



JESUITS IN ENGLISH CANADA

43 Queen's Park Crescent East + Toronto ON M5S 2C3 + Canada
Website: www.jesuits.ca

Tel (416) 962-4500
Fax: (416) 962-4501

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Margaret Biggs
President CIDA
Margaret.biggs@acdi-cida.gc.ca

Dear President Biggs;

Canadian aid through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) generously helped my own rural development work in Jamaica. CIDA support for similar development projects around the world has earned Canada a global reputation for generosity, justice for impoverished people, and commitment to peace and human rights.

It is in light of this Canadian tradition, which is based in part on the social contribution of Christian churches and of many other faiths, that I express my shock that CIDA has cut its funding to KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, which does international work in human rights, development and ecological sustainability, among other things, in the name of many Christian churches and organizations. This decision is all the more shocking since CIDA has been supporting KAIROS and its earlier organizations since 1973.

In today's world situation, this decision by a wealthy country like ours only adds to the burden that already impoverished people are being asked to bear for the economic downturn. I urge the government to reconsider this ill-advised decision.

Sincerely,

Rev. James Webb, S.J.
Provincial Superior of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) in English Canada