



20 September 2018

Dear Fathers and Faithful of the Archdiocese,

As you are aware, last winter I and many other Canadian bishops brought to the attention of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D&P) our dismay over many of the partners that they (and we) were supporting in developing countries. A process has since been initiated to examine these partners. The first report on this examination shows that D&P is taking this seriously; I am encouraged by the direction that has been taken in this regard. I expect to hear an update during the Canadian Bishops' Plenary meeting in Cornwall this coming week, from 24 to 28 September.

In the meantime, the awareness campaigns delivered by D&P are vital to its mission, and have no bearing on the examination of D&P's past partners. Of particular concern at the present moment is the Fall Action Campaign, called *Share the Journey*, which has already started. I hear that because of the review, some of our parishioners are hesitant to engage in this campaign.

By this letter, I want to assure all of you that while the examination of partners continues, there is no need to withdraw from the Fall Action Campaign. Development and Peace/Caritas Canada is the Canadian arm of Caritas Internationalis, which is the development organization for the universal Catholic Church. While the study is focused on certain partners, many more partners have always and continue to uphold Catholic moral teachings.

Every crisis, like the one identified in the matter of in-place partnerships, is a moment in which to clarify our goals and to undertake a renewed commitment. The educational and awareness campaigns of D&P are not under scrutiny in the present review. I ask that, one and all, we to continue to support the good that is done by D&P. The present Fall Action Campaign is one of these.

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