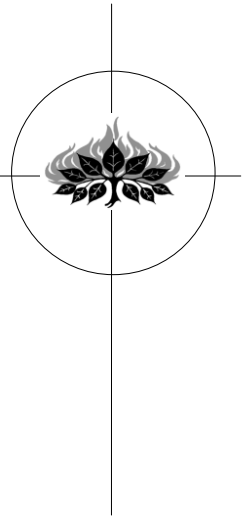


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Gale, B.A., M.Th., D.Min.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister of Canada,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I bring you greetings from the 136th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada which met June 6-11, 2010 in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

I am writing on behalf of the 136th General Assembly in support of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives' program proposal currently being considered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A new draft proposal was submitted March 31, 2010 and the final draft was submitted by KAIROS on September 1, 2010. As you are aware, an earlier proposal submitted in March 2009 was not approved by the Honourable Bev Oda. KAIROS was informed of the Minister Oda's decision on November 30, 2009.

Commissioners at the 136th General Assembly overwhelmingly supported a motion stating General Assembly's disappointment with the decision not to fund KAIROS' initial 2009-2013 proposal and the manner in which the decision was made. The decision did not seem to be based on the merits of the proposal. KAIROS was not informed that the new priorities announced by Minister Oda in her May 2009 speech would also affect proposals from the voluntary sector.

In response to Minister Oda's decision, Presbyterians across Canada met with their Members of Parliament to state their concerns. Congregations and Presbyteries communicated their concern through letters to you and to Minister Oda.

The new proposal KAIROS submitted reflects two of the three new priorities announced by Minister Oda in May 2009: 1) promoting food security; 2) securing the future for children and youth.

KAIROS seeks to contribute to public policy issues that affect Canada and that have a bearing on Canada's role in the world. The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes that faith bodies have a responsibility to shine a light on the experiences of vulnerable human beings whose rights are being violated. Constructive engagement in the public policy process is an essential dimension of our understanding and practice of mission.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is confident that KAIROS' program exemplifies the highest Canadian values for the protection of human rights and care for creation and that KAIROS' new proposal will be given fair and transparent consideration.

Rest assured of our continuing prayers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Gale", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Gale,
Moderator,
136th General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Cc: The Honourable Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation,
The Honourable Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party
Mr. Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Mr. Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois.