

Faithful Action for Justice and Peace



"Let us present ourselves as living gifts to God's work of peace and justice."

Strategic Direction and Program Plan for KAIROS
2006-2010



In a time such as ours...

KAIROS unites Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

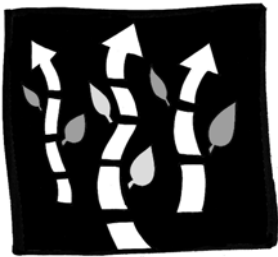
Informed by biblical teaching, KAIROS deliberates on issues of common concern striving to be a prophetic voice in the public sphere.

Inspired by a vision of God’s compassionate justice, KAIROS advocates for social change, amplifying and strengthening the public witness of its members.

Responding to Christ by engaging in social transformation, KAIROS empowers the people of God, and is empowered by them, to live out our faith in action for justice and peace, joining with those of goodwill in Canada and around the world.

Identity Statement of KAIROS

*In September of 2005, after a consultation process involving our churches and church agencies, Southern and Canadian partners, and our regional network, the Board of KAIROS adopted **strategic directions** to give vision and shape to the work of KAIROS from 2006-2010...*



Responsive to the gospel vision of justice, we, the KAIROS community, commit ourselves to work towards a world where...

Our churches are united in work for social justice

KAIROS is a model of transformative faith and resistance

KAIROS works with partners and colleagues in Canada and abroad

Canada's policies and practices promote social, economic and ecological justice

KAIROS works through strategies that...

- ❖ are focused, achievable and collaborative
- ❖ strengthen ecumenism to maximize capacity for public education and advocacy
- ❖ deepen engagement of people in the churches (at all levels)
- ❖ strengthen our cross country networks and engage young Canadians
- ❖ enhance creativity
- ❖ foster diversity
- ❖ promote a deeper understanding of the biblical and theological foundations of our work

*Between September 2005 and May 2006, KAIROS Staff developed an integrated **program plan** for 2006-2010 in consultation with program committee chairs and members of the Board. The plan was approved by the KAIROS Board in May of 2006.*



Nurtured and informed by a web of partnerships, responsive to the gospel vision of justice, and alert to the social and political conjuncture of this *kairos* moment,

KAIROS commits to contribute to social justice so that:

- ❖ Marginalized people define and achieve social change
- ❖ Poverty in Canada and Global South declines
- ❖ **A shift has begun towards a sustainable and just energy economy**
- ❖ **International human rights instruments are improved and effectively used**
- ❖ **Trade, investment and economic policies are rights-based and just.**

KAIROS commits to engage churches, and the general public, in **mass public education and action campaigns** focused on binding legislation for corporate activity abroad and just and sustainable energy policy. KAIROS will also **support activists** through sustained education and training to achieve policy change in the areas of poverty, trade and human rights.



Marginalized people participate fully in helping KAIROS define and achieve social change through KAIROS and social justice movements in the South and the North.

Impact A

People continue to be excluded from the political, economic and social decisions that shape their lives. This exclusion happens in broader society but also in churches, justice movements and advocacy organizations such as KAIROS. We must demand as much of ourselves by way of inclusion as we demand of others. Focusing particularly on groups with whom we have a history of engagement, KAIROS will work intentionally to more fully include Aboriginal peoples, people living in poverty, refugees, migrants, youth and young adults, as well as increasing our engagement with francophone communities.

KAIROS will focus on:

- ❖ Supporting marginalized people as they make their voices heard in places of power
- ❖ Using more creative and participatory ways to educate and reflect on faith
- ❖ Increasing diversity and vibrancy in our networks
- ❖ Including the perspectives of marginalized people in all our programs and decisions
- ❖ Being an ally for diverse communities

KAIROS action will include:

- ❖ E-Action resource with and for youth
- ❖ Training of KAIROS by Global and Aboriginal partners
- ❖ National KAIROS Education and Networking Gathering
- ❖ Organizational Review and Diversity Plan for KAIROS
- ❖ Online Theological Forum in French and English
- ❖ Outreach to the Ethnic Ministries in our member churches



The number of people living in material poverty both in Canada and the Global South has declined by 30% from 2005, and the proportion of income held by the poorest 10% has doubled *Impact B*

Across the world, more and more people are waking up to the challenge of poverty through broad based popular efforts such as *Make Poverty History*. This is a *kairos* moment as people recognize that we have made global commitments for 2015 through the Millennium Development Goals but are far from meeting these modest objectives. In Canada, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, one in eight Canadians still lives in poverty. KAIROS will work to magnify the struggle to eradicate poverty – a struggle that requires not only political action, but a deeper social, economic and cultural transformation.

KAIROS will focus on:

- ❖ Reducing low wage and precarious work
- ❖ Supporting the Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History Campaigns
- ❖ Ensuring Canadian support for access to public services (across the globe)
- ❖ Pushing for Canadian leadership in addressing the international AIDS crisis
- ❖ Helping Canadians to understand root causes of poverty

KAIROS action will include:

- ❖ Advocacy campaign for a working income supplement
- ❖ Pilot project with church and low income people to move from charity to advocacy
- ❖ Lobbying for a parliamentary review of Structural Adjustment
- ❖ Media initiative on root causes of Aboriginal poverty
- ❖ Coordination of ecumenical advocacy on HIV and AIDS
- ❖ Building a National Migrant Justice Network



A major shift has begun toward a sustainable and just energy economy with a decrease in the human rights violations and the ecological destruction that accompany the current fossil fuel dominated energy economy. *Impact C*

Lifestyles and economies, particularly in the North, are utterly dependent on the constant use of fossil fuels. The pursuit of oil is causing human rights violations and conflicts across the globe. Use of it is degrading the air we breathe and the eco-systems we defend. KAIROS believes that to restore the health of eco-systems, eliminate a major source of conflict and take steps towards economic justice, we must work immediately towards a post-oil era.

KAIROS will focus on:

- ❖ Advocating for a just and sustainable “made by Canadians” energy policy
- ❖ Supporting communities bearing the brunt of oil extraction
- ❖ Urging corporations to adopt sustainable energy practices
- ❖ Reducing energy consumption in our churches and by our networks

KAIROS action will include:

- ❖ Policy fora to develop a consensus on energy
- ❖ 3-year **public engagement campaign** for Canada to adopt a just and sustainable energy policy
- ❖ High profile tour to an Aboriginal and/or Southern community affected by oil extraction
- ❖ Shareholder action with corporations
- ❖ Case studies of communities most affected by oil extraction
- ❖ Strategic outreach to youth as a key constituency in these efforts



The human rights of vulnerable and marginalized people are better protected through the effective use of improved international human rights instruments.

Impact D

In the past five years global human rights abuses have increased as governments in the North and South have implemented the “war on terror”. The year 2008 will mark the 60th anniversary of the acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights standards’ setting has been ambitious since then but enforcement mechanisms are lacking. As a result, many governments do not fulfill their obligations. KAIROS will accompany communities in crisis, but will also work with those communities to strengthen the human rights instruments and processes through which they can hold government to account.

KAIROS will focus on:

- ❖ Defending the right of indigenous people to self-determination
- ❖ Increasing Canadian support for two new mechanisms to protect human rights
- ❖ Deepening understanding of rights-based framework in our churches and networks
- ❖ Promoting just peace in Colombia, Mexico, Sudan, Congo, Indonesia, Philippines, East Timor, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, and Canada
- ❖ Advocating for a positive and pro-active Canadian approach to refugees

KAIROS action will include:

- ❖ Consultation and policy making on “Responsibility to Protect”
- ❖ Interventions to the new UN Human Rights Council
- ❖ Human rights training program for faith based activists
- ❖ Bringing stories of partners to mainstream media and church press



The Canadian government prioritises human rights, economic justice and community collective rights in its trade, investment and economic policies and legislation.

Impact E

Partners in the South tell us that Canadian government's policies on trade and investment reinforce economic disparities and exploitative practices between North and South. Working jointly with movements in the South, bringing struggles from their daily lives, KAIROS will advocate with our government for trade and investment policy that is just and based in human rights, as well as for transparent and democratic processes in trade negotiations.

KAIROS will focus on:

- ❖ Achieving democracy, transparency and justice in Canadian trade policy
- ❖ Ensuring Canadian trade positions adhere to human rights and environmental standards
- ❖ Urging Canada to stop trading with countries that gravely abuse human rights.
- ❖ Enacting binding legislation on Canadian corporations working outside Canada with respect to human rights, environmental standards, and community rights
- ❖ Strengthening resistance and alternatives within North and South economic justice movements

KAIROS action will include:

- ❖ **Public engagement campaign** for binding legislation on corporations (focus in 2005-6 will be on corporate accountability for water)
- ❖ Church policy development on NAFTA
- ❖ Case studies on trade and egregious human rights in key countries
- ❖ Coordination of churches participation in mining roundtables