

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons, Parliament Bldgs.  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am deeply concerned by the world's food shortage and the soaring cost of food which has put many of the developing countries in crisis and many lives at risk. I am hearing from our UN officials and from many agriculture experts in the developed countries that now is the time to break the unproductive cycle of short term, band aid approaches to global food security. Their call is for the developed countries to adopt a strategy of investing appropriately in agriculture at home while simultaneously investing in agriculture infrastructure in the developing countries.

This would require the removal of subsidies and trade tariff barriers which would open world markets to more liberalized trade. Such action could result in the delivery of a stable and affordable food supply to the entire planet, as well as stable farm income for tens of millions of farmers around the world.

Mr Kofi Anan's recent report to the United Nations lays out a "green revolution" plan for Africa (similar to the above) and states that Africa has the enormous potential of being able to triple its food production and thus not have to rely on expensive food imports.

As well, Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN's Secretary General, is acting quickly to invite world leaders to attend a UN Food and Agriculture Organization to be held in Rome June 3 -5 in order to tackle the causes for the food shortage and come up with a strategy for long term sustainable development vis à vis the world's food supply.

I urge you to ensure that Canada gives it full attention and generous co-operation and support to obtaining a successful outcome at the following impending meetings:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) **summit-Rome, June 3-5**  
and

The **G8 Summit of Nations (July 2008)**. Mr. Kofi Anan believes that if the Summit members chose to put such a strategy (mentioned above) at the front and centre of their meetings, then the countries presently in crisis would soon be in a position to feed their own populations adequately.

Sincerely,

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cc. Hon. David Emerson-Minister International Trade  
Hon. Gerald Ritz – Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood  
Hon. Stéphane Dion- Leader of the Opposition  
Hon. Gilles Duceppe – Leader, Blc Québécois  
Hon. Jack Layton - Leader, NDP  
Ms. Elizabeth May – Leader, Green Party