



Mennonite Central Committee Canada

Office of the Executive Director
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The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister for International Development
House of Commons Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

September 21, 2023

Dear Minister Hussen,

On behalf of Mennonite Central Committee Canada, I congratulate you on your newly appointed cabinet position as Minister of International Development. I offer you our prayers as you continue to govern. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) looks forward to our shared work together.

As a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist Christian churches, MCC works to share God's love and compassion in the name of Christ by responding to basic needs and working for peace and justice, in Canada and around the world. Our faith calls us to imagine and work for a world where all can live at peace with God, with one another, and with creation.

Based on our century of experience, we are passionate about the power of peacebuilding to make a tangible difference in areas dealing with conflict and forced displacement. For MCC peace is more than a wish, it is our work. MCC programs use a triple nexus approach to provide peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and community development and we encourage the Canadian government to adopt a similar approach, including conflict sensitive programming and direct peacebuilding interventions. This integrated response recognizes the complex dynamics of communities undergoing crises due to climate change, conflict, global pandemics, and other factors.

MCC sees the impact of climate change across its programming areas and works with local organizations on climate adaptation, including addressing conflict, along with advocacy for emissions mitigation here in Canada.

MCC currently co-chairs, along with the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, the Canadian Peacebuilding Partners Network (CPPN). The network's objective is to facilitate policy dialogue on conflict prevention, stabilization, and peacebuilding between Canadian civil society and Global Affairs Canada exchange knowledge, encourage collaboration and ultimately enhance Canada's collective efforts.

MCC encourages the Canadian government to invest more international assistance efforts and funds to local peacebuilding initiatives, both as an alternative to military missions, and as an essential component of development and humanitarian programs. We also encourage Canada to continue to invest in climate adaptation programming.

As you work to reduce existing departmental spending plans, we would encourage you to focus on the cost saving benefits of supporting local level peacebuilding and look for ways to integrate programming using a triple nexus approach. We also encourage conversations with your fellow Ministers in Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade to work together to develop a comprehensive approach to Canada's international engagement that fulfills the commitment to a feminist foreign policy, that focuses on violence prevention and conflict resolution, alternatives to militarization, corporate accountability for Canadian companies, and support for grassroots civil society.

We are eager to work together towards our shared goals of a world where everyone can live in peace and dignity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bauman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Cober Bauman
Executive Director
Mennonite Central Committee Canada

CC: Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Anita Vandenbeld, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Development
Garnett Genuis, Shadow Minister for International Development, Conservative Party of Canada
Heather McPherson, Critic for International Development, New Democratic Party
Stéphane Bergeron, Critic for International Development, Bloc Québécois
Elizabeth May, Co-Leader, Green Party