



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY  
CANADA SANS PAUVRETÉ

@UNDERONEROOF  
251 BANK STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
OTTAWA, ON K2P 1X3  
613-789-0096 (1-800-810-1076)  
WWW.CWP-CSP.CA

**Honorary Directors**

Right Hon. Joe Clark, PC, CC, AOE  
Hon. Louise Arbour, CC, GOQ  
Hon. Monique Bégin, PC, OC, FRSC  
Hon. Ed Broadbent, PC, CC  
Ovide Mercredi, OM

**Board of Directors**

Vilma Dawson, AB  
Debbie Frost, SK  
Rosa Jamal, BC  
Ruth MacDonald, NL  
Harriett McLachlan, QC  
Reanna Mohamed, YT  
Sarah Sharpe (at-large)  
Peter Thurley, ON  
Catherine Wirt, MB

**Staff and Associates**

Thomas Allgoewer  
Development Associate

Tony Macerollo  
Strategic and Communications Advisor

Kizzy Paris  
Manager, Donor & Volunteer Relations

Rob Rainer  
Executive Director

Emily Shoff  
Program Assistant

Megan Yarema  
Director, Education & Outreach  
604-628-0525 (Vancouver office)

May 22, 2012

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Kenney:

Canada Without Poverty hereby registers our concern with respect to your reaction to findings by Mr. Olivier De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, following his mission to Canada this month to investigate food security in Canada. You have been quoted in the media as saying:

"I think this is completely ridiculous. Canada is one of the wealthiest, most democratic countries in the world. We believe that the UN should focus on development in countries where people are starving and we think it's simply a waste of resources to come to Canada to give them political lecturing."

We presume you have been designated by the Prime Minister to speak on Canadian poverty issues. If our presumption is correct, we respectfully request an urgent meeting to provide you with some Canadian facts. If our presumption is incorrect, we are confused as to why you would choose to mischaracterize the poverty problem in Canada. The Premier of your own home province, in committing to developing a provincial poverty action strategy, has eloquently enunciated this problem in an Albertan context.

The federal government listens to evaluations done by many international organizations that Canada funds. Moreover, this matter at hand – food security and the right to food – is not a foreign policy issue. At issue are those who have no food in Canada right now, as is evident by those figuratively and literally on the margins of Parliament Hill, including those who are homeless (with their right to housing also not being upheld).

Time is of the essence. People in poverty are at risk of much shorter lives – by two decades or more – than the most well off. May we offer you a tour in Calgary to explore the reality of poverty and food insecurity in our country?

Yours very truly,

Rob Rainer  
Executive Director

Cc All parliamentarians  
Canada Without Poverty's national network  
Premier of Alberta, the Honourable Alison Redford