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Mr. Peter Harder
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Harder,

The Gleneagles Summit presents a critical opportunity for action by G8 countries to follow through on development assistance commitments to Africa. Canada, in particular, should take a leadership role in initiating action in two key areas: strengthening support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and increasing official development assistance to reach the 0.7 target.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have had a profound effect on Africa, and are among the main underlying factors why Africa will be left far behind from meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We are gaining ground in the fight against the TB epidemic everywhere in the world except Africa, where, due to TB/HIV co-infection, the rate of TB is rising. Currently, TB is the leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS. In many Sub-Saharan African countries, the number of people with TB has quadrupled since 1990, mainly because of HIV. Compounding this crisis are weak health systems and strained human resources, which inhibit both TB control coverage and quality.

Reversing the TB epidemic --which kills 5,000 people every day worldwide-- is one of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. With implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended DOTS strategy for TB control this target is achievable in a large part of the world, but for worldwide impact urgent action to control TB in Africa is needed. The WHO makes it clear that to sufficiently reduce the TB burden to meet the MDG targets of 2015, DOTS programmes will have to be expanded dramatically.

What is needed is the political will and financial commitment necessary for scaling up TB control programs. Over the past few years, Canada has quadrupled its spending on TB, and its TB programs are now saving at least 150,000 lives each year. As the world's leader in the fight against TB, Canada should urge G8 leaders at Gleneagles to pledge to contribute their fair share to global TB control.

Long one of the world's deadliest diseases, malaria has increased its toll in recent years. There are over 300 to 500 million cases of malaria worldwide each year, with over 90% occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of those who die are children under the age of five. It is now responsible for up to 3 million deaths every year. Some estimates have concluded that malaria kills more Africans than HIV/AIDS, a stunning claim. Yet malaria can often be treated and cured with drugs costing about \$1, and prevented

***RESULTS CANADA** is a national network of volunteers. We are committed to creating the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty in Canada and around the world, and to demonstrating that individuals do make a difference.*

***RÉSULTATS CANADA** est un réseau pancanadien de citoyens bénévoles. Nous sommes engagés à créer la volonté politique nécessaire à l'élimination de la faim et des aspects les plus néfastes de la pauvreté au Canada et dans le monde. Nous voulons aussi démontrer qu'un simple citoyen peut influencer l'avenir du monde.*

with simple bed nets, costing about \$4.

Currently Canada is contributing less than half of its fair share for malaria. We call on Canada to give the same attention to malaria as it does to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and to make it a priority. We urge G8 countries to significantly increase malaria funding in order to meet the international goal of halving malaria deaths by 2010.

More donor assistance by G8 countries to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) is urgently needed. Without a response to these diseases appropriate to the scale of the problem, Africa does not stand a chance. The Global Fund currently faces a shortfall of \$2.3 billion in 2005 and for the next two years, it requires \$3.5 billion and \$3.6 billion respectively. We urge Canada to support the Commission for Africa's recommendation calling on all G8 countries to fully fund the GFATM.

The MDGs will clearly not be met if G8 countries continue to fail to meet their commitments to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on development assistance. Despite Canada's renewed pledge to the Commission for Africa to fulfill its 0.7 commitment, Canada falls well behind, spending 0.23% of GNI on foreign aid. The upcoming G8 Summit in July would be an ideal time for Canada to announce a firm timetable to reach 0.7 per cent by 2015.

2005 is the critical year for action to make poverty history. We call on Canada to show leadership in this area.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Lynn Dickson
RESULTS CANADA