

Date:

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Demonstrating Canada's commitment to achieving universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment by 2010

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I, as a concerned global citizen and Canadian constituent, encourage you to show Canada's commitment to address the global HIV/AIDS crisis by committing to renewed funding for the Global Fund.

At the 2005 G8 summit Canada, and other world leaders, committed to meet the target of universal access to AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. This bold promise was reaffirmed at the recent G8 meeting in Heiligendamm. Funding for AIDS programming through multilateral, bilateral and NGO channels is required to accomplish this goal.

One of the most effective funding mechanisms to address AIDS is the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) which provides US\$14.9 billion in financing to 140 countries. Canada's failure to announce renewed funding for the GFATM at the September 2007 replenishment meeting in Berlin raised concern in Canada and internationally that Canada may be backsliding on doing its fair share to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

I urge you to commit to Canada contributing 5% of the resources required by the GFATM over each of the next five years. Over the next three years, this would mean a specific commitment of \$300 million per year. This level of funding is in line with the commitments Canada makes to other multilateral initiatives such as the Global Environment Fund (GED) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and will demonstrate Canada's leadership in the global fight against AIDS.

Support for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS is critical to achieve the goals of Canada's development program and cannot be undertaken at the expense of other critical initiatives such as strengthening health systems in developing countries. I therefore also call on Canada to announce a timetable for raising Canada's Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of our Gross National Income.

At the September 2007 replenishment meeting hosted by Kofi Annan, Canada indicated that a pledge would be announced soon. But millions of people who are meant to benefit from GFATM grants cannot afford to wait. It is time for Canada to match its promises with commitments.

Yours truly,