



6 April 2018

Dear Fathers, Pastoral Assistants and Parishioners,

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development of Peace (CCODP) was established by the Bishops of Canada in 1967 to foster justice and integral human development in the Global South. The Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan has strongly supported Development and Peace through the annual Share Lent Campaign over the years. I was delighted with our 50th anniversary celebration of Development and Peace last year. The PowerPoint presentation that Rae Weniger put together surprised me with the extensive commitments made by people of our archdiocese in support of and in the spirit of Development and Peace.

Development and Peace fulfills its mandate in collaboration with over one hundred partner agencies in other parts of the world, contracting with them to carry out specific projects aimed at improving the lives of our sisters and brothers in many developing countries.

The Bishops of Canada have recently been apprised of the preliminary results of a review of these CCODP partners. The initial results communicated to us are alarming. An estimated forty partners appear to show evidence of conflict with Catholic moral and social teaching, including full respect for the sanctity of human life.

For this reason, the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan will withhold the 2018 Share Lent donations which you have given over the past couple of weeks. These and future funds will be withheld until such time as we receive clear assurance that our contributions will support only those agencies whose mission, values and practices adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church and with the criteria of Caritas Internationalis, of which the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the Canadian representative.

I recognize that there are many people in this Archdiocese who give of themselves generously in support of the good works of Development and Peace, whether by donation or by assisting in the organization's educational and advocacy initiatives. I regret any pain that these of you may feel directly because of this situation. I write this letter in a spirit of transparency and accountability, and promise to keep you posted on future developments.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Redeemer,

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

10301-102nd Street, Grande Prairie AB T8V 2W2
Phone 780.532.9766 Fax 780.532.9706 Email archbishop.agm@live.ca



A message from the Executive Director to all members

April 17, 2018

By:

Serge Langlois | Executive Director, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

Dear Development and Peace members,

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, with the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, is in the process of carrying out a review of our partners in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. As a long-standing organization it is a natural process for us to ensure that our partners and their projects are supporting integral human development, creating real positive change, are effective in their work, and are faithful to the values and the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

As the primary Catholic social justice organization in Canada, founded by, and in close collaboration with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has been working with CCCB staff on the review process, which began this past October 2017. Ensuring our programs and partners are consistent with our mission and mandate includes guaranteeing all who work with Development and Peace – Caritas Canada fully respect the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death. Respect for, and adherence to, the mission, values and practices of the Catholic Church is the primary foundation of our call to serve the poor.

Since so many of our partners live in realities starkly different from our own, in communities where even basic human needs are not met, we are aware of the possibility that an organization could change its position on moral or social issues over time. Development and Peace cannot, and will not, partner with organizations that could jeopardize our mission. With over 202 projects in 36 countries our programs on peace and reconciliation, democracy and citizen participation, ecological justice, equality between men and women, food sovereignty and humanitarian aid are all assessed and evaluated using extensive criteria, which include Catholic values. If a potential issue is flagged we will do our due diligence to respond and take decisive action to ensure we are upholding the teachings of the Catholic Church in everything we do, from our work in Canada with you, our members and donors, to the vital efforts of our partners in the Global South. We are confident this process will only continue to strengthen our relationship with our partners and our Bishops and make ever more evident the Catholic values central to our mission and vision.

For our members and donors, we ask you to have faith in our highest commitment to address any concerns. We are, and will always be, a 100% Catholic organization working for the poor and the vulnerable around the world. We reiterate our commitment to being accessible, transparent and to improve our communication with members of our Church and our democratic movement. Our members and donors, in parishes, schools and communities in every diocese in Canada remain for us the visible sign of the living Church responding to the gospel call to love one another.

Your support and prayers are invaluable. Thank you.

Serge Langlois, Executive Director
Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

1425 René-Lévesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor Montréal, Québec Canada, H3G 1T7

Telephone: 514 257-8711 | **Fax:** 514 257-8497

Toll Free: 1 888 234-8533

E-Mail: info@devp.org | **Web:** www.devp.org



20 April 2018

Re : Development and Peace review of partners

Dear Fathers, Pastoral Assistants and Parishioners,

You will recall my letter to you dated April 6th past, in which I spoke of the need to ensure that Development & Peace's partners in the Global South are in fact compliant with the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Along with all the bishops of Canada, I consider this an essential element in our aid to foreign agencies who purport to do good in our name, and with the financial support we provide.

The attached document from Development & Peace was sent to me and all other Canadian bishops this afternoon. It attests to the sincere efforts on the part of D&P leadership at its headquarters to ensure this compliance among their partners.

I also wish to point out that the action that I have taken in withholding funds from D&P was not intended to suggest that I have no confidence whatever in D&P. Our local archdiocesan D&P members, as well as the staff at the western office in Edmonton, provide a valuable service to our parishes and schools in providing workshops, 40-hour fasts, making materials available, etc. As well, the funds for humanitarian relief at times of disaster around the world is not under question. This is not a time to "throw out the baby with the bathwater."

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan