

November 5, 2012



The Honourable Julian Fantino  
Minister of International Cooperation  
200 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0G4

**RE: Climate Change and Development**

Dear Minister Fantino,

We are writing to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister of International Cooperation and to introduce our coalition of development and environment organizations. The Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development (C4D) works to ameliorate the impact of a changing climate on vulnerable populations in developing countries.

Climate change threatens aid effectiveness and risks setting back the development advancements of recent decades in such areas as food security, economic growth and the wellbeing of women and children. The changing climate has also increased the demand for international humanitarian assistance.

We appreciate your initiative to visit the Sahel region where drought and sporadic rains linked to a changing climate have clearly contributed to the unfolding food and nutrition crisis. We are pleased that Canada has been at the forefront of providing humanitarian assistance in the region.

The Sahel disaster underlines the critical need to build communities' resilience to climate shocks as well as ongoing environmental degradation if we are to avert humanitarian disasters and to manage risk in the longer term. Greater resilience is essential for vulnerable peoples to manage hazards, and recover quickly from shocks. It will also help them adapt to the changes they are experiencing. We urge CIDA to fully integrate resilience into its development programming and to create an enabling policy environment for this work.

We were pleased to be asked to provide input into CIDA's proposed framework for Environmental Sustainability. Our fundamental comment is that CIDA should integrate climate change into the strategy, and promote the full implementation of the strategy as a cross-cutting theme within CIDA. Helping CIDA's developing country partners adapt to a changing climate should be part and parcel of the Agency's efforts to build resilience and environmental sustainability.

The members of our coalition have many years of experience in helping vulnerable communities become more resilient and build their adaptive capacity. We are pleased to share with you a series of case studies, prepared in 2010, that demonstrate effective climate change

adaptation programming. We believe adaptation to climate change is integral to fulfilling CIDA's mandate to reduce poverty.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief you in person on the links between climate change and development, and will follow up with your staff to request a meeting at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely,



Carol Thiessen  
Co-Chair  
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**Endorsing C4D members:**

Denyse Guy, Executive Director, Canadian Co-operative Association  
Julia Sanchez, President-CEO, Canadian Council for International Cooperation  
Debra Kerby, Executive Director, Canadian Feed The Children  
Jim Cornelius, Executive Director, Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
Kevin McCort, President and CEO, CARE Canada  
Garry A. Comber, Interim Executive Director, CHF  
Shannon Kindornay, Chair, Coordinating Committee, Halifax Initiative  
David Sawyer, Vice President, Climate, Energy and Partnerships, International Institute for Sustainable Development  
Robert Fox, Executive Director, Oxfam Canada  
Pierre Véronneau, Executive Director, Oxfam-Quebec  
Susan Walsh, Executive Director, USC Canada  
Dave Toycen, President and CEO, World Vision Canada

Enclosure: Case studies