



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación  
Bildungsinternationale

The Honourable Beverly J. Oda  
Minister of International Cooperation

Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2011

**Head Office**

5, Bd du Roi Albert II  
1210 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 224 06 11  
Fax +32 2 224 06 06  
headoffice@ei-ie.org  
<http://www.ei-ie.org>

**President**

Susan Hopgood

**General Secretary**

Fred van Leeuwen

Dear Ms. Beverly J. Oda,

Education International, representing more than 30 million teachers from 396 teacher organizations in 171 countries and territories, has been informed by our member organisation in Canada, the Canadian Teachers Federation, about the decision of the Canadian International Development Agency to discontinue its support for the Overseas Development Programme.

The Canadian Teachers Federation has been implementing this very important programme for several decades. It has not only helped teachers to improve their capacities and skills, but it has had a huge positive impact on the quality of education in many developing countries all over the world. It has also contributed to a positive image for Canada and the Canadian teachers involved in many countries in the world. It has been implemented in close coordination with teacher organizations and governments, making a substantial contribution towards the achievement of the Dakar and 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Thousands of students have benefitted from its programmes and sustainable progress in education was achieved in many regions where the only support came from the ODA programmes. Education International can provide incontrovertible evidence of this from countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Caribbean regions.

As partners of CTF in the implementation of the ODA programmes Education International had the possibility to be part of the support that Canadians, through CIDA and CTF have provided to education in countries like Uganda, India, Mongolia, Liberia, Haiti, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Dominica, Guyana and Sierra Leone - to list but a few of them. As partners in multilateral projects aimed at achieving the 2015 MDGs, CTF and EI have helped teachers in Latin America, Africa and Asia to provide high quality education. Its John Thompson Fellowship Programme has contributed to enhancing the capacity of teachers to propose policies and educational strategies that have enhanced the capacity of governments to develop better educational services in many countries around the world. These services have contributed to remarkable improvements in literacy and numeracy levels among children in several countries.

I must express the deep concern of Education International when it learned that the Canadian International Development Agency had decided to finish its development cooperation work with CTF. This concern is all the more acute as we are approaching the final opportunities for the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Teachers, students and other citizens in many countries and territories around the world will feel the negative impacts of this decision.

Education International asks you, therefore, to review this decision whose implementation will have such negative consequences on the education of children all over the world, on the development of quality education and the work of



teachers in many countries. It will also reflect negatively on attitudes to Canada and its commitment to achieving the MDGs. We ask that the Canadian International Development Agency continue to support the Canadian Teachers Federation overseas development programmes, in order to make a significant Canadian contribution to the achievement of the 2015 MDG and the development of quality educational systems throughout the developing world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fred van Leeuwen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fred van Leeuwen  
EI General Secretary

Cc: Ms. Mary-Lou Donnelly, President, Canadian Teachers Federation  
Dr. Calvin Fraser, General Secretary, Canadian Teachers Federation  
Mrs. Barbara MacDonald Moore, Director, Canadian Teachers Federation  
International Programs

