

Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) De-funding Backgrounder

Background

- CCIC has over 40 years' experience of monitoring and analyzing federal policies on foreign affairs, aid, trade, peacebuilding, environmental justice and human rights.
- CCIC regroups approximately 90 Canadian civil society organizations working both in Canada and overseas.
- CCIC provides leadership for accountability and enhancing good practices.
- CIDA funding to the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), Canada's pre-eminent coalition to end global poverty is at risk.
 - CCIC's program proposal was submitted to CIDA in October 2009.
 - CCIC's three-year contract with CIDA expired on March 31, 2010.
 - CCIC is now two months into a three-month temporary extension.
 - 2/3 of CCIC staff has received layoff notices.
 - CCIC's office space has been put up for sale to help meet the costs of reduced funding.
- About 30% of CCIC's money comes from outside the government, including from CCIC members, who are both generous and supportive of CCIC.
- A critical and well-respected voice for the world's poor risks being silenced if funding to CCIC is cut off.
- Defunding CCIC sends a powerful message to the CSO community to "watch what you say, or risk losing funding".
- If partisan politics determines aid funding, then effectiveness and accountability, to Canadians and the world's poor, are abandoned.

Key Messages

1. CCIC De-funding Imminent:

- CIDA funding for CCIC, Canada's pre-eminent coalition to end global poverty, is threatened.
- Cutting off funding for CCIC means that a critical and well-respected voice for the world's poor risks being silenced.

2. Political Chill Felt:

- De-funding CCIC sends powerful "chill" message to the Canadian CSO community.
- The "chill" message is one of
 - "punishment politics" – speak out and lose funding; and
 - "message management" – government will closely monitor what is being said and by whom.

3. Advocacy Matters:

- If you shut down diversity, there will be weak policy debate resulting in bad public policy.
- If partisan politics determines aid funding, then effectiveness and accountability, to Canadians and the world's poor, are abandoned.

What We Want

- Bev Oda, the Minister for International Cooperation, should immediately announce funding for the Council.
- Clear, transparent and reliable standards must guide CIDA aid funding decisions.
- The Minister for International Cooperation must work with the Canadian CSO community to restore confidence and trust in a non-partisan aid programming decisions.