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**From:** Layton, Jack - M.P. [Layton.J@parl.gc.ca]  
**Sent:** August 15, 2006 4:27 PM  
**Subject:** International AIDS Conference in Toronto - Reply Jack Layton

Thank you for writing me in support of the Make Poverty History campaign's work at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto. Clearly, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's absence speaks volumes as to where he places the HIV/AIDS crisis among his priorities. In contrast, NDP Caucus members Bill Siksay, Libby Davies, Olivia Chow, Alexa McDonough, and Peggy Nash will join me in participating in Toronto.

Stephen Lewis, the UN special envoy on HIV/AIDS, has called the lack of leadership and action by successive Liberal and Conservative governments "delinquent beyond the definition of delinquency."

I fully agree with Mr. Lewis. When Parliament returns in September, the NDP will make it a priority to support efforts to:

- Commit to a timetable to bring Canada's official development assistance to 0.7% of GDP.
- Contribute five percent of the funding needed by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria over each of the next five years.
- Invest in public health systems in developing nations to better respond to the HIV pandemic and ensure developed countries do not poach doctors, nurses and pharmacists from countries in need.
- Cancel the debts of developing nations burdened by AIDS.
- Follow through on a three-year old commitment to allow cheaper, generic drugs to be produced in Canada for use here and abroad.

Again, I appreciate hearing your concern for Harper's lack of leadership on this issue. Please feel free to forward this message to anyone you feel will be interested. All the best.

Sincerely,

Jack Layton, MP (Toronto-Danforth)  
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada

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