



Common Frontiers-Canada

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
Ottawa, ON. K1A 0A2

December 6, 2009

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We are deeply concerned about the recent decision taken by CIDA to cut funding to KAIROS, one of the most respected international development organizations in Canada.

KAIROS has been an active member of Common Frontiers, sharing with representatives of other sectors their expertise on economic and social development issues as well as their many long-term relationships with partners in Latin America. KAIROS is widely known as an organization that seeks to strengthen its development efforts through cooperation and joint initiatives with those in other parts of Canadian civil society.

This decision by CIDA comes after 35 years of positive collaboration among the churches working jointly through KAIROS and CIDA, both on overseas development programs as well as public engagement here in Canada. It sends a signal that your government is not interested in working with civil society organizations and raises the question as to whether Partnership Branch remains open to priorities established by Southern Partners and Canadian donors. We also worry that the termination of support for KAIROS may also signal intolerance of the policy voice of civil society groups, NGOs and their Southern partners, especially when that voice diverges from positions adopted by the government of the day.

We strongly urge you to reverse this decision and restore the long-standing relationship between CIDA and KAIROS.

Yours Sincerely,

Rick Arnold. Coordinator Common Frontiers-Canada

cc.

Bev Oda - Minister of International Cooperation
Margaret Biggs – President of CIDA
KAIROS Executive