



Anglican Church of Canada

Office of the Primate, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2
Tel. 416-924-9199 Ext. 276 / Email primate@national.anglican.ca

A Message from The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

December 7, 2009

The Hon. Bev Oda, P.C. M.P.
Minister of International Co-operation,
The House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Oda,

Last week when CIDA announced its decision to end funding for KAIROS, a quick and massive response came from Canadian Church members from coast to coast to coast, urging the Federal Government to reconsider this decision. This call is of paramount importance for all Canadians and our commitment to The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights which we commemorate every year on December 10th.

I understand it is being argued that the Churches themselves receive CIDA funding for their work in relief, development and peace initiatives and we are grateful for that. I draw your attention to the fact that CIDA has also had a long history of encouraging proposals from consortiums. A prime example is KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. Representing a number of Canada's largest denominations and related agencies, our focus is on protecting and advancing human rights. Specific work in this regard is carried out in many places in the world-The Congo, The Sudan, Mexico, Colombia, The Philippines, to name but a few.

For those whose human rights are violated KAIROS is a source of hope. For those whose rights have been restored through peaceful negotiations KAIROS is a blessing. For Canadians KAIROS is a source of pride in seeing the Churches working together in co-operative endeavours supported by the Government. The CIDA grants represent that spirit of co-operation in the interest of upholding human rights.

The cut of funding for KAIROS denies hope for millions of people throughout the world, inhibits the blessing for which so many long, and damages our reputation among the nations.

KAIROS has the full support of its member Churches and related agencies. There is a growing tide of public pressure calling on the Government to reconsider CIDA's decision and to act in the interest of the most vulnerable people in the world.

The Scriptures say, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). I call on you and the Government of Canada to embrace what is just and do what is right. Please reconsider your decision.

I appeal to you in the name of those whose rights and freedoms are threatened, whose hope and security for a better future rests in our care and action as Canadians.

With the assurance of my thoughts and prayers for you, the Government of Canada and all those whose lives are impacted by the decisions you make.

I am

Respectfully yours

+Fred Hiltz
Archbishop and Primate

