



MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div.

Monday, July 6, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Development
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister and Minister,

I write to you on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, whose 2019 General Assembly met in Waterloo, Ontario.

The General Assembly considered a report regarding Canada's Official Development Assistance. The Presbyterian Church in Canada supports humanitarian assistance programs and overseas partners' development programs through Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D).

The church supports the internationally recognized goal of setting state aid levels to 0.7% of its Gross National Income. We commend Canada's programs and contributions in support of global development, but with current Canadian aid levels at 0.28%, we are far short of this goal. Regrettably, Canadian aid levels have reached a 50-year low. We can do better.

We are concerned, also, that with the passage of Bill C-86 in December 2018, the reporting requirements under the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act have been weakened. We urge the government to publish a breakdown of the Government's annual contribution to the World Bank's aid budget. Indeed, according to a public opinion survey commissioned by the Canadian Council for International Development, a majority of Canadians want Canada to do more to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.¹ Reaching 0.7% is an achievable goal – the United Kingdom legislated that British aid levels meet 0.7% of its GNI and has consistently met this goal.

The General Assembly also urges the Government to increase its official development assistance to 0.35% (GNI) in 2020 and develop a plan to increase Canadian ODA to 0.7% of its GNI as part of Canada's implementation framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The

¹ <https://ccic.ca/canadians-support-more-spending-on-international-aid/>

world is made stronger and better when there is significant international cooperation and aid to address the needs of countries who are struggling.

I look forward to hearing from you about this important issue. Please rest assured of our continuing prayers even and especially amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Currie".

Rev. Amanda Currie
Moderator
The 2019 General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir