

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Canada stands tall on the world stage with a strong and principled foreign policy. Our development work and humanitarian assistance play a key role in Canada's global engagement and the results are a source of pride for all Canadians. Canada's whole-of-government approach to development, which encompasses 12 federal departments and agencies, in addition to the amalgamated Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, ensures our engagement is multifaceted, wide-reaching and delivers concrete results.

Canada is a world leader in promoting maternal, newborn and child health, and it remains our number one development priority. Before Prime Minister Stephen Harper drew attention to the importance of maternal, newborn and child health, the world was falling short on reducing child mortality and curbing maternal death. Thanks to the Muskoka Initiative, and subsequent global action, maternal mortality rates are declining and millions more children are celebrating their fifth birthday.

Our common goal has not yet been reached, but it is within arm's reach. That is why the Prime Minister reaffirmed Canada's leadership this May by hosting the Saving Every Woman, Every Child: Within Arm's Reach summit in Toronto, and committing an additional \$3.5 billion over the next five years. With Canada's continued leadership, together, we can eliminate preventable deaths among women, children and newborns, and save the millions of lives that hang in the balance.

This past year Canada also leveraged our development programming to help countries move from poverty to prosperity by promoting sustainable, private-sector-led economic growth. In the developing world, economic growth stories are development stories. They are about jobs, better education and training; about greater access to services, especially health care; and about better revenue and wealth distribution.

Our government is supporting innovation and considering all options to break down the last, persistent barriers to eliminating global poverty. We are working with more partners, old and new, to diversify our toolbox, advance sustainable solutions, and create jobs both at home and abroad.

It is these kinds of initiatives that I intend to champion in my role as Chair of the World Economic Forum-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Redesigning Development Finance Initiative Steering Committee. Canada has once again been recognized for its strong fiscal management, and through this committee, I will promote a more systematic approach to testing and scaling up financial innovations. That is the only way we can accelerate progress on our development goals and shape the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Canada has a particularly important role to play in La Francophonie due to our shared history and language. I have hosted Francophonie economic round tables across the country and around the world to promote sustainable economic growth and the importance of an economic strategy for La Francophonie. Canada will continue to champion our strong French heritage and values at the International Organization of La Francophonie and across the globe.

A more prosperous, democratic, equitable and peaceful world is in everyone's best interests. Canadians can continue to be proud of what their government has done to improve the lives of people in developing countries.



The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Paradis'.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie

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