

30 March 2010

The Honourable Bev Oda  
Minister  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Minister's Office (MIN)  
200 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0G4  
Canada

Dear Minister Oda,

We, as the Presidents of The Canadian Council of Churches and The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, are writing to urge you to review your Ministerial decision not to approve CIDA funding for the KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative 2009-2013 co-financing proposal.

KAIROS member churches have expressed their concern regarding your ministerial decision and have asked for a meeting with you. As representative bodies of both those churches and a wider fellowship and forum of churches and ministries, we share their concern. The decades-long relationship between churches and the government of Canada through KAIROS and its predecessor coalitions of churches is very valuable to us and should not be ended prematurely.

We note that the programs of a number of sister councils of churches – essential to the peaceful development of their countries and regions – are adversely affected by your recent decision, including programs of

- The All Africa Conference of Churches,
- The Latin America Council of Churches,
- The Pacific Conference of Churches, and the
- The Sudan Council of Churches.

We believe that continued dialogue with the leaders of KAIROS would be in the best interests of the citizens of Canada and the government of Canada, and would especially be in the interests of those whose lives and well-being depend on the financial and programmatic support from KAIROS and its funding partners.

We request an opportunity to meet with you or senior officials from your ministry to discuss how the relationship can be restored. Please contact Peter Noteboom by email at [noteboom@ccc-cce.ca](mailto:noteboom@ccc-cce.ca) or by phone at 416 972 9494 x 26 for practical arrangements.

Minister Oda, please be assured that members of churches across Canada pray for your strength and wisdom, and that your efforts of working for justice and development in Canada and the world might bear fruit.

Sincerely,



Rev. Bruce Adema  
President  
The Canadian Council of Churches



Bruce Clemenger  
President  
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

Cc: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
Margaret Biggs, President, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

*The Canadian Council of Churches is the broadest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 23 churches of Anglican, Evangelical, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox, Protestant, Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic traditions; together we represent 85% of the Christians in Canada.*

*The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of evangelical Christians, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.*