



Canadian Coalition on  
Climate Change  
& Development

18 December 2015

**Canadian Coalition on  
Climate Change &  
Development (C4D)**

*Adventist Development and  
Relief Agency*

*Canadian Cooperative  
Association*

*Canadian Catholic  
Organization for Development  
and Peace*

*Canadian Council for  
International Co-operation*

*Canadian Feed The Children*

*Canadian Foodgrains Bank*

*Canadian Centre for  
International Studies and  
Cooperation*

*Climate Action Network  
Canada*

*CARE Canada*

*CUSO International*

*David Suzuki Foundation*

*Farm Radio International*

*Halifax Initiative*

*International Institute for  
Sustainable Development*

*International Development  
Research Centre*

*Mennonite Central Committee  
Canada*

*Oxfam Canada*

*Oxfam Québec*

*Plan Canada*

*Pembina Institute*

*REAP-Canada*

*USC Canada*

*United Church of Canada*

*World Vision Canada*

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

RE: Canada's Commitment to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Dear Minister Dion,

On behalf of the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development (C4D), we are writing to extend our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs. As representatives of Canada's leading international development and environmental organizations, C4D is committed to reducing the impacts of climate change on the world's most vulnerable individuals, communities, and countries.

We welcome the government's commitments to prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation, including Canada's \$2.65 billion commitment to support developing countries, made in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21). We also acknowledge the positive role Canada played in reaching a balanced and ambitious global agreement to address climate change, including the government's adoption of the Paris Agreement. As noted by Prime Minister Trudeau, "many of the world's most vulnerable countries have done little to contribute to the problem [of climate change], but face the most significant consequences." Now more than ever, we must treat poverty reduction and climate change adaptation as critical to achieving global sustainable development for all. We look forward to working with the government to see that Canada's initial investment focusses on achieving those goals, as well as discussing the source of the \$2.65 billion funding announcement in relation to the existing international assistance envelope. We must also work together to see that the Paris Agreement is implemented in a manner that matches its high level of ambition.

C4D's collective experience affirms that the world's poorest and most vulnerable are experiencing the greatest hardships due to climate change. For decades, C4D members have been working with partners from around the world to deliver climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. This work assists in the response to impacts such as: climate-related droughts and floods; crop failure, food insecurity and malnutrition; conflicts exacerbated by resource scarcity; and climate related diseases such as malaria and diarrhea. While the challenges are great, our work continues to

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yield results that save lives and builds resilience to climate change at the individual, community, and regional level.

We are encouraged by the government's openness to consultation and its commitment to gather best practices and evidence from Canadian civil society and climate scientists. In the same way that the government has committed to meeting with provincial, territorial, municipal and indigenous leaders to coordinate a robust climate change plan here in Canada, the government should also consult on how to best support developing countries to address the impacts of climate change.

As a first step, we encourage the government to work closely with Canadian experts from the environmental, agriculture, and international development sectors to set a way forward for both climate adaptation and mitigation abroad. We also encourage the government to work with developing countries and vulnerable communities most impacted by climate change as part of Canada's ongoing policy and programmatic efforts. In order to meet our ambitions to help developing countries fight climate change, any plans will require all donors, including Canada, to focus their technical and financial support on the most vulnerable – including smallholder farmers, women, and children. These groups must be involved when determining how and where resources are invested.

Guided by the new Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, Canada can be a leader by supporting global efforts to address the worst consequences of climate change, such as poverty, food insecurity, and poor health. As a member of Canada's official delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, we hope that you are returning inspired and energized to carry forward this important global agenda. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the linkages between climate change and global sustainable development. We shall be in touch with your office to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on what promises to be an exciting leadership moment for Canada in the world.

Yours sincerely,



Sohel Khan  
C4D Co-Chair  
Canadian Feed The Children  
[skhan@canadianfeedthechildren.ca](mailto:skhan@canadianfeedthechildren.ca)



Pierre Diégane KADET  
C4D Co-Chair  
CARE CANADA  
[pierre.kadet@care.ca](mailto:pierre.kadet@care.ca)

**Cc:** The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Julian Ovens, Chief of Staff for the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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