



The Anglican Church of Canada L'Église anglicane du Canada

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 3G2

June 5, 2008

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As the July 2008 G8 Summit in Japan approaches, I write at the request of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to urge the government of Canada to take every measure to meet the goal of dedicating 0.7% of Canada's gross national product for Official Development Assistance by 2015.

In June 2005, the Anglican Church of Canada requested the government of Canada to act on a proposal for reaching the 0.7% target by 2015. The proposal, made by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), was to increase foreign aid by 12% annually until 2009, and by 15% between 2009 and 2015.

The 0.7% target was first set by the UN in 1970 acting on a recommendation by the Prime Minister of Canada. It was repeated when the UN agreed to the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, with the aim of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

The Anglican Church of Canada joins with people of faith in Canada and the US, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and The Episcopal Church of the USA, in urging our respective governments to comply with the UN target. We do this in the conviction that the "have" countries of the world, led by the G8, have both the capacity and the moral obligation to achieve that goal.

We commend the Government of Canada on its April 30, 2008 announcement to pledge an extra \$50 million in un-tied food aid, making Canada a leader in food aid among donor nations. We also commend the Minister of International Cooperation, the Honourable Beverly Oda, during her recent visit to Japan, for communicating Canada's commitment to double its aid to Africa in 2008-2009, the first G8 country to do so.

Yet we believe Canada can and must do far more within the international community. Canada has failed in its last two budgets to meet the increases recommended by CCIC despite a resource boom over the past few years that generated considerable economic wealth.

Mr. Prime Minister, Canada has the opportunity under your leadership to set the direction for the other G8 nations. You can make us the first country to double aid to Africa, and you can pledge to get us back on track by increasing foreign aid according to CCIC's formula with the aim of reaching the 0.7% target if not by 2015, then by 2018, since we are currently three years behind schedule.

In a letter of Paul the Apostle to the church in Corinth, he makes a case for the members of that community to care for one another, for "if one member suffers, then all suffer with it, if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it."

Canada is part of a global community in which many members are suffering terribly. Let us do everything possible in Canada to reverse their plight, so that we, with them, may be honoured and rejoice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Pollesel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and 'P'.

The Ven. Dr. Michael Pollesel  
General Secretary, The Anglican Church of Canada

- c.c. The Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation
- The Hon. David Emerson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- The Hon. Stéphane Dion, Liberal leader
- The Hon. Jack Layton, NDP leader
- The Hon. Bob Rae, Liberal Foreign Affairs critic
- The Hon. Paul Dewar, NDP Foreign Affairs critic