

27 November, 2015

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie  
200 Promenade du Portage Building, Place du Centre  
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0G4

Dear Minister Bibeau,

I am writing on behalf of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada to congratulate you on your party's victory in the federal election as well as on your recent cabinet appointment. I want to assure you of our prayers and extend our best wishes as you begin your new responsibilities as Canada's Minister of International Development and La Francophonie.

MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC Canada currently supports programs in 60 countries through the efforts of over 1,000 workers, 14,000 volunteers, and 122,000 members of supporting churches. Some of this work is generously supported by Global Affairs Canada.

We are pleased to hear of your party's promise to "refocus Canada's development assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable," and to ensure that every dollar committed to international development gets spent in full. In keeping with the spirit of the Civil Society Partnership Policy launched earlier in 2015 by your predecessor, Christian Paradis, we also welcome your party's affirmation for the role Canadian and international aid organizations will play in helping shape Canada's development priorities and funding frameworks.

As you work towards a renewed role for Canada in international development, MCC encourages you to be a strong voice in cabinet for a sustainable development agenda that privileges the needs of the poor around the world. Indeed, we are keen to see "policy coherence" within Global Affairs serve to strengthen—rather than temper—Canada's commitment to the interests of developing countries. We also look forward to seeing Canada provide solid leadership on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals through a national plan of action that will serve as a framework for all of Global Affairs' programming.

As we have with all Canadian governments over the past five decades, MCC will continue to offer our perspective and expertise—guided by the voices of our partners and the people we serve in Canada and abroad—in order to contribute to sustainable development policies and programs that are better able to address the profound challenges of our world.

Once again, I wish you well and assure you of our prayers as you provide leadership for Canada's

development efforts. We look forward to engaging with you in constructive discussions on important public policy issues in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,



Donald G. Peters  
Executive Director  
MCC Canada

CC: Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Official Opposition Critic for International Development, Conservative Party of Canada  
Robert Aubin, Opposition Critic for International Development, New Democratic Party of Canada