

June 25, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Canada

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Dear Prime Minister Harper:

At the G8 summit in Hokkaido, Japan, Canadians expect you to take measurable actions to fulfill existing commitments, particularly on HIV and AIDS.

Through World Vision alone, tens of thousands of Canadians have expressed their belief in the importance of addressing HIV and AIDS through participating in our child focused interactive AIDS exhibit, signing petitions and supporting HIV and AIDS focused community development work. Attached please find 5000 new petition signatures, for a total of almost 25,000 Canadians, calling on the government to fulfill existing promises.

For more than ten years, World Vision has been working with communities impacted by HIV and AIDS and has seen the devastating impact. As detailed in the enclosed paper however, we have also seen encouraging successes: communities mobilized to provide care and support to orphans and vulnerable children; and young people empowered to make informed life choices to avoid acquiring HIV. But evidence shows that maintaining these successes requires scaled-up, predictable investment.

At the G8 summit we call on you to lead progress on our international obligations by:

- setting annual funding pledges for meeting existing AIDS commitments. In 2005 G8 leaders committed to achieving universal access to prevention, treatment and care by 2010. In 2007 you made specific commitments to preventing mother to child transmission and to providing paediatric treatment and assistance for orphans and vulnerable children. These commitments now need firm funding and implementation plans.
- committing new resources to Official Development Assistance (ODA). We urge the government to adopt a budgetary plan to increase Canadian ODA to the OECD average.

For the sake of the millions of people, particularly children, affected and infected by HIV and AIDS and in response to Canadian's desire for measurable action we call on you to ensure that Canada leads G8 leaders in fulfilling the promises they made.

Sincerely,

Dave Toycen  
President and CEO  
World Vision

Enclosures:

1. *"HIV and AIDS: Calling for a Comprehensive, Evidence-based International Development Strategy: A summary paper."*
2. *"One Life make it matter"*