

**Ursuline Religious
of the Diocese of London in Ontario**

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Margaret Biggs, President
CIDA
200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0G4

Dear Margaret:

It was with great shock and concern that we learned that KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives received notice on November 30 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that its project proposal for 2009-2013 had been rejected. No explanation was given for this decision other than that its program did not fit CIDA's priorities. In fact, the KAIROS proposal was developed within two of CIDA's priority sectors: promoting good governance (human rights) and advancing ecological sustainability (reducing the impact of climate change and addressing land degradation). The proposal was developed in collaboration with CIDA and was approved, at every level, within CIDA, by June of this year.

As a member of the Canadian Religious Conference which represents 20,000 women and men religious in Canada and which has two members on the Board of KAIROS, I write to express grave concern about this decision. If not reversed, this decision seriously compromises the work of human rights and ecological integrity in the developing world. 21 partner organizations dedicated to these issues count on KAIROS support and funding. This decision also negatively affects the ability of Canadians to develop skills and knowledge in the exercise of their global citizenship.

Since 1973, KAIROS, and the church coalitions from which it was formed eight years ago, has received funding to support partners working in regions experiencing some of the world's most egregious human rights violations. As a result, KAIROS' work is highly regarded overseas and in Canada. It is also one of the most effective in terms of thousands of volunteer hours and in-kind contributions. AS well, its administrative overheads and stellar ethical management history are legendary in the NGO sector.

Our community has had a particularly rich and rewarding association with KAIROS, and because of our Sisters' work in Latin America and the Caribbean we are especially aware of its importance to our struggling brothers and sisters in the South. We urge you to reverse the decision that has been so ill-advisedly made and reinstate KAIROS' funding from CIDA immediately.

Sincerely



Sister Joan Stafford
General Superior
Ursulines of the Chatham Union

c.c KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives