



HARVEST OF LETTERS

 **Canadian
Foodgrains
Bank**
A Christian Response
to Hunger

Why do you care about global neighbours? VOICE YOUR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

There are many reasons to be passionate about ending global hunger. Some of these may include compassion for others, generosity, equality and justice for the oppressed, fostering a culture of peace and security, and upholding human dignity and rights.

These values affect how we respond to the needs of the roughly 800 million people who go to bed hungry each night. They help build a global community where poverty and hunger are no longer acceptable, and they are integral to the mission and identity of Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

But values alone do not create change.

It is actions motivated by those values that have resulted in significant reductions in global hunger and poverty over the past few decades. Good governance has played an

important role in this, but the commitment and actions of non-governmental organizations, business leaders, academics, and individuals like you to hold governments and decision-makers accountable on these issues, have contributed significantly to real changes, such as:

- Globally, extreme poverty has been cut in half since 1990;
- A reduction in the number of hungry people globally by almost 100 million over the past 25 years (UN);
- And the global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half

When we come together and speak out about an issue that we care about, like ending global hunger, **our voices make a difference** by influencing decision-makers to take action.



International assistance has flattened while global needs are growing. Show that you care.

While we have made considerable progress, hunger--caused by poverty, natural disasters, conflict, inequality, and poor governance--still requires our attention. Currently, numerous complex, protracted crises, resulting from conflict, drought, and natural disasters, have contributed to what has been deemed by the United Nations as the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. One in nine people are still undernourished; women and children remain most vulnerable to poverty and hunger. In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 1 child in 13 dies before the age of five, and globally 800 women still die every day from pregnancy and childbirth complications.

In the past, Canada has been a leader in responding to the needs of people in the developing world. More recently, our Official Development Assistance (ODA) has declined. The current government is on track to having the worst record on aid of any Canadian government in half a century.

Do you want Canada to contribute more toward ending global hunger and poverty? If so, tell your MP you care and that you want Canada to be more generous!

Canada's commitment to international assistance compared with other countries, 2017



Why tell your MP?

The government makes decisions about Canada's support for international assistance and your Member of Parliament can play a role by being your voice to the government and their party caucus. Members of the government are answerable to the House of Commons (made up of MPs), where decisions and policies are made. This is where issues concerning the raising or spending of federal funds is discussed, as well as where MPs hold the government to account, discuss national issues, and represent constituents' views (including yours!).

Write a letter to your MP!

From our own experience, handwritten letters or personal emails are effective ways to communicate with your MP. Use the sample letter below as a guide, but be sure to add personal details, such as the values or experiences that motivate you to take action.

Letters may be sent postage-free to the Parliamentary address of MPs:

MP name (with title)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Or you can search for them on www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians and send it by email.

**Be sure to let
Canadian Foodgrains
Bank know when
you've sent a letter!**

Use this form:

www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letter-form
so it can be counted with others sent from around the country, to show cumulatively that Canadians do care!

It's a good idea to start with something positive.

Dear (name of your Member of Parliament),

I am pleased that Canada has been a generous supporter of international food security and has committed to empowering women, including small-scale farmers. Our country's dedication to reducing hunger and malnutrition has been important to contributing to the achievement of 2 billion people being freed from a likely state of hunger over the last 25 years.

That's commendable, but more should be done.

Canada only contributes 0.26% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to helping the world's poorest citizens— below what similar countries give (0.52%) and well below the accepted global target of 0.7% of GNI. Given the huge needs in the world today—drought and conflict in West & East Africa and Yemen, the Syrian and Rohingya refugee crises, and many other challenges, Canada, as a rich country, should be doing more to help those who are most in need.

I care about this because...

One way Canada could make a significant contribution is through aid for small-scale farmers, which represent 70% of the world's hungry people. Increasing aid for agriculture will lead to women's empowerment, increased resilience to climate change, and a more peaceful and prosperous world.

I request that Canada increase its commitment to international assistance, so that more people can enjoy full, peaceful and productive lives.

Please convey this important message to the Prime Minister's Office, to the Minister of International Development, and to your caucus colleagues.

Sincerely,

Don't assume your MP knows about this issue. Some context will help him/her to take the appropriate action.

Our current government prioritizes gender equality and climate action. Make the link between support for small-scale farmers and women's empowerment and/or adaptation to climate change

Be clear about what you're asking for.

Add your personal values, knowledge, or experiences that make this an important issue to you! (Visit www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letters to get more ideas)

Make sure your return address is somewhere on the letter so that your MP can reply.



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 churches and church-based agencies working together to end hunger.

ADRA Canada
Canadian Baptist Ministries
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
Development & Peace — Caritas Canada
Christian and Missionary Alliance Canada
ERDO - Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
Mennonite Central Committee Canada
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada
Presbyterian World Service & Development
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (The Anglican Church of Canada)
The Salvation Army
Tearfund Canada (previously World Relief Canada)
The United Church of Canada
World Renew (Christian Reformed Church)

Other ways to show you care

- Meet your MP to discuss this issue (it's easier than you think!)
- Host a letter writing event – contact us for help!
- Double your impact: Take a photo of yourself, your letter, or your letter writing group and share it on social media
- Learn more and spread awareness about why Canada's international assistance is important



Find out how to do this and more at: www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letters

Not sure who your MP is? Visit www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians

Contact us!

Thank you for writing your letter! Here are some other ways of letting us know that you wrote a letter:

Email us: foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca
Tweet us @Foodgrains or mention us on Facebook
Phone us at 1-800-665-0377