



For Immediate Release

Regan calls for reinstatement of KAIROS funding

(December 11, 2009) HALIFAX, N.S. - The Harper Government's decision to eliminate funding to faith-based aid organization KAIROS is a mean-spirited move that will severely damage Canada's international reputation, Halifax West MP Geoff Regan said Friday.

Mr. Regan demanded the Conservative government immediately reinstate funding to KAIROS, an organization that has worked very hard to promote Canadian values of social justice around the world.

"This issue is important to the people in my riding," said Mr. Regan. "I've already received dozens of letters, emails and calls from constituents who are extremely angry at the Conservatives and Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda.

"The fact that the Harper government would suddenly cut off funding to KAIROS with no warning, because its programs no longer 'fit' with government priorities, sends the message that if an NGO challenges the government they will lose their support, regardless of the important work they do."

The Liberal MP said KAIROS does important work that supports human rights and environmental sustainability in the world's poorest countries.

"KAIROS is one of Canada's most respected and important charitable organizations, and has been recognized for the invaluable work its members have done over the course of the 35-year relationship with Canadian International Development Agency," said Mr. Regan.

The only reason given for CIDA's decision to deny KAIROS's funding application was that the organization joined seven religious denominations in speaking out against Conservative policies on climate change, overseas mining operations, aboriginal rights, immigration and international trade.

“I ask the Conservative government and the Minister of International Cooperation to stop playing partisan games, and continue to support KAIROS, an organization that has a proven track record of protecting human rights in Canada and internationally.”

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