



Photo: Jacques Morneau/DND

The Port-au-Prince cathedral was badly damaged in the earthquake.

Helping LES, Helping Haiti

There is an old adage that “charity begins at home.” That is why staff across DFAIT and around the world have begun to collect funds to help our locally engaged staff in Haiti.

Many LES were severely affected by the earthquake: they lost family, friends and personal property. However, despite their grief and losses they worked tirelessly in the days and weeks following the earthquake to provide assistance to Canadians and their families.

“Our LES have been essential to our efforts to assist Canadians in Haiti,” says Alex Bugailiskis, Assistant Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean and Chair of the LES Governance Committee. “The help from our LES has been critical to the rapid evacuation of thousands of Canadians, the distribution of humanitarian relief and ensuring that the Canadian Embassy—itself damaged by the earthquake—could continue to function during the crisis.”

DFAIT staff have been involved in various fundraising activities, in particular the creation of the Special Fund for PRNCE LES, which was initiated by numerous Canadians and LES employees worldwide, and for which DFAIT has agreed to facilitate the collection of funds.

LES from other missions have also volunteered to assist the Embassy with its humanitarian efforts in Haiti. For example, Geneviève Kidd-Bouchard, an LES consular officer in Paris, was assigned to the Children’s Liaison Unit in Ottawa, which processed the files of children in Haiti who have a Canadian parent and who were to be evacuated to Canada. “I was impressed at how this crisis helped bring together the expertise of many in order to quickly advance very complex files,” Kidd-Bouchard says.

Fundraising for the Special Fund for PRNCE LES continues. A committee made up of LES and CBS from our missions worldwide, as well as staff at Headquarters and regional offices, will soon launch a dynamic campaign. Stay tuned: you can make a difference! For information on organizing an event or making a contribution to the Special Fund for PRNCE LES, please consult the January 21 broadcast message.

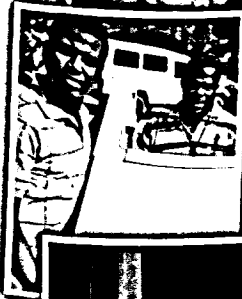


Photo: Benoît Lestève/DFAIT

(top to bottom) Jocelyne Pierre looks after an adoptee; the nursery in the Embassy’s reception area; the property team moves a stove for the makeshift kitchen; Jean-Claude Jean works in the temporary garage office.