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Central
Committee**
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February 22, 2011

The Honourable Bev Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Dear Minister Oda:

I am writing to express Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada's ongoing support for KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. MCC Canada has been a member of KAIROS since its inception, and values the way ecumenical collaboration enhances our capacity to respond to basic human needs and work for peace and justice.

As noted in the letter I sent to you in December 2009, the unforeseen and abrupt end of KAIROS's relationship with CIDA caused a serious disruption to the work with partners overseas. With respect, I understand that you have the final responsibility for decisions on the use of taxpayer's money and that KAIROS is not simply entitled to a new agreement because of its 35-year relationship with CIDA.

Regardless of what happened in 2009, the most pressing issue for KAIROS is what will happen in 2011. After re-aligning its global partnership program with CIDA's new priorities, KAIROS submitted a new funding application to CIDA in March of 2010. Almost one year later, KAIROS is still waiting for a decision.

MCC Canada, along with the other members of KAIROS, would like to see this application receive fair and favourable consideration as soon as possible so that vital resources begin to flow to our partners overseas. We are convinced that KAIROS's work in the global partnership program is effective and gets results.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Peters
Executive Director
Mennonite Central Committee Canada



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