

OPEN LETTER to Mrs. Harper at the G-8 Leaders' Summit in Deauville, France
May 26, 2011

Dear Mrs. Harper,

No doubt your lunch today will include a conversation about food. Normandy is famous for the bounty and beauty of its produce and cuisine. Its chefs are renowned and its restaurants are famous.

France, like Canada and other G-8 countries, is blessed by an abundance of quality food. Hunger is rare, and food has become a pastime and a passion, not a scarcity or a worry.

But most of the world is not as fortunate. Almost a billion people in the world today are undernourished. Most are women and young children.

When you talk about food today, I ask you to remember these women and children, and the food they will eat today.

As food prices around the world continue to rise, Canada and the G-8 can help these women and children by increasing investment in agriculture for poor, small-scale farmers in the developing world. With help, families can have enough food to feed their children healthy, nutritious food, while still earning enough money to meet other basic needs.

In response to the 2008 food crisis, Canada helped the world's poor children with the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. Canada delivered on its commitments—the first G-8 country to do so.

Prices today are again rising to near record levels and global stocks of key grains are low, which puts more poor children at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

As a major global food producer and the G-8 country that weathered the financial crisis the best, poor children and families need Canada to again lead and champion a renewed effort to end global hunger and child malnutrition.

I hope your lunch conversation is enjoyable, productive and that you will be able to talk about food and hunger with your G-8 participants.

Sincerely,

Caroline Riseboro

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