



Canadian Ecumenical
Justice Initiatives /
Initiatives œcuméniques
canadiennes pour
la justice

Members

The Anglican Church of Canada
Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development and Peace
Canadian Religious Conference
Christian Reformed Church in
North America (Canada Corporation)
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Canada
Mennonite Central Committee
Canada
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
The United Church of Canada

Membres

Assemblée annuelle canadienne
de la Société religieuse des Amis
Comité Central Mennonite Canada
Conférence religieuse canadienne
Développement et Paix
L'Église anglicane du Canada
Église Évangélique Luthérienne
au Canada
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada
L'Église réformée chrétienne en
Amérique du Nord
(Société canadienne)
L'Église Unie du Canada
Le fonds du Primat pour le secours
et le développement mondial

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March 8, 2021

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada:

KAIROS is gravely concerned about the differentiated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most marginalized communities in Canada and the Global South. We are writing to you at this time with concerns about the growing inequities worldwide in access, distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

We support efforts by your government to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines in Canada, with priorities shown for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, together with the elderly and health-care workers.

We also applaud your government's financial commitments to the global COVAX facility, as well as efforts to procure treatments and to share surplus doses with middle- and low-income countries.

But more can be done to ensure that everyone is safe and that vaccines reach the most vulnerable populations in Canada and throughout the world. Informed by our international and domestic partners, KAIROS calls on your government to:

- Join efforts within the World Trade Organization (WTO)—initiated by South Africa and India, and already supported by about 100 countries—for a waiver from provisions of the TRIPS agreement for the prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID-19 at the WTO TRIPS Council.
- Support efforts among the G20 nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to release U.S. \$3 trillion of global reserve funds (“Special Drawing Rights”) to support crisis response and recovery efforts in medium- and low-income countries.
- Develop, here in Canada, a plan to assure vaccines are made available to migrant workers and people who are undocumented, as called for by Canada's Migrant Rights Network:
<https://migrantrights.ca/vaccinesforall/>.

Canada can lead the way in advocating for the fair distribution of vaccines. Your actions can serve the health and well-being of Canadians and all peoples of our One World.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative is a joint venture of 10 Canadian churches and religious organizations. We would appreciate the



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opportunity to meet with you to discuss these initiatives and our efforts to ensure that vaccine access, distribution and administration are equitable.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Lori Ransom
Interim Executive Director
KAIROS

Copies to:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade
Hon. Patty Hadju, Minister of Health
Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Official Opposition
Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
M. Yves-François Blanchet, Chef du Bloc Québécois
Ms Annamie Paul, Leader, Green Party of Canada