



Welcome to the “**Make AIDS History**” student rally presented by  
**Students Against Global AIDS**  
with the support of the **University of Toronto International Health Program**



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Schedule for Today's Events: Wednesday, March 16, 2005  
Hart House, outside the Arbour Room, St. George Campus, University of Toronto

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3:00-3:20pm	Band: <b>The Jones</b> ( <a href="http://www.thejonesband.ca">www.thejonesband.ca</a> )
3:20pm	<b>Dr. David Naylor</b> , Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto - Introductory comments
3:30pm	<b>Dr. Kelly MacDonald</b> , Director of the HIV Research Program, Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) Endowed Chair in HIV Research, and Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto; Microbiologist and Infectious Disease Consultant, Mount Sinai Hospital
3:45pm	<b>Stephanie Nixon</b> , Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Public Health Sciences and Bioethics, University of Toronto; Canada Coordinator, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative "Top Ten Reasons Why Canada Must Respond to the Global AIDS Crisis"
4:00pm	Band: <b>The Jones</b>
4:15pm	<b>Melanie Campbell</b> , M.Sc., M.D. student, Students Against Global AIDS (SAGA) Director, and University of Toronto International Health Program (UTIHP) AIDS Coordinator, University of Toronto "Make AIDS History: A few words about the Campaign and how you can help!"
4:25-4:45pm	Band: <b>The Jones</b>

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**Students Against Global AIDS (SAGA)** has joined forces with civil society organizations from around the world, including HealthGAP and Student Global AIDS Campaign in the US; the UK's Stop AIDS Campaign, whose members include Student Partnerships Worldwide, VSO, ActionAid, and Oxfam; and groups in Germany, Italy, France and Japan. This international coalition comes together under the banner of “Make AIDS History”. SAGA chapters at the University of Toronto, University of Saskatchewan, University of Guelph and McGill University will be holding rallies, write-a-thons, and speaker events to launch the **Make AIDS History Campaign** on **March 16, 2005**.

Citing this year as an unprecedented opportunity to secure new increases in AIDS funding, 100% debt cancellation for all impoverished countries, and commitment to achieve universal access to life sustaining HIV treatment, the coalition will target G8 leaders in order to achieve immediate AIDS action.

### How you can help?

- Sign the large letters posted at the Rally
- Write your own handwritten letter (or photocopy the backside of this document)
  - Remember *no postage* is required for letters sent to the House of Commons!

### How to get involved?

**Students Against Global AIDS (SAGA)** is a national, student-based grassroots organization. Our objectives include *encouraging* Canadian and international institutions to take *action* against the global AIDS pandemic and to address the social, political, economic, and medical determinants of the pandemic; and *promoting education* about the global HIV/AIDS health crisis. Using direct action, advocacy, the media, and other creative tactics, we fight for the resources and policies necessary to end the global AIDS pandemic. To become involved in our High School Outreach project, our Canadian Universities Access to Essential Medicine Campaign, or this campaign...

- o Sign on to our listserv by sending a blank email to [sagatoronto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sagatoronto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- o Check out our website: <http://icarus.med.utoronto.ca/saga/> (Toronto) or [www.treatthepeople.com](http://www.treatthepeople.com) (National)

#### University of Toronto International Health Program (UTIHP)

- o For listserv info and inquiries email [ut.ihp@utoronto.ca](mailto:ut.ihp@utoronto.ca)
- o Check out our website: <http://icarus.med.utoronto.ca/IHP/ihpweb.htm>

#### Elections

- o Run for both SAGA & UTIHP positions at the UTIHP Elections on **Monday April 4th at 5pm, MSB 3154**
- o Positions for UTIHP include Co-Directors, Health and Human Rights Coordinator, HIV/AIDS Coordinator
- o Positions for SAGA include Director, High School Outreach Coordinator, Research and Case Studies Working Group Coordinator

The Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Dear Mr. Martin and Mr. Goodale,

**Re: Debt Cancellation as a G8 priority and in response to the world HIV/AIDS pandemic**

Today is the launch of the **Make AIDS History Campaign**. The University of Toronto writes to you, our representatives in the Group of Eight, to use your authority and influence to ensure that debt cancellation becomes a reality following this year's G8 Summit.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, over 500 students from across the nation signed on to a letter to Development Minister Carroll, insisting that debt relief be a part of Canada's response to AIDS.

Today, Make AIDS History events are being held around the globe to lobby G8 leaders to intensify the fight against HIV/AIDS. In Canada, students have rallied together to support the Campaign at the University of Toronto, McGill University, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Guelph. We are joined by civil society groups in the USA, the UK, France, Japan and Italy.

We call on our G8 leaders to respond to all five points of the Make AIDS History platform, which include:

- **FUND THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS** by ensuring that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is fully funded for Rounds 5 and 6
- **INCREASE ACCESS TO AIDS MEDICINES** by ensuring that the goals of the WHO 3x5 Initiative are met and a timetable is developed to expand access to HIV/AIDS care, which assures universal access to free treatment
- **ADDRESS THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS CRISIS** by committing adequate resources and long-term investments for salary support, staff recruitment and retention. Help build sufficient educational capacity in developing countries for training health workers with appropriate skill sets.
- **IMPROVE AIDS PREVENTION** with scaling up of programs aimed at prevention
- **100% DEBT CANCELLATION TO FIGHT AIDS** for all impoverished nations. Debt must be cancelled without harmful or externally imposed economic conditions, using additional resources outside of those already committed to Official Development Assistance.

Canada has done a commendable job in responding to many of these issues – including the recent commitment Canada has made to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and further the longer standing commitment Canada has made to the WHO 3x5 Program, as well as vaccine research. But we feel our country has a special role to play in the 2005 G8 Summit. In particular, we believe Canada can play a fundamental role on the issue of debt cancellation.

There have been many proposals on how to achieve debt cancellation, and there is unanimous support from the G7 Finance Ministers for debt relief. However, with so many proposals on the table, we are concerned that G8 governments will delay committing to a common action plan for debt cancellation. We urge Canada to use its **leadership** and **reputation** as an international mediator, to ensure that an agreeable **plan for debt cancellation is found and supported by the G8 leaders at the Summit in July**.

The overpowering burden of debt that many impoverished countries bear makes an effective response to HIV/AIDS all but impossible. Therefore, we call on the Canadian government to advocate within the international milieu for **immediate, complete, and unconditional cancellation of the debt that impoverished countries owe multilateral institutions**.

- **Immediate** – The developing world has been promised debt relief for more than eight years. They are still waiting. The time to act is now.
- **Complete** – Dollars spent servicing debt are dollars not spent on more important issues like health, education, and development. Impoverished countries must be allowed to get off the debt treadmill and start coping with the more important problems they face. There should be debt cancellation, not debt relief.
- **Unconditional** - Debt cancellation should come with no strings attached. Impoverished countries should not be constrained from determining and doing what is in the best interests of their people in order to receive debt cancellation.

The developing world cannot wait another eight years. G8 governments **MUST ACT NOW!**

Sincerely,



# HISTORY

DEAR MR. MARTIN AND MR. GOODALE,  
RE: **DEBT CANCELLATION AS G8 PRIORITY IN RESPONSE TO WORLD HIV/AIDS**

Today is the LAUNCH OF THE **MAKE AIDS HISTORY** CAMPAIGN. U of T URGES YOU AS OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GROUP OF EIGHT, TO USE YOUR AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE TO ENSURE DEBT CANCELLATION BECOMES A REALITY FOLLOWING THIS YEAR'S G8 SUMMIT.

Today, "MAKE AIDS HISTORY" EVENTS ARE BEING HELD AROUND THE GLOBE TO LOBBY G8 LEADERS TO INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS. IN CANADA, STUDENTS HAVE RALLIED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN AT U of T, MCGILL, AND UNIVERSITIES OF SASKATCHEWAN AND GUELPH. WE ARE JOINED BY CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN THE USA, THE UK, FRANCE, JAPAN AND ITALY.

WE CALL ON OUR G8 LEADERS TO RESPOND TO ALL 5 POINTS OF THE **MAKE AIDS HISTORY** PLATFORM

- (1) FUND THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS
- (2) INCREASE ACCESS TO AIDS MEDICINES

# DEBT

- (3) ADDRESS THE HEALTH CARE WORKER CRISIS
- (4) IMPROVE AIDS PREVENTION
- (5) 100% DEBT CANCELLATION TO FIGHT AIDS

CANADA HAS RESPONDED COMMENDABLY TO MANY OF THESE ISSUES - INCLUDING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL FUND FOR AIDS, TB, MALARIA etc.

CANADA HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE 2005 G8 SUMMIT: TO USE OUR LEADERSHIP & REPUTATION AS INTERNATIONAL MEDIATOR TO ENSURE A **PLAN FOR DEBT CANCELLATION** SUPPORTED BY G8 LEADERS. WE CALL ON THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO ADVOCATE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL MILIEU FOR **IMMEDIATE, COMPLETE, & UNCONDITIONAL CANCELLATION** OF DEBT OWED TO MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS BY IMPOVERISHED COUNTRIES.

**THE DEVELOPING WORLD CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER 8 YRS. WE MUST ACT NOW!**