

The Honourable Bev Oda, M.P., P.C.
Minister of International Cooperation
House of Commons
Ottawa Ontario
K1A 0A6

January 20, 2011

Dear Minister Oda,

As members of the Christian Reformed Church we are long-time supporters of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). We are writing to express our deep concerns about the CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) decision not to fund the newest proposal submitted by CRWRC. CRWRC has over 30 years of development experience; for 20 of those years, CRWRC's excellent work was recognized through support from CIDA.

On December 22nd CRWRC received word that CIDA would not fund the most recent proposal submission. This proposal was submitted before CIDA announced changes to the granting process for NGOs like CRWRC. CRWRC was caught in a changing process and now has been left with an \$825,000 gap in funding.

CRWRC hopes to continue its long-standing relationship with CIDA and will submit a new proposal under the new funding framework. However, the funding gap that results from CIDA's procedural changes poses significant challenges. While CRWRC is doing everything they can to minimize the impact this gap will have on vulnerable communities, the reality is that reducing budgets will mean the scaling back of vital programs for those living in poverty.

It is not unreasonable, when government processes change, and NGOs experience interim challenges as a result, that transitional funds are made available until an organization can adapt to the new process. Therefore we are asking you to consider the issue of transitional funding for NGOs (CRWRC and others) with CIDA. Temporary measures such as this are necessary for ongoing, effective aid to vulnerable people.

We look forward to hearing back from you regarding this process. Please let us know how you will follow-up on this issue.

Thank you,