



Canadian Teachers' Federation

Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

February 2011

Vaughn Wadelius
ACER-CART President
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers
P.O. Box 717
The Pas MB R9A 1K7

Dear Mr. Wadelius;

This letter will provide background and encouragement for support in an ongoing issue critical to Canada's teachers and to cooperation and development work meaningful to education throughout the world. If you have already contributed support, we thank you. Whether you already have or not we ask you to continue support efforts.

On January 28, 2011, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) received word verbally that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) would not be able to fund the CTF International Program proposal titled *Teacher Organizations Target Education for All (EFA)*. The verbal response was followed by one in writing on February 2, 2011. With this decision, which was met with what could only be described as shock by the leadership of the CTF, CIDA crippled a program that builds on professional training and support for teachers in developing countries for 50 years.

The program has been described as "one of Canada's greatest homegrown products The teachers were the bedrock, the talented generous people who travelled to Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, anywhere the education system needed a helping hand."

CTF put forward a proposal to continue partnerships that are building on past experience to enhance national goals for quality education.

The proposal of the CTF International Program is intended to:

- Provide professional in-service programs that would benefit tens of thousands of active teachers with little or no training, through child-centered pedagogy and resourceful approaches to the delivery of a national curriculum.
- Train cadres of teachers and co-develop training manuals to sustain formative programs.
- Benefit over a million students through motivated teaching, the establishment of girl-friendly environments, and updated teaching practices that help prepare children and youth for productive input to a healthy community.

Examples of current *Education For All* projects initiated by teacher organizations with CTF technical and financial support include:

- A network of post-primary basic education and vocational centres in Guinea that reduces the number of unemployed drop-outs and helps them to be better prepared for employment opportunities;

/2

2490 Don Reid • Ottawa • ON • K1H 1E1 • Tel./Tél. 613-232-1505 • Fax 613-232-1886 • info@ctf-fce.ca • www.ctf-fce.ca

President/Présidente **Mary-Lou Donnelly** • Secretary General/Secrétaire général **Dr. Calvin Fraser**
President-Designate/Président désigné **Paul Taillefer**
Vice-Presidents/Vice-président(e)s **Alexis Allen, Chris Karuhanga, Brent Shaw, Dianne Woloschuk**

- A resource centre, English language text books, and training of trainers program in Mongolia that provide English teachers with tools to deliver quality education in the wake of new second language requirements.
- The provision of training and potential action plans to modify school environments and practices in African and Asian schools for the establishment of “girl friendly” and safe, equitable learning environments.
- The provision of teacher in-service and assistance with community mobilization to improve school environments and practices in Ghana, including the training of 100 trainers and the engagement of District Education Offices in marginalized areas.

Students and teachers in nine developing countries around the world will feel a direct negative impact from this decision. Education quality improvements by teachers through the 2010-15 CTF International Program now placed at risk include:

- Support for teacher organizations as they upgrade and prepare 40,000 active teachers and teacher trainers to fill a gap in the need for qualified teachers to deliver quality education by 2015 through:
 - Lesson planning, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and content learning
 - Facilitating organizational, disciplinary and team-building skills
 - Supporting leadership development, motivation and confidence building, and the development of codes of conduct
- The sustainability of national EFA projects developed by teachers in collaboration with governments
- The engagement of 350 Canadian teachers with skills to model, support and co-tutor program elements.

If you have not already done so we urge you to contact the Minister of International Cooperation, the Hon. Bev Oda, to request that CIDA continue its support of CTF's International Development Program. You can also visit the CTF website at www.ctf-fce.ca to sign the online petition and to read letters of support from the International community. If you have or even if you have not please consider:

- Spreading the word to friends and colleagues
- Adding links to your website, facebook site or twitter.
- Putting notices and encouragement in your newsletters, bulletins or publications.

Please contact us for formatted letters or text for your convenience.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,



Mary-Lou Donnelly
President