able to fund many projects domestically and internationally. We are acutely aware of the staggering difference that even a small amount of money, by Canadian standards, has on the people of a developing country. Any loss of funding brings a great deal of hardship to many people around the world.

We are writing to express our disappointment with the facts that have come to light regarding the decisions surrounding the loss to Kairos of \$7 million in Federal funding in 2009. At the time Kairos was advised of that devastating decision, we Canadians were led to believe that whether or not we agreed, at the very least, the integrity of the process was intact.

It is the will of the Canadian people that one person should not have the right to veto any funding, especially by the manner in which this document was altered. Minister Oda's inability to explain the events surrounding Kairos' funding withdrawal, has left not just the thousands of supporters of our organization, but all justice organizations in Canada, reeling over the implications of incompetence at this very high level.

For the past 36 years, Canadians could be proud of the good work that was being accomplished by Kairos. Kairos' projects supported human development, ecological sustainability, education, health, and women's legal rights issues – this being of particular importance to women in countries where they do not have the economic ability to support themselves. As a result of the loss of funding, Kairos can now only accomplish 16% of what it was staffed and equipped to do in the past.

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In light of what has transpired, we the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, join the multitude of voices asking for a full-scale inquiry into all matters surrounding this issue. We also add our voice in solidarity with those who think it appropriate that Kairos' funding be reinstated.

Sincerely,

Pat Allinson
Executive Director

Cc: The Honourable Michael Ignatieff
The Honourable Jack Layton