



**INQUIRY OF MINISTRY  
DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENT AU GOUVERNEMENT**

PREPARE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH MARKING "ORIGINAL TEXT" OR "TRANSLATION"  
PRÉPARER EN ANGLAIS ET EN FRANÇAIS EN INDIQUANT "TEXTE ORIGINAL" OU "TRADUCTION"

QUESTION NO./N° DE LA QUESTION Q-298	BY / DE Mr. McKay (Scarborough-Guildwood)	DATE June 9, 2010
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REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
RÉPONSE DE LA MINISTRE DE LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

SIGNATURE  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
MINISTRE OU SECRÉTAIRE PARLEMENTAIRE

**QUESTION**

With respect to Canadian extractive industry-related Official Development Assistance funding: (a) is the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) currently considering proposals from Canadian development NGOs to carry out development work in the communities directly affected by Canadian extractive companies and, if so, (i) how many proposals of this nature has CIDA received, how many are under review and how many has CIDA funded thus far, (ii) how much public money is CIDA planning to disburse to projects in relation to development programs and projects on, near, or in conjunction or cooperation with Canadian mining operations; (iii) will the government provide a full accounting of all the projects under consideration, the organizations, NGOs, etc., requesting funding and the companies with whom they will be working; (b) precisely, what will be the role played by extractive operations in development projects, how will NGOs and extractive operations collaborate and what is the nature of the relationship between CIDA, NGOs and extractive operations, both with respect to funding and operationality; (c) why is CIDA funding development projects at Canadian resource extraction sites overseas that have traditionally been paid for by Canadian extraction companies in partnership with Canadian development NGOs; (d) given frequent controversies and accusations made by people living near Canadian mining operations relating to human rights infractions, as related by the Canadian press, will the government (i) clarify that such decisions will be in compliance with the provisions set out in the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, including consistency with international human rights standards, (ii) demonstrate what specific measures are being undertaken to ensure compliance with the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act; and (e) will the government report on its funding decisions with respect to extractive operations to Parliament and, if so, when?

**REPLY / RÉPONSE**

ORIGINAL TEXT  
TEXTE ORIGINAL

TRANSLATION  
TRADUCTION

(a)

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) does not provide detailed information on responsive projects proposals under consideration. Once the Contribution Agreement is signed, relevant information is posted on CIDA's website in accordance with the requirements of the Proactive Disclosure Policy.

(b)

Canada's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy for the Canadian International Extractive Sector acknowledges that "close cooperation with stakeholders is, therefore, required for the successful implementation of the *Building the Canadian Advantage Strategy*." This collaboration extends to the implementation of CIDA's obligations under the Strategy in the realm of host country capacity building.

In the CSR project proposals received by CIDA's Partnerships with Canadians Branch to date, NGOs and firms have described arrangements of shared leadership and responsibility, with strong engagement in project design, implementation, and evaluation on the part of local communities. Projects being considered by CIDA would support the strengthening of alliances and partnerships that increase the impact, quality and sustainability of development activities.

CIDA would not become involved in the operations of particular initiatives, but would require any approved projects to be designed and implemented in conformity with all applicable CIDA policies, including results-based management. The Partnerships with Canadians Branch would require financial contributions from the Canadian NGO, and would monitor these projects by means of regular reporting, including a full accounting of expenditures by the NGO.

(c)

CIDA does not directly fund development projects that benefit the commercial interests of private sector companies.

(d)

The *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act* (ODAAA) requires that for international assistance to be reported as Official Development Assistance (ODA) it must: contribute to poverty reduction; take in the perspectives of the poor; and be consistent with international human rights standards. Poverty reduction has been at the core of CIDA's mandate for many years. The assistance provided by CIDA contributes to poverty reduction in developing countries in an effective and focused manner. CIDA takes the perspectives of the poor into account as a central element in delivering Canada's aid program, for instance through consultations with local partners and beneficiaries, participatory approaches and policy dialogue. CIDA's programs are consistent with international human rights standards.

CIDA has integrated the provisions of the ODAAA in its policies and programs. They are part of CIDA's project assessment process via policy and programming documents that require a thorough analysis of the development context in relation with the ODAAA's requirements. Policy guidance is provided to staff to ensure that funding decisions take into account the relevant provisions of the ODAAA.

(e)

(e)

CIDA publishes its funding decisions on its website in two ways:

1. CIDA Project Browser ([www.cida.gc.ca/project-browser](http://www.cida.gc.ca/project-browser)), once the project is operational (the Project Browser contains more than 2,900 project profiles);
2. Proactive Disclosure reports, where contracts, grants and contributions are published every quarter ([www.cida.gc.ca/proactivedisclosure](http://www.cida.gc.ca/proactivedisclosure)).

These Web pages are regularly updated and publicly available. Parliamentarians have access to them at any time, as do the Canadian public and our many partners.

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