

# Mount St. Mary's



## Sisters of St. Martha

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December 8, 2009

Lawrence MacAulay  
Member of Parliament  
Cardigan

Mr. MacAulay:

On November 30, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives received notice from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that its project proposal for 2009-2013 had been declined. No explanation was given for this decision other than its program did not fit CIDA priorities. In fact, the KAIROS proposal was developed within two priority sectors of CIDA: promoting good governance (human rights) and advancing ecological sustainability (reducing the impact of climate change and addressing land degradation) and it was approved at every level of CIDA before being declined on November 30.

As a member of the Canadian Religious Conference which represents 20,000 women and men religious in Canada and has two members on the Board of KAIROS, I write to express grave concern about this decision. If not reversed, this decision seriously compromises the work of human rights and ecological integrity in the developing world where 21 partner organizations dedicated to these issues count on KAIROS support and funding. This decision also negatively affects the ability of Canadians to develop skills and knowledge in the exercise of their global citizenship.

Since 1973, KAIROS, and the church coalitions from which it was formed eight years ago, had received funding to support partners working in regions experiencing some of the world's most egregious human rights violations. As a result, KAIROS work is highly regarded overseas and in Canada.

Confident of your own support for human rights and ecological sustainability, I write to request that you urge CIDA to restore its long-standing relationship with KAIROS and reverse this decision.

Sincerely

Sister Rosemary MacDonald  
Congregation Leader

Cc KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives