

Bangladesh is by far the largest recipient of Canadian development assistance. This year the value will be around \$130 million. But the real value is not in dollars, but in lives.

Not enough Canadians know that an expenditure of \$135 can put in place a small irrigation hand pump which can double the production of a farmer in Bangladesh and let him move into production of vegetables and other crops, growing in land that would otherwise lie fallow. Critics of aid in donor countries sometimes dismiss development efforts as intangible or theoretical. There is nothing theoretical about cabbage growing where none grew before, and nothing more tangible than food in the stomachs of children who might otherwise die of starvation.

Canada is one of the pioneers of modern technology in the world. We are at the leading edge of new developments in communication and transportation and other fields of the future. But we also understand that the foundation of any future lies in the basic skills and elemental production of ordinary people. The work we are doing with you, in irrigation, in new crop development, in vaccinating chickens against disease, is as important as our Canadarm, or the sophisticated work of our modern laboratories and corporations.

And so too is our work with women, in Canada, we face our own challenges to establishing a system of genuine equality for women. We are making progress, but in Canada, as in Bangladesh, the most stubborn adversary is the combination of fear and tradition. I commend the determination of your government to give the highest priority to family planning and the development of women, and am impressed by the progress you are making. It would be helpful for many involved in the debate in Canada to come, as you have helped me come, to see the poorest of women, from the poorest of villages, encouraged to work in ways that bring them income and dignity and growing self confidence.

Canadian development assistance is the focus of considerable political discussion in Canada. The government of Prime Minister Mulroney is increasing Canada's global aid program in real terms, with a major focus on the poorest countries. That emphasis is sometimes questioned.

Because Bangladesh is the largest recipient of Canadian assistance, some of the questioning is directed towards the programs in this country.

Our actions, I believe, speak for themselves. Canada has so far committed over \$1.2 billion to Bangladesh. That commitment is increasing yearly in real terms, and results are