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March 16, 2012

**To the Presidents of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE Diocesan Councils:**

In July 2010, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE submitted a funding proposal of \$49.2 million to CIDA for our programs over the next five years. We have finally received the government's response. It is not exactly what we were hoping for. And it's not what you were hoping for either.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE just signed a new agreement with CIDA for a contribution of \$14.5 million over the next five years, or \$2.9 million per year.

In comparison, note that from 2006 to 2011, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE received CIDA support of \$44.6 million over the five years. Last year, the government agency contributed \$8.2 million to programs that DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports in the Global South and the North.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE must therefore plan out its next year with an annual budget that has been reduced by approximately \$5 million, or 26%.

If DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is to maintain its support to the Global South at the same level it is providing this year (186 projects in 30 countries), we absolutely have to find that \$5 million.

Next Sunday, March 25, is Solidarity Sunday, the day for the 2012 *Share Lent* collection. All across Canada, in all the dioceses, Catholics will be invited to make their annual contribution to the people of the Global South and to the projects that they have set up to live in dignity and, as our slogan says, "Help a Just World Take Root."

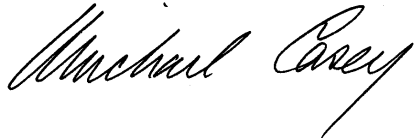
The objective of the 2012 *Share Lent* campaign, as announced on Ash Wednesday, is \$10 million.

Next Sunday, in the churches where you will speak, in the hunger meals where you will meet the parishioners after their Sunday celebration, in the interviews that you will give to the media on the 5th Sunday of Lent, I encourage you to ask people to increase their annual contribution to our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

Enclosed is a Fact Sheet to help you prepare your talks. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please contact your animator or the national office (Phone: 514 257-8711 or toll free at 1 888 254-8533).

Thank you for your dedicated and committed support. With the support of our members across the country, together we can help a just world take root.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Casey  
Executive Director