



**MAKE POVERTY HISTORY**  
**A MOBILIZING MODULE**

**HANDOUTS**

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## **FOREIGN AID**

For every dollar given to poor countries in aid, they lose two dollars to rich countries because of unfair trade barriers against their exports.  
***www.maketradefair.com***

In 1970 all UN members set a target for the rich countries of the world to raise their foreign aid budgets to 0.7% of their economic output by 1980. 25 years after the deadline, only five countries have achieved it - Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands and Holland.  
***Oxfam, Debt and Aid***

In order to meet the 0.7% goal by 2015, Canada needs to increase foreign aid by 12 to 15 % each year  
***World Vision***

Aid tied with conditions cuts the value of aid to recipient countries by some 25-40 percent  
***globalissues.org***

“Tied aid” mandates developing nations to buy products only from donor countries as a condition for development assistance. About 60-75 percent of Canadian aid is tied, one of the world's highest amounts.  
***Inter Press Service News Agency, 2005***

Reaching the 0.7% benchmark for foreign aid has been a promise made by past Liberal and Conservative governments for more than 40 years, but no government has ever come close. Ottawa's current foreign-aid level is about 0.28 per cent of GDP.

***CTV.ca***

When Paul Martin became finance minister in 1993, Canada stood fifth in the world in foreign aid as a percentage of GDP. Today, we've sunk all the way down to thirteenth place in a list of eighteen OECD donor countries, and our aid-to-GDP ratio is less than half of what it was thirty years ago

***Counterbias.com***

**JUST TRADE**

The rich world tells the poor world to get rid of subsidies, but continues to spend \$1 billion a day subsidizing its own farming enterprises

***[www.maketradefair.com](http://www.maketradefair.com)***

Rich countries limit and control poor countries' share of the world market by charging high taxes on imported goods. As a result, many poor countries can only afford to export raw materials, which give far lower returns than finished products

***[www.maketradefair.com](http://www.maketradefair.com)***

Coffee prices have fallen by 70% since 1997, costing poor countries \$8 billion. Low prices make huge profits for the big companies that sell them on to consumers, but leave millions of producers barely able to survive  
***www.maketradefair.com***

A major fashion retailer pays \$2 in wages for a pair of trainers costing \$67. ***www.maketradefair.com***

In Chile 75% of women fruit-pickers are now on temporary contracts and work 60-hours a week in high season, but still one in three earns at or below the minimum wage  
***www.maketradefair.com***

Fourteen million people die from treatable diseases every year. Many of these lives could be saved if cheap drugs were available.

***[www.maketradefair.com](http://www.maketradefair.com)***

When exporting to rich countries, producers in poor countries pay tariffs that are four times higher than those paid by producers in other rich countries.

***[www.maketradefair.com](http://www.maketradefair.com)***

**Debt Relief**

Between 1970 and 2002, the poorest African countries received \$294 billion dollars in loans, paid back \$298 billion in principal and interest, and at the end of the process, still owed more than \$200 billion!

***Stephen Lewis, February 05***

More than 130,000 Africans die every week from preventable causes. Yet Sub-Saharan African countries continue to pay about US \$12 billion a year to service debts.

***Canadian Council for International Cooperation***

Canadian and British proposals for debt relief will produce new resources for some countries over the next 10 years, but will leave affected countries to pay 60-70% of their debt after 2015.

***Canadian Council for International Cooperation***

Debt is a tool of domination used by rich country governments and creditors like the IMF and the World Bank. Conditions attached to debt relief and loans are devastating economies and undermining the sovereignty of nations.

***Canadian Council for International Cooperation***

**Child Poverty (in Canada)**

One in six Canadian children is poor.  
***National Anti-Poverty Organization***

Canada's child poverty rate of 15% is 3x as high as the rates of Sweden, Norway or Finland.

***National Anti-Poverty Organization***

More than 1.4 million children in Canada – an increase of about 28% since 1989 -now live in households with incomes below what Statistics Canada calls the low-income cutoff.  
***freethechildren.org***

The number of people using food banks is up 92% over the past decade, and it is estimated that 42% of users are children.

***freethechildren.org***

If the statistics for Canadian Aboriginal people were viewed separately from those of the rest of the country, we would slip to 78th on the UN Human Development Index - the ranking currently held by Kazakhstan.

***World Vision***

In Canada, there was a 20% after tax wage gap between racialized group members and non-racialized persons.

***CSJ Foundation - Canada's Creeping Economic Apartheid, 2001.***

More than 800 million people go to bed hungry every day...300 million are children. Of these 300 million children, only 8% are victims of famine or other emergency situations. More than 90% are suffering long-term malnourishment and micronutrient deficiency.

***Millennium Project***

### **MORE AND BETTER AID**



- to help end extreme poverty and hunger
- to enable every child to attend elementary school
- to reduce child mortality rates
- to improve maternal health
- to create decent jobs
- to begin to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS

### **CANADA CAN TAKE ACTION:**

- Reach the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015 by committing to a timetable to increase aid by 13% in each of the next 3 years and by 15% thereafter.
- Enact Legislation to make “ending poverty” the exclusive goal of Canadian foreign aid in a way consistent with our human rights obligations.



### TRADE JUSTICE

Currently, international trade is neither free nor fair. Trade rules allow rich countries to pay large subsidies to a small number of companies to export food. These policies encourage over-production, destroy the livelihoods of millions of poor farmers in developing countries and hurt the environment.

#### **We need trade justice so;**

- poor countries can protect small farmers and staple crops
- governments can access affordable medicine and maintain public services
- trade rules support, rather than undermine human rights and environmental protection.

#### **CANADA CAN TAKE ACTION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS:**

- Press for trade and investment rules that ensure governments and their citizens can choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment.
- Support measures that boost farmers' power in the marketplace and that bring an end to the dumping of goods, which damages the livelihoods of poor rural communities.

**CANCEL THE DEBT**



- High interest rates and penalties mean that the poorest countries spend more on repaying debts to the richest countries than they receive in aid. Between 1970 and 2002, the poorest African countries received \$295 billion in loans, paid back \$298 billion but still owed more than \$200 billion.
- We must stop all debts to the poorest countries to stop this treadmill. When poor governments no longer need to repay debts, they can spend more on what really matters: food, clean water, housing, health care, jobs, education and building their economies.

***CANADA CAN TAKE ACTION AT THE WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND:***

- Promote the immediate and unconditional cancellation of 100% of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the poorest countries.
- Ensure that debt cancellation has no strings attached, enabling developing countries to implement their own national plans to end poverty.



### **END TO CHILD POVERTY IN CANADA**

- In 1989, the House of Commons unanimously resolved to eliminate poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000. At the start of 2005, one million Canadian children, or nearly one in six, are still poor. Aboriginal people are disproportionately affected.
- We must end child poverty in Canada. We must make key investments in social development that will make a difference.

### **CANADA CAN TAKE ACTION:**

- Expand affordable housing and public services
- Build a universally accessible child care system
- Raise minimum wage and increase the availability of decent jobs
- Raise the annual Canada Child Tax Benefit to \$4,900 per child, per year and ensure that all low-income children receive the full benefit of this program.
- Involve groups where poverty is predominant, such as Aboriginal People, women, minorities and youth in the design and implementation of a domestic poverty reduction strategy.

## TAKE ACTION!

If enough pressure is made in the right way, to the right people, at the right time, extraordinary changes can take place.

### AS AN INDIVIDUAL:

- ✓ Sign on now at [www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca).
- ✓ Wear a white band to show your support for ending poverty, particularly on Global White Band Days.
- ✓ Contact the Prime Minister of Canada and your Member of Parliament. Tell them you want action on more and better aid, trade justice, debt cancellation and child poverty in Canada. You can do this by going to the Make Poverty History website.
- ✓ Buy fair trade products and services. Encourage suppliers you access to offer fair trade products.

### ON BEHALF OF YOUR MEMBERS:

- ✓ Inform your members about the campaign and urge them to visit the website. Publicize Make Poverty History information, platform, and demands in your member publications.
- ✓ Encourage your members to wear white bands, particularly on Global White Band Days.
- ✓ Hold and/or participate in events to build momentum for the campaign in your community.
- ✓ At a Local level, share information about fair trade – get your organization to adopt fair trade policies for goods and services.

## KEY DATES

There are a number of key events in 2005. Various campaign partners are organizing activities in the lead-up to these key dates. On Global White Band Days, people around the world will be wearing white bands calling for action on poverty. Check [www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca) regularly for more information on events.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

### **WHITE BAND DAY**

July 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

### **G-8 SUMMIT IN SCOTLAND**

Around the world, events are being organized to press G8 leaders to make decisions that will benefit the world's poorest people.

September 10<sup>th</sup>

### **WHITE BAND DAY**

September 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

### **UN “MILLENNIUM + 5” SUMMIT IN NEW YORK**

This summit will review progress towards achievement of the commitments in the Millennium Declaration.

October 17<sup>th</sup>

### **WHITE BAND DAY**

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

Proclaimed by the United Nations to raise awareness and to encourage world-wide actions to address poverty issues.

December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **WHITE BAND DAY**

December 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

### **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG**

As the world focuses on trade, Make poverty History will press for trade justice.

***Campaign posters, stickers and white bands are available.***

***However, you are free to make/buy your own white band.***

***To find out more,  
check the Make Poverty History website  
[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)***

***In Quebec, a sister campaign has been launched.***

***For more information check the website  
[www.unmondesanspauvrete.org](http://www.unmondesanspauvrete.org)***