

November 16, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Demonstrating Canada's commitment to achieving universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment by 2010

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

As international development, humanitarian, AIDS service, trade union, faith-based and human rights organizations, joined together under the aegis of the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG), we encourage you to show Canada's commitment to address the global HIV/AIDS crisis by announcing renewed funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) on World AIDS Day.

At the 2005 G8 summit Canada, and other world leaders, committed to meet the target of universal access to AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. This bold promise was reaffirmed at the recent G8 meeting in Heiligendamm. Funding for AIDS programming through multilateral, bilateral and NGO channels is required to accomplish this goal.

One of the most effective funding mechanisms to address AIDS is the Global Fund, which provides US\$8.4 billion in financing to 136 countries. Canada's failure to announce renewed funding for the GFATM at the September replenishment meeting in Berlin raised concern in Canada and internationally that Canada may be backsliding on doing its fair share to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We urge you to use the occasion of World AIDS Day this December 1, to announce that Canada will contribute 5% of the resources required by the GFATM over each of the next five years. Over the next three years, this would mean a specific commitment of \$300 million per year. This level of funding is in line with the commitments Canada makes to other multilateral fora such as the Global Environment Fund (GED) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and will demonstrate Canada's leadership in the global fight against AIDS.

Support for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS is critical to achieve the goals of Canada's development program and cannot be undertaken at the expense of other critical initiatives such as strengthening health systems in developing countries. We therefore also call on Canada to announce a timetable for raising Canada's Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of our Gross National Income.

The Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG) is a working group of international development, human rights, humanitarian, and AIDS service organizations, trade unions, student groups and faith-based groups seeking to improve access to essential medicines and other aspects of HIV prevention and care, treatment and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

At the September replenishment meeting hosted by Kofi Annan, Canada indicated that a pledge would be announced soon. But millions of people who are meant to benefit from GFATM grants cannot afford to wait. It is time for Canada to match its promises with commitments.

Yours truly,



Michael O'Connor
Executive Director
ICAD

c.c. The Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation
c.c. The Honourable James M. Flaherty, Minister of Finance

On behalf of:

AIDS 2006 Toronto Local Host
AIDS Action Now!
AIDS Bow Valley
AIDS Niagara
AIDS PEI
AIDS Saint John
Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH)
Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
Blood Ties Four Directions Centre
British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society
Bruce House
Canada Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA)
Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)
Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)
Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)
Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
Canadian Crossroads International (CCI)
Canadian Federation for Sexual Health
Canadian Feed the Children
Canadian Grandmothers for Africa: A National Advocacy Network
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH)
CARE Canada
Carleton AIDS Awareness Society
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society
Dignitas International
Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS - North America (GYCA)
HIV/AIDS Regional Services - Kingston
HIV West Yellowhead
Human Rights Working Group - McGill's Faculty of Law

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
Lethbridge HIV Connection Society
Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan
McGill Global AIDS Coalition
National Congress of Black Women Foundation (NCBWF)
Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS)
OHAfrica
Oxfam Canada
Oxfam-Québec
People to People Aid Organization (Canada)
Plan Canada
Positively AFRICA
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund - The Anglican Church of Canada
RESULTS Canada
Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development (SOLID)
San Patten and Associates, Inc.
Steelworkers Humanity Fund
The Caia Connection
The United Church of Canada
UNICEF Canada
Victoria AIDS Resource & Community Service Society