

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Hussen,

I am writing on behalf of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada to congratulate you on your recent cabinet appointment and to extend our best wishes as you begin your new responsibilities as Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship.

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.

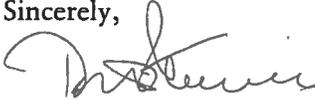
Working with refugees and displaced peoples has been, and continues to be, a vital part of MCC's programming in Canada and around the world. As the first organization to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder in 1979, MCC has an over thirty-five year history helping refugees rebuild their lives in Canada through the Private Sponsorship Program. In 2016, we helped resettle over 1,700 refugees (the highest since 1979), the majority of whom are Syrian.

Within the international context, much of our relief, development, and peacebuilding work aims to prevent people from fleeing their homes by building communities of peace, justice, and well-being. Over the past five years, for instance, MCC has programmed over US\$41 million for our Syria and Iraq crisis response. As MCC's largest ever humanitarian effort, this response—carried out by our local partners in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan—includes ongoing projects in emergency relief, community development, and interfaith peacebuilding.

MCC looks forward to building on our strong history of working with the Government of Canada in responding to the needs of refugees, particularly at a time when interest in resettlement has grown dramatically. As you work towards addressing the particular needs of Canada's refugee resettlement program, we encourage you to continue strengthening your department's capacity for humanitarian immigration. MCC believes refugees and immigrants make an extremely important contribution that help shape Canadian identity in positive ways.

Once again, I wish you well and assure you of our prayers as you provide leadership for this important dimension of the federal government's work. We look forward to engaging with you in constructive discussions on important public policy issues in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,



Donald Peters
Executive Director
MCC Canada

CC: Hon. Michelle Rempel, Official Opposition Critic for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship,
Conservative Party of Canada
Jenny Kwan, Opposition Critic for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, New Democratic
Party of Canada