

CCIC's ambition for the mandate letter to the next Minister of International Development

Dear Minister [NAME],

Thank you for accepting to serve as Canada's next Minister of International Development. Under your leadership, this government will continue advancing Canada's global contributions in the next Parliament through support for sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.

You will build on the leadership that previous Ministers of International Development in this government showed in establishing a Feminist International Assistance Policy for Canada and supporting gender equality. You will also join a community of thousands of Canadians working in the international cooperation sector and millions of Canadians who support them through donations and volunteering.

While you hold a standalone single-mandate portfolio, you will need to work closely with many of your Cabinet colleagues. Just as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – your guiding framework – requires a cross-government and whole-of-society approach, so too will your own.

During the government's first mandate, Canada's Official Development Assistance represented on average 0.27% of Gross National Income. We must acknowledge that this is the lowest average of any Canadian government in 50 years. It is also below the average of Canada's peers in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. More ambitious resources will be necessary to meet the government's significant policy ambition. Addressing this shortfall will be your top objective.

Canada must do its fair share globally to mitigate and address the impacts of extreme climate change and growing global instability. You will lead a process to establish a timetable of real increases to Canada's Official Development Assistance that will meet the ambition of Canada's international assistance policy. This approach will be developed in line with past recommendations of the House of Commons Standing Committees on Finance and Foreign Affairs and International Development and in close coordination with stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.

You will be also be expected to work with your colleagues to deliver on the following priorities – all of which align with the Liberal Party's election commitments, including in its official platform and its responses to the [election questionnaire](#) of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation:

- Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in budget and policy planning so Canada's domestic and international policy is assessed in relation to relevant targets and indicators.
 - This will include working with the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and others to develop and launch a comprehensive plan to align government policy with the Sustainable Development Goals and establish a coherent whole-of-government framework for meeting and measuring Canada's priorities at home and abroad.
- Ensuring close coordination between Ministers of International Development, Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Defence to establish whole-of-government recognition of

- international development and humanitarian assistance as a key contributor to and asset for foreign policy.
- Setting a framework for comprehensive climate action, in line with robust domestic targets for emissions reductions and substantially increased climate finance; at least half of climate finance should be directed to adaptation in poor countries that suffer the worst impacts of climate change.
 - Continuing implementation of the Feminist International Assistance Policy, including by:
 - Ensuring that Canada's international assistance is human rights-based and inclusive.
 - Establishing a policy on sexual and reproductive health and rights to accompany the suite of policy guidance documents; this policy will guide implementation of Canada's ten-year funding commitment to women's and children's health with a focus on the most neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and development of a robust and transparent accountability framework and clear spending targets.
 - Implementing Canada's policy on gender equality in humanitarian action, including fulfilling its Grand Bargain pledge to give 25% of humanitarian aid to local organizations – a significant portion of which should be channelled through women-led groups.
 - Increasing support for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, recognizing that agriculture is a key income source for poor women and investment in these areas simultaneously supports gender equality, poverty reduction and climate resilience.
 - Dedicating 50% of bilateral aid to least developed countries, low-income countries and fragile contexts.
 - Establishing a new international assistance effectiveness action plan, with clear targets in line with Canada's existing aid and development effectiveness commitments.
 - Supporting a strong system of international law including respect for international human rights and humanitarian law; multinational corporate accountability – including through a Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise with full investigative authority; policy coherence between human rights standards and international trade; and protecting free assembly and expression of civil society.
 - Engaging substantively in advancing global frameworks for displaced persons, such as the Global Compact for Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
 - Upholding the rights of children and youth living in difficult places, including ensuring that girls and boys in fragile contexts can access the safe quality education they need and deserve.

Thank you again for agreeing to serve in this role. I look forward to working together in pursuit of our shared ambitions for a fairer, more sustainable, and safer world – a world that reflects Canadian values and interests.

Sincerely,

The Prime Minister of Canada