



HAITI



REBUILD HAITI - "MAKE IT RIGHT"

Peter Goldring  Member of Parliament





HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

March 22, 2011

Mr. Deepak Obhrai, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Room 426-N, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Obhrai,

As promised, please find enclosed a copy of the report I sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in May 2006 following the Parliamentary elections in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament
Edmonton East





HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

1 May 2006

The Hon. Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
507-S Centre Block
House of Commons

Executive Summary: Haiti's Parliamentary Election

Dear Minister MacKay:

I thank you for the opportunity to appraise the situation in Haiti in accordance with your wishes for supporting improved governance, accountability and rule of law in Haiti. The following is a summary of my findings:

Comments by President Préval:

Mr. Préval said that he would like to see all aid donor countries and organizations more coordinated in their efforts and communicate a common front with the Haitian president and government. In addition, he noted that Haitian Members of Parliament had no offices or staff and that the Haitian government had concerns that they doubtfully would ever be in a position to afford comparable resources to their Member of Parliament.

Improved Governance Basics:

With so many Haitians living in poverty, a new Parliament building would be questioned by the people as to the appropriate allocation of resources, no matter whose.

Public education about good government should start in elementary school with a mandatory civics course. The adult population can be introduced to government renewal through town hall meetings coordinated by local Members of Parliament.

Haitian media and Canadian parliamentarians must assist in this process.



Security and Police:

Security concerns are paramount in Haiti. Military personnel deployed to Haiti are often not trained with crowd control skills and a “shoot only” skill is not flexible enough for Haiti’s reality.

Police corruption is frequently cited as a problem. Up to 25 per cent are well known for their corruption in the past and that the road to bringing about accountability for, and trust by the public, will necessitate removal of that element and replace with trained new regiments.

Justice and Prisons:

Judges are underpaid and vulnerable to bribery. Prisons lack sanitary facilities are dangerously overcrowded. Many Haitians sit in jail without having even been charged with a crime.

The Environment:

Deforestation, due to large-scale cutting of trees for firewood or making charcoal, has denuded mountains, created rapid runoff of tropical rain, which has stripped top soil.

Industry and Labour:

A visit was arranged with Canadian company Gildan Active Wear to determine the industry and labor realities of Haiti.

At present, the low cost of Haitian labour is not only an attraction for foreign businesses to operate in Haiti, but also to businesses in foreign countries adjacent to Haiti, such as the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sustainable Aid:

International aid money should preferably be used for projects that Haiti can independently sustain. The electrification of Jacmel and the subsequent failure of the Haitian government to ensure that utility rates kept pace with the project’s cost of imported oil is one example of an unsustainable project.

Sincerely,



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Meeting With President René Préval

While meeting with President-elect René Préval, he made a significant comment as to how he would like to see all aid donor countries and organizations be more coordinated in their efforts and only then communicating a common front with the Haitian president and government.

When viewed as a component of Haiti's annual budget, international aid is approximately 25 per cent. When viewed as a component of Haiti's economic output, aid funds are somewhat being relied upon for regular governmental funding of civilian social sectors. While there are several other sources of economic input to Haiti, not much of that is available to be transformed into socio-economic benefit. President Préval is indicating that while international aid is necessary, his government will want the aid to be managed efficiently and practically, in a manner that does not intrude upon his country's nationalism and understanding of civil society rejuvenation.

President Préval's questions to myself and another Member of Parliament as to how many staff we had as individual parliamentarians was followed up by comments from himself and others in his government suggesting a lack of confidence that the Haitian parliament would ever be more than a forum for argument, as in the past. When we said that Canadian parliamentarians generally had four to five staff, Mr. Préval said that presently Haitian Members of Parliament had no offices or staff and that the Haitian government had concerns that they doubtfully would ever be in a position to afford comparable resources to their Member of Parliament.

While the visit with the President was short, these two points—relating to coordination of foreign assistance and funding of the parliamentary function—were specifically raised by the President and should be considered to be important issues meriting a specific Canadian focus. In keeping with his directions, an additional suggestion will be that whatever policies, principles and directions are proposed and approved, the essential principle should involve an appraisal of the reasonable need for long term sustainability. Canada's vision of assistance and guidance should be based on a minimum ten year time frame, reviewed annually and subject to a further five year extension. Consistent commitment across present and future parliaments in Canada is essential.

Perhaps there is a means of addressing President Préval's concerns through capitalizing on Canada's current reputation in Haiti and throughout the Caribbean. My impression is that Canada, more than any other country, is regarded as a supportive participant in the future of the Caribbean, without an imperialistic history in the region associated with certain industrialized powers. Such past behaviours cause suspicions as to current motivations. In contrast,

Canada's past in the region has been primarily referenced to trade and as a supportive country of entry for those wishing seeking educational or emigration opportunities. At this moment in Haiti's evolution, Canada has assumed leading roles in both the Minustah United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (www.minustah.org), as well as in electoral reform and monitoring, significantly through the International Mission for Monitoring Haitian Elections (www.mieeh-immhe.ca), headed by Canada's Chief Electoral Officer, Jean-Pierre Kingsley. If Canada could be selected to have an overall lead role, reporting to the President and government of Haiti, in relation to the coordination of aid, and security in Haiti, many of the concerns of President Préval could be addressed. At the same time and under the same structure, a more gradual program of supporting improved governance, government accountability and the rule of Law in Haiti could be introduced in Haiti.

Of major importance is to secure the electoral process as an approved model, adopted and affirmed by President Préval and the government of Haiti, for future elections, and if so, that the structures and operating components (computers, etc) be catalogued and maintained in an operational readiness for upcoming elections over a 10 year period, geared with training and eventual turnover to Haitians as a self-existing, electoral entity.

RECOMMENDATIONS (May 10):

- Ask President Préval for his five year projection of social, democratic and budgetary support needs and then develop a strategy and initiatives to propose to assist.
- Ask President Préval for his strategy to end the occupation of the "red zone" by militant gangs and his thoughts on the following areas:
 - disarmament in general
 - justice/police /prison renewal
 - elections and governance dialogue
 - environment
 - infrastructure
 - electricity
 - land ownership reform
- Canada should prepared and take the lead in a plan to coordinate all international efforts in Haiti, in keeping with their requests.

Improving Governance Basics

Improved Parliamentary Working Environment

With only 40 per cent of Haitians having jobs and some 90 per cent of Haitians living in poverty, a new Government planning to build a new Parliament building would be questioned by the people as to the appropriate allocation of resources. Eventually with social economic growth and renewal, a new building may well be what Haitians want but it should be up to the Haitian people and for them to have pride in accomplishment by doing it themselves when they can afford to.

Repairing the existing Parliament building to provide clean space and providing suitable rental space for possible common open offices with dividers and a common secretarial pool should be a first step, if it is decided to help Haitians develop resources to the benefit of the Parliamentarians.

We must be careful not to be seen to be contributing to yet another showpiece symbol of the Haitian governing while there are so many in dire need. The Presidential palace is viewed by some as somewhat out of step with the reality of the present economic means of Haitian society. However, it does serve as an example of the former economic potential that is attainable with time and effort. In particular, a new parliament should represent the capabilities and aspirations that are realistically attainable by a people through their own efforts.

Until their President and all Haitians fully embrace their Parliamentary institutions and vote in an election with one of the projects they themselves have public support to build, construction of a new Parliament building should be a distant goal, to be achieved mostly on their own, when full stability and economic growth are well under way.

At present, Parliament is generally viewed in Haiti as an imported concept that is commonly misunderstood by the citizens of Haiti, in terms of its benefit to society. There is a great amount of work to be done to alter that conception.

Educating Haitian Youth about How Government Works

In a country where only 53 per cent of the population can read or write, illiteracy is a major factor in Haitians' lack of understanding of their governmental institutions. While a relatively low percentage of Haitians can read there also are only 40,000 television sets in Haiti to broadcast information to eight million people. For these other reasons, Haitians are more familiar with their Presidential style of government; symbols of the presidential office; elections; and campaigning. It is very evident that most are not familiar with the benefit to

citizens and country of their other segment of government, the Parliament and the Senate.

Introducing a regular, annual teaching unit in all schools for grades 7 or 8, or their Haitian equivalent, to teach a one or two week course with examinations on their parliamentary government and its role in society would inevitably help greatly. A tool that many of us use regularly in Canada is a small booklet we send out to every family and for every school and student on our Canadian government. This booklet explains in basic terms how the various components of the federal government and parliament operate and interface with the community that a Member of Parliament represents. A similar publication in relation to the role of the Haitian parliament in society and its general procedure would be a helpful educational tool in Haiti and enhance the decision-making processes of the electorate in subsequent elections. Working on literacy challenges, for the public at large to be informed, should be a long term generational program with a 20 year goal that would be measured annually as to achievements and progress.

Introducing the Public to the Government at Work

There is an impression that Members of the Haitian Parliament are not viewed in a similar manner to the way Canadians view their Canadian parliamentarians. While there are many country-to-country differences, democratically elected parliamentarians generally act in the interest of their constituents and have a degree of power to effect change. In Haiti, parliamentarians are viewed more as an argumentative discussion group, with little influence over the Presidential agenda. This impression is based on sentiments expressed by representatives of various agencies and, to an extent, by the President-elect. The impression is also supported by significant differences in the degree of public participation in the presidential election and in the most recent election of parliamentarians and senators.

While we must help to train and familiarize Haitian parliamentarians, care must be taken to not be potentially confusing. Steps in this direction must very carefully be planned with Haitians so that we are not being seen imposing our own complex system on Haiti—a system that would be difficult to be perceived as affordable or attainable by Haitian society and government. The fact that a Canadian Member of Parliament has, on average, four staff members, is itself viewed as a basic economic improbability in terms of Haitian parliamentary reform.

I suggest designing two or three initial pilot projects, involving interested Haitian Members of Parliament, and which would take the form of consultative town hall meetings to gauge public civil society and government response. I suggest one or two in rural areas, and one in Port-au-Prince. The town halls would be designed to demonstrate how consultations can be an effective means of disseminating information with the people of the regional civil society and the

local level of government concerned. If the result is unresponsiveness, we can complete these projects and modify future approaches. There is much more work to do to organize and decide on the basic methodology of steps to take for wholesale promotion of the concepts of parliamentary democracy and the role of the legislature.

If the pilot projects are successful with the town halls, then that would encourage a much better received training session for all parliamentarians or more selective town halls in other parts of Haiti. Even initial town halls must involve all local levels of civil society and government and the people to demonstrate a model of informative dialogue that could then be carried forward to parliament.

We have much still to learn of the interchanges of social and cultural sensitivities that might manifest themselves in ways that we cannot presently envision before we attempt to develop a broader-based level of parliamentary support. It is crucial that Haiti's Members of Parliament and Senators subscribe fully to this governance information.

Introducing the Media to Haitian Governance Potential

Haitian media should be introduced to and subscribe to a renewed, full governance model for Haiti's future. Media can be very helpful to inform Haitians on new directions and potential benefits that they can be part of it the renewal of Haitian society. Media should be very much a part of the initial town halls which would set the stage for a media/governance forum to bring media on side as an integral part of positive outcomes.

Introducing the Parliament of Haiti to the Parliament of Canada

When sure of reasonable success, offer to the Haitian president to bring an All Party group of parliamentarians to Haiti to offer guidelines and assistance through open forum discussions with Haitian parliamentarian. They could then split off and hold rural and urban town halls jointly. We could invite delegations of Haitian parliamentarians to Ottawa for like purposes and likewise split off and hold urban and rural town halls jointly. The topics of discussion at these town halls can vary from justice, government accountability, social and economic concerns and how parliament must deal with these issues. Furthermore, we can form a Parliamentary Friendship Exchange Committee, entitling Canada-Haiti Parliamentary Association to interchange with the Haiti-Canada Parliamentary Association to exchange ideas, common concerns, bills, etc while reinforcing common directions.

RECOMMENDATIONS (June 20):

- Proceed with improving parliamentary work environment.
- Consider carefully the propriety of funding the building of a new Parliament in the near future.
- Begin public education in the schools on Haitian governance.
- Introduce the public to the government at work by a number of select town hall meetings with local Members of Parliament.
- Analyze for the next step, then develop more broad-based exchanges of Canadians with Haitians in order to assist new parliamentarians.
- Initiate Canada-Haiti Parliamentary Committee to facilitate dialogue and possibly to twin Senators and Members of Parliament.
- Engage Haitian media (print, TV and radio) to share in ownership of the renewal efforts.

Security and Police in Haiti

So much of Haiti's future is predicated upon returning to a safe, secure civil society and any talk of strengthening parliamentary institutions must include resolving the turmoil and security problem in Haiti.

United Nations MINUSTAH troops and police have secured all parts of the country except Cité Soleil's "red zone," a substantial area in Port-au-Prince. The mere presence of an area that is beyond a country's capability to bring security is a red flag to any and all potential investors of foreign capital. This presence is absolutely essential to resolve in the immediate future. Even with such resolve, there is still a need for a long term (10 year) strategy for United Nations Military and Police Presence.

Having properly trained soldiers with crowd control, peacekeeping and Haitian language skills is essential. It has been suggested that a "shoot only" skill is not flexible enough for Haiti's reality.

United Nations Police – UNPOL – have been working with the Haitian National Police. Several discussions were had, with the most pointed being a call for the resolution of corruption with the national police. It is felt that, of the force, 25 per cent are well known for their corruption in the past and that the road to bringing about accountability for, and trust by the public, will necessitate removal of that element and replace with trained new regiments.

It is felt that by not doing so will continue an untenable situation of organized internal resistance to change and reform persisting. Part of the reason that small corruptive practices grow larger and larger is because of the Haitian government's propensity for sporadic salary remuneration, causing some police to take desperate measures to provide for their families. Salary stability, removing corruptive elements and setting high standards of ethical behaviour has to be accompanied by refurbishing and repairing 220 remote police stations to give pride of service to members.

Another call of importance was that Canada must do better to live up to its full commitment of police officers in Haiti, which currently is at 80 per cent.

RECOMMENDATIONS (June 20):

- Develop strategy to bridge completed initiatives, such as school level training of police officers, to administer practical validation of police officers working in the field.
- Vet top 25 per cent of national police who are known to have corrupt tendencies.
- Refurbish and repair 220 remote police stations to give pride of service to members.
- Reduce competency problem for 30 to 40 per cent of military members who cannot speak French or who demonstrate other skill problems.
- Increase Canadian police numbers to match commitment: currently it is at 80 per cent.
- With any long term (10 year) strategy, also develop an exit strategy.

Justice and Prisons

In Haiti, justice is still perceived as being inaccessible, ineffective and dilatory, showing little respect for fundamental rights as the accused are generally deprived of legal and judicial services. Judges are said to be underpaid and open to bribery as a means to augment their income.

Eighty per cent of the prison population in Haiti are provisionally detained, many of whom have never had any formal charges laid. One man I talked to had been in Port-au-Prince remand prison for 18 months without yet being in court. Prisons are appallingly overcrowded with poor sanitary facilities. A prison I visited in Port-au-Prince had 35 small, two feet wide, one-person mats edge to edge on each of two walls in one room with 70 men to sleep on. There were no sanitary facilities other than a bucket in the corner for personal use during overnight lock up.

RECOMMENDATIONS (May 1):

- Develop a strategy to facilitate judicial integrity by increasing the wages of judges.
- Link aid projects to the improvement of prison conditions and adherence to basic human rights.

Environmental Issues in Haiti

Part of Haiti's governance renewal will be the assurance of self-sustainability of food production. Traditional crops, previously exported in quantity, have shrunk measurably. In some areas of Haiti, food assistance programs that were introduced for hurricane and flood victims have been retained because of low food production levels.

Deforestation, due to large-scale cutting of trees for firewood mostly for making charcoal, has denuded mountains, created rapid runoff of tropical rain, which has stripped top soil, washing it with it as it flows into the valley below.

Of the information provided, 5,000 trees were said to be planted the Anse d'Hainault area. This really represents a mere drop in the bucket of the need for reforestation to contain soil erosion and flooding. Until deforestation is abated and reversed, even potable water is becoming shorter and shorter in supply.

During the drive to the area of Jacmel, south of Port-au-Prince, we saw some reforestation and extensive terracing of land that is intended to save topsoil and retain moisture.

RECOMMENDATION (May 1):

- Develop 10 year environmental strategy, including reforestation (millions of trees), flood control, water containment and in school education.

Industry and Labor: Meeting with Gildan

Although it was not on the prearranged tour agenda, at my specific request, a visit was arranged with Canadian company Gildan Active Wear in order to determine the industry and labor realities of Haiti. We arrived at the Gildan plant at 11 a.m. on Apr. 24 and met with Oscar Beravides, who is the manager and director of apparel operations in the company's Port-au-Prince factory. In a short briefing we were able to determine the following statistics:

- Gildan employs 960 workers at this 60,000 square foot location and another 350 at a second plant in Port-au-Prince.
- Workers start out at 70 gourdes (\$2/day), or 490 gouvres for a seven day work week. Haitian law limits the work week to 48 hours before overtime is paid.
- Employees work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a half hour for lunch – 10 hours per day. Lunch in the company cafeteria costs 30 gouvres.
- Experienced workers typically earn 900 gouvres/week (\$28) for a seven day work week.
- Gildan is planning three new 50,000 square foot buildings in the near future for an estimated 2,500 more employees
- All raw material goods come from Canadian and U.S. knitting mills and are cut and processed in plants in the Dominican Republic and Honduras before being sent to Haiti for finishing.

The plant itself was clean and well managed. The jobs are greatly appreciated, as evidenced by an extremely low employee turnover rate compared to similar industries in other countries. Haiti provides an attractive source of low cost, readily trainable, dependable labor in order for Canadian and U.S. textile manufacturers to compete internationally with finished goods at competitive world rates.

Of concern to the overall question of economic growth is if there is a will for some to perpetuate turmoil and instability as leverage to maintain continuing low wages. At present, the low cost of Haitian labor is not only an attraction for foreign businesses to operate in Haiti, but also to businesses in foreign countries adjacent to Haiti, such as the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

RECOMMENDATION (May 1):

- Further examine the relationship of the economy being tied to low cost labour initiatives, domestically and abroad, particularly in Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sustainable Aid to Haiti

While several aid projects are discussed and some visited, one in particular is worthy of note.

The electrification of Jacmel is celebrated as a very successful venture of great worth to the city. However, the fly in the ointment is the development contract that excluded what should have been most obvious: allowances to vary utility charge costs to customers – if world oil prices rise or fall – without having to go to the government of Haiti for approval.

Currently, while the government has approved a small rate increase, they have not approved a rate increase that would come anywhere near to covering cost increases of Diesel fuel. As such, the system is starved of funding, maintenance has suffered, the generator plant is in need of repair and power now is limited to only 18 hours per day. Of note, fuel prices at the gas pumps do reflect world prices, as do other utilities such as cellular phones.

Clearly this is a lesson in the importance of all inclusive contract writing, which leads to the question of whether similar situations are in existence on other projects.

RECOMMENDATION (May 1):

- Utility and infrastructure aid projects should be contingent upon Haiti's ability to sustain and have a much longer duration for development turnover.



When international media reported a magnitude 7 earthquake striking Haiti January 12, disastrously affecting three million people, the world was shocked into collective action. Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, who was in Haiti in 2006, says the world must help Haitians rebuild their nation.

“Canada stands ready to provide any necessary assistance to the people of Haiti during this time of need.” He also spoke to President Obama, and both leaders agreed that Canada and the United States would coordinate our humanitarian response in Haiti.

HAITI RECONSTRUCTION –
“MAKE IT RIGHT”

Without waiting for a formal request from Haiti’s government, which might have taken days considering the chaos in the capital, Port-au-Prince, Canada was the first country to respond and Canadian aid was on the way.

As pictures of the devastation and destruction were shown on television screens and newspaper pages, the Canadian people reached out to the people of Haiti, donating millions of dollars in disaster relief in addition to money already pledged by the federal government.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated,

Canada’s initial response included a Canadian Forces DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) reconnaissance team, with

supplies and expert personnel to assess the situation, that arrived in Haiti January 13. That was followed by a larger deployment of emergency supplies, personnel, and search and rescue helicopters as well as two Canadian naval ships loaded with food, bottled water, medical equipment and humanitarian supplies to provide crucial support. The Government also committed to matching the donations of individual Canadians to the relief

efforts made before February 12, up to \$50 million.

Canada has been a strong supporter of Haiti, the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country,



Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and occupies the western half of the island, with Port-au-Prince as its capital, which was the centre of the earthquake.



giving more than \$100 million annually. Haiti receives more Canadian foreign aid than any country except Afghanistan, and Canada is the second largest donor to the Caribbean country.

However successes have been few and far between. Over the past 20 years of aid, precious few concrete gains have been made.

Haitian demographic and economic growth has been dismal:

- GDP has been flat-lined and is less than it was 20 years ago
- Life expectancy is 61 years
- Infant mortality rate is 5.9%
- Literacy is only 52.9%
- 80% of the population live below the poverty line
- The inflation rate is 15.5%
- Nearly half of Haitian children under five are malnourished
- 28% of those children die of malnourishment
- More than 20% of children between ages 6 and 9 don't attend school
- Only 15% of Haitian teachers meet the academic requirements to teach.

And now this disaster.

I have traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, and I represented the Government of Canada, leading an all-party observer team for Haiti's 2006 parliamentary election. I followed this by writing an extensive report on

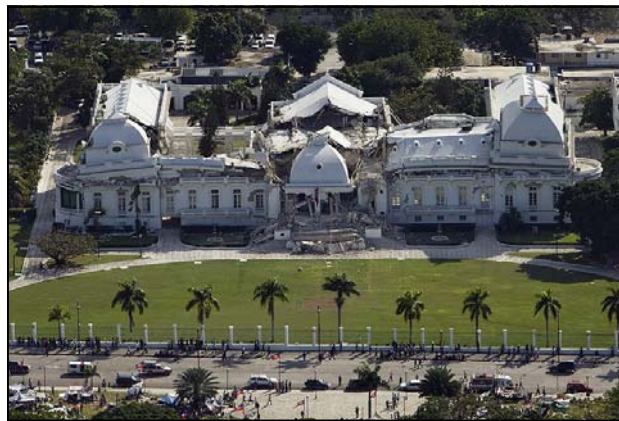
my observations of the island, its economic development and its geopolitical landscape domestically and regionally. It has long been known that for Haiti to lift itself out of its cycle of poverty, corruption and dependency real change was necessary, but there seemed to

be a lack of political will to upset the status quo. I believe that the international community, led by Canada, may have an opportunity to finally allow Haitians to rebuild their society, to make it a country where the people have hope of self sufficiency and not the despair of dependency.

One of the major tasks will be the rebuilding of the capital, Port-au-

Prince. When the bulldozers have cleared the rubble from the earthquake the city will essentially have to be rebuilt from the ground up. It is an opportunity for city planning and development of proper infrastructure, roads, sewers, bridges and proper housing to replace the ramshackle homes that were to be found before the earthquake. The loss of the opulent presidential palace, an extravagance in a land of desperate poverty and despair, might just usher in a new era of hope as buildings are re-built appropriately.

The earthquake destroyed the prison, another landmark of dubious significance. I visited this prison and saw first-hand the unbelievably primitive facilities and the horrendous overcrowded conditions of thousands of prisoners – some there for several years waiting for



The Presidential Palace was badly damaged in the earthquake. The building was considered by some as a symbol of excess in a desperately poor country.



their first day in court. The rebuilding of the bricks and mortar must be accompanied by the rebuilding of the judiciary.

Jacmel, the jewel of foreign aid programs, the hometown of Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean, was flattened as well by the earthquake. In 2006 I visited Jacmel and talked with the Mayor and other citizens. The whole town exuded a confidence and hope for the future. The townspeople showed pride in their progress their freshly painted homes and town buildings gleaming in the Caribbean sun. What a tragedy to have yet another blow strike this town of hope. We must help Jacmel to be rebuilt once again.



The Presidential Palace before the earthquake. France has offered to pay for its reconstruction.

Canada could contribute further by training Haitian teachers, funding Canadian educational institutions to do so, and help build proper schools. In the 1980s, an estimated two per cent of Haitians controlled 44 per cent of the wealth. These conditions - extreme poverty, illiteracy and wealth being controlled by very few - are conditions that make Haiti a country that is ripe for the exploitation of labour. Education is one of the best methods to combat exploitation.

Agriculture is another important area to which Canada can contribute. Part of Haiti's renewal will be the assurance of self-sustainability of food production. Deforestation, due to large-

scale cutting of trees for firewood or making charcoal, has denuded mountains, created rapid runoff of tropical rain, which has stripped top soil, created disastrous flooding and filled in electricity generating dams. Traditional crops, previously exported in quantity, have shrunk measurably. In some areas, food assistance programs that were introduced for hurricane and flood victims years ago had been retained because of low food production levels. Canadian agricultural and reforestation experts could help re-establish a thriving agricultural community. No country has true independence if it cannot feed its citizens.

Canadian assistance must not forget business development. A Canadian clothing manufacturer, Gildan, had one of its three Haitian plants badly damaged. Haitians need family-sustaining jobs. Gildan employed 5,000 workers at family-sustaining wages. While infrastructure is important, family-sustaining jobs are vital for future independence from foreign aid. Haitians don't want dependence and funding, they need family sustaining jobs.

Given Canada's historic close ties with Haiti it makes sense that our nation would be asked to lead worldwide efforts to rebuild Haiti, its economy, infrastructure and its social structure - which has been devastated by the effects of the January 12 earthquake.

I believe that Haiti's positive future will be determined by several factors: stable and effective government, a nation confident in its security and judiciary as well as a nation with economic growth opportunity. Haiti is a country with so much potential, but with little historically of the national stability necessary to achieve it. Perhaps that is why the world community, as it assists in rebuilding the ruined buildings and roads, should also assist this island nation in building democratic conditions and fairness that many nations in the world have taken for granted.

This time around we are starting essentially from scratch. The best thing Canada can do is assist the Haitian people to rebuild, to

“make it right.”

In my view, it is also time for some fresh thinking with respect to the future of Canadian political, economic and humanitarian relationships with the Caribbean, such as that of establishing a permanent platform in the Caribbean to address Canadian-Caribbean interests. I favour consideration of the Turks and Caicos Islands, given its relative political stability, strategic location at the doorway to the Caribbean and the long-standing interest on the part of residents of these islands for a more formal relationship with Canada. All Caribbean nations could also benefit, directly or indirectly, through such a Canadian platform of participation in the Caribbean.

Update: The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Peter MacKay, recently visited Haiti to view the tragedy and assess future reconstruction needs.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Question #1 Should Canada take the lead in the rebuilding of Haiti?

Yes No

Question #2 Should Canada play a stronger role in the Caribbean by way of a regional platform of trade distribution and humanitarian engagement?

Yes No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____



Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

After a somewhat contentious presidential election in February that saw the victory of René Préval, Haitians went to the polls again on April 21 to elect a parliament. **Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring** represented the government of Canada with a special Foreign Affairs Canada election monitoring mission that was sent to Haiti to assist in Haiti's continued democratic growth. Despite less than perfect voter turn out, the elections were free of obvious violence and political acrimony. They looked every bit as democratic as a parliamentary election in Canada, where some voters also forget the intrinsic value of casting a ballot. Mr. Goldring shares his thoughts and observations here

Arriving in Haiti on April 21 to help monitor the parliamentary elections, I was well aware the previous presidential election of Feb. 12 had not gone smoothly; there had been much debate about the election returns. After initially being ahead with 61 per cent of the vote, René Préval's lead shrunk to 49 per cent and once again Haiti was subject to loud demonstrations, burning tires on the streets and accusations of electoral fraud. The confusion that accompanied the elections, and the perception of some impropriety, plagued the results and suggested that Haiti had not yet transitioned to full democracy.



MP Peter Goldring attended Election Central Monitoring location with Jean-Pierre Kingsley of Elections Canada who has directed all operations.

While that election has been criticized by some, I was still impressed by the response of the Caribbean community to ensure that things were finalized properly and that an end result was attained. Almost immediately, nearby nations like Brazil offered their help in determining whether ballots had been lost, stolen or destroyed. Ultimately, along with Brazilian diplomats, the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and the ambassadors from Canada, Chile and the United States decided to recalculate and divide 85,000 blank ballots that had been recorded in the initial vote count and credit all contenders in proportion to the actual votes they received individually. Accord-



ingly, Préval was elected president of Haiti with 51 per cent of the vote. That result has not been questioned by the world community and has certainly been accepted by the Haitian people themselves, who, as I witnessed during my time there, are very enthused about President-elect Préval's opportunities.

Analyzing the political environment in Haiti, I believe that Haiti's positive future will be determined by several factors: A nation with a stable and effective democ-



MP Peter Goldring on right at early morning opening of poll station with U.S. Ambassador Janet Sanderson on left and Dominican Republic Ambassador José Ramia in the centre.

cratic government and a nation confident in its security and judiciary will surely lead to economic growth and prosperity. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, must be allowed time to develop and mature as a democracy. Due to chronic authoritarian governments, it has had precious little of that time to do so in the 202 years since it achieved independence from the French after a revolt in 1804. Perhaps that is why the world community should give this island nation sufficient time to adjust to democratic conditions and fairness that many nations in the world have taken for granted.

Haiti is a beautiful country with so much potential but with little historically of the na-

tional stability necessary to achieve it. Its people welcome jobs at wages that would have seemed exploitive in Depression-era Canada because there are no other alternatives. Haiti now attracts low cost labor industry. As an example, a plant closed in nearby Honduras moved its production to Haiti because labor is less costly. Security and stable government will be keys to bringing prosperity to Haiti.

As a member of a Foreign Affairs Canada delegation that included New Democratic Party Foreign Affairs Critic Alexa McDonough and Bloc MP Thierry St. Cyr, I was honoured to represent the new Conservative government on this election monitoring mission but perhaps even more honoured to play a small role in the growth of democracy that this government stands behind. My first observations of the country confirmed what I had suspected: the paramount importance of security and the need for Haitians to develop a quality of life and economic opportunity that will foster greater political stability.

I believe that security is still a major problem in Haiti, with gang violence so evident. While in Haiti, we traveled everywhere in armoured vehicles with armed officers and



we were told to we couldn't travel to the "red zone," the Cité Soleil section of capital Port-au-Prince, because it was too dangerous. In the past, gangs have been known to kidnap as many as 30 people in one day for ransoms.

My perception was that most Haitians are happy with Préval's election – they see him as a reformer, a democrat and sympathetic for the plight of the average entry factory worker, lucky enough to have a job, who receives about \$2 (CAN) a day and often works a 70 hour

week in order to make a little extra overtime salary. An experienced worker on quota work can make \$4 a day.

With the voter turn out for the parliamentary election was only slightly over 30 per cent, I felt a sense of optimism beginning to pervade this country. While Haitians were not voting in great numbers for the Members of Parliament, it was not because they felt that their vote did not count or that democracy did not matter. They had just elected a new president and this parliamentary election was just not perceived to be as important, which underscores the belief held that most Haitians are not clearly understanding the roles and

benefits to society of Parliament.

Of note was that this election was conducted without acrimony. All told, it was a very successful parliamentary election that was accepted wholesale by Haitians and is

an important step in the democratic process. Haitians are also anxiously awaiting a visit by Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean next month, when she attends the inauguration of newly elected Haitian President René Préval. It will be a unique homecoming for Canada's head of state, as

she returns to the country of her birth.

It is difficult to know when a country like Haiti has turned the corner from chronic instability to the democratic and economic norm. Certainly, you will eventually see it in facts in figures, in successful long-term government, in solid economic indicators like a rising standard of living and reduced poverty. Perhaps you see it first in the faces of the people – when they can begin to smile and start to think optimistically about the future – for themselves, their families and their country.

For all armchair critics who say that turn out could have been higher, I say that



Polling station in Port au Prince showing a good turnout but with UN security vehicle in foreground giving security throughout Haiti

most Haitians, and others like myself, view the issues as being the glass is half-full, not half-empty. While there is much left to do in a possibly long road to Haiti's self-sustainability, this election is a good step forward.



MP Peter Goldring on the right with (from left to right) Bloc Québécois M.P. Thierry St-Cyr, Haiti's interim Prime Minister Gerald Latortue and New Democrat M.P. Alexa McDonough.

Update: Haiti and the international community have built the foundation of democracy. We must wait for the rest of the house to be built. Freedom often takes time to take root, but when it does, it will blossom with the promise of freedom and stability for tomorrow. Haiti is busy today building that future.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Question #1 Should Canada's monetary aid be more focused on security and the rebuilding of education infrastructure in countries like Haiti?

Yes No

Question #2 Should Canada work more closely with CARICOM in establishing a functional democratic society in Haiti?

Yes No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____



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EMBASSY

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Rebuild Haiti and make it right

By Peter Goldring

When international media reported a magnitude 7 earthquake striking Haiti on Jan. 12, disastrously affecting three million people, the world was shocked into collective action.

Without waiting for a formal request from Haiti's government, which might have taken days considering the chaos in the capital, Port-au-Prince, Canada was the first country to respond.

As pictures of the devastation and destruction were shown on television screens and newspaper pages, the Canadian people reached out to the people of Haiti, donating millions of dollars in disaster relief in addition to money already pledged by the federal government.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated: "Canada stands ready to provide any necessary assistance to the people of Haiti during this time of need." He also spoke to President Barack Obama, and both leaders agreed that Canada and the United States would coordinate our humanitarian response in Haiti.

Canada's initial response included a Canadian Forces DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) reconnaissance team, with supplies and expert personnel to assess the situation. That was followed by a larger deployment of emergency supplies, personnel, and search and rescue helicopters as well as two Canadian naval ships loaded with food, bottled water, medical equipment and humanitarian supplies to provide crucial support. The government also committed to matching the donations of individual Canadians to the relief efforts made before Feb. 12, up to \$50 million. That limit was later removed.

Canada has been a strong supporter of Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, giving more than \$100 million annually. Haiti receives more Canadian foreign aid than any country except Afghanistan, and Canada is the second largest donor to the Caribbean country.

However, successes have been few and far between. Over the past 20 years, precious few concrete gains have been made. Haitian demographic and economic growth has been dismal:

- n GDP has been flat-lined and is less than it was 20 years ago;
- n Life expectancy is 61 years;
- n The infant mortality rate is 5.9 per cent;
- n Literacy is only 52.9 per cent;
- n Eighty per cent of the population lives below the poverty line;
- n The inflation rate is 15.5 per cent;
- n Nearly half of Haitian children under five are malnourished;
- n Twenty-eight per cent of those children die of malnourishment;
- n More than 20 per cent of children between ages six and nine don't attend school;
- n Only 15 per cent of Haitian teachers meet the academic requirements to teach.

And now this disaster. I have travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean, and I led an all-party observer team for Haiti's 2006 parliamentary election. I followed this by writing an extensive report on my observations of the island, its economic development and its geopolitical landscape, domestically and regionally.

It has long been known that for Haiti to lift itself out of its cycle of poverty, corruption and dependency, real change was necessary, but there seemed to be a lack of political will to upset the status quo.

I believe that the international community, led by Canada, may have an opportunity to finally allow Haitians to rebuild their society, to make it a country where the people have hope of self-sufficiency and not the despair of dependency.

One of the major tasks will be the rebuilding of the capital, Port-au-Prince. When the bulldozers have cleared the rubble from the earthquake, the city will essentially have to be rebuilt from the ground up. It is an opportunity for city planning and development of proper infrastructure; roads, sewers, bridges and proper housing to replace the ramshackle homes that were to be found before the earthquake. The loss of the opulent presidential palace, an extravagance in a land of desperate poverty and despair, might just usher in a new era of hope as buildings are rebuilt appropriately.

The earthquake destroyed the prison, another landmark of dubious significance. I visited this prison and

saw first-hand the unbelievably primitive facilities and the horrendous, overcrowded conditions of thousands of prisoners—some there for several years waiting for their first day in court. The rebuilding of the bricks and mortar must be accompanied by the rebuilding of the judiciary.

Jacmel, the jewel of foreign aid programs, the hometown of Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean, was flattened as well by the earthquake. In 2006 I visited Jacmel and talked with the mayor and other citizens. The whole town exuded a confidence and hope for the future. The townspeople showed pride in their progress, their freshly painted homes and town buildings gleaming in the Caribbean sun. What a tragedy to have yet another blow strike this town of hope. We must help Jacmel to be rebuilt once again.

Canada could contribute further by training Haitian teachers, funding Canadian educational institutions to do so, and help build proper schools. In the 1980s, an estimated two per cent of Haitians controlled 44 per cent of the wealth. These conditions—extreme poverty, illiteracy and wealth being controlled by very few—are conditions that make Haiti a country that is ripe for the exploitation of labour. Education is one of the best methods to combat exploitation.

Agriculture is another important area to which Canada can contribute. Part of Haiti's renewal will be the assurance of self-sustainability of food production.

Deforestation, due to large-scale cutting of trees for firewood or making charcoal, has denuded mountains, created rapid runoff of tropical rain, which has stripped top soil, created disastrous flooding and filled in electricity-generating dams.

Traditional crops, previously exported in quantity, have shrunk measurably. In some areas, food assistance programs that were introduced for hurricane and flood victims years ago had been retained because of low food production levels. Canadian agricultural and reforestation experts could help re-establish a thriving agricultural community. No country has true independence if it cannot feed its citizens.

Canadian assistance must not forget business development. A Canadian clothing manufacturer, Gildan, had one of its three Haitian plants badly damaged. Haitians need family-sustaining jobs. Gildan employed 5,000 workers at family-sustaining wages. While infrastructure is important, family-sustaining jobs are vital for future independence from foreign aid. Haitians don't want dependence and funding, they need family sustaining jobs.

Given Canada's historic close ties with Haiti, it makes sense that our nation would be asked to lead worldwide efforts to rebuild the country, its economy, infrastructure and social structure—all of which have been devastated.

I believe that Haiti's positive future will be determined by several factors: stable and effective government, a nation confident in its security and judiciary as well as a nation with economic growth opportunity. Haiti is a country with so much potential, but with little historically of the national stability necessary to achieve it. Perhaps that is why the world community, as it assists in rebuilding the ruined buildings and roads, should also assist this island nation in building democratic conditions and fairness that many nations in the world have taken for granted.

This time around we are starting essentially from scratch. The best thing Canada can do is assist the Haitian people to rebuild, to "make it right."

In my view, it is also time for some fresh thinking with respect to the future of Canadian political, economic and humanitarian relationships with the Caribbean, such as that of establishing a permanent platform in the Caribbean to address Canadian-Caribbean interests. I favour consideration of the Turks and Caicos Islands, given its relative political stability, strategic location at the doorway to the Caribbean and the long-standing interest on the part of residents of these islands for a more formal relationship with Canada.

All Caribbean nations could also benefit, directly or indirectly, through such a Canadian platform of participation in the Caribbean.

Peter Goldring is the member of Parliament for Edmonton East.

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<http://embassymag.ca/page/printpage/goldring-01-27-2010>

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS**

DONOR UPDATE



HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

UPDATE FROM HAITI: YOUR DONATION CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to your support, the Canadian Red Cross continues to provide much-needed assistance to the people of Haiti, more than a year and a half after the devastating earthquake that took the lives of thousands of people and injuring many more.

Given the scale of this disaster, the Canadian Red Cross will continue working in Haiti for years to come supporting longer-term recovery activities that include shelter, health, and disaster preparedness and response.

SHELTER

When the disaster first struck, one of the primary concerns was providing emergency shelter to the over 1 million people left homeless. The Red Cross was one of the largest suppliers of emergency shelter, providing more than 172,000 families in 100 camps with shelter supplies. As emergency activities continued very early on in the response, plans to provide longer-term shelter solutions were underway. This includes building earthquake and hurricane resistant wooden shelters and looking into repair options for the homes that were not completely destroyed. All shelters are built in coordination with water and sanitation support, within a reasonable distance to social infrastructure, are culturally accepted and mitigate the risks associated with future disasters.

The Canadian Red Cross has recently passed an important milestone in the shelter program. More than half of the planned 7,500 shelters in Leogane and Jacmel have been built.



THIS YOUNG BOY AND HIS SIBLINGS NOW HAVE A STRONG AND WEATHER-RESISTANT SHELTER IN THEIR SMALL LÉOGANE COMMUNITY.

HEALTH

The Red Cross played a pivotal role in providing emergency medical assistance following the earthquake and cholera outbreak. To date, more than 216,000 people have received medical care at a Red Cross facility, including the Canadian Red Cross Carrefour cholera treatment centre which was handed over to the Haitian Red Cross in March 2011. After months of training local staff and giving them the tools they needed to take over, they were able to support the medical needs of their community themselves.

In addition to the cholera treatment centre, a significant reduction in the number of cholera cases is due in part to the information and prevention campaign undertaken by the Red Cross community health team and volunteers, who continue to go door-to-door to speak directly with families. To date, they have visited more than 6,000 families and distributed more than 170,000 hygiene items, which include bars of soap and water tablets.

Other than providing immediate life-saving assistance, the Canadian Red Cross is focusing on longer-term health interventions. In January 2011, nearly a year after the earthquake, the Canadian Red Cross announced a partnership with Sainte-Justine's Hospital, the Unité de santé international (International health centre) at the Université de Montréal, and the Direction de santé publique (Public health directorate) of the Agence de santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (Montréal health and social services agency) for a new integrated health program for Haiti. This \$25 million five-year program will make it possible to rebuild and strengthen the health care system for the most vulnerable groups in four districts in the country's southeast. It will aim to maximize positive, long-term health outcomes for Haitians by improving access to quality health services for mothers, newborns and children, and by strengthening community resilience in terms of community care and first aid.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Red Cross Disaster preparedness and response activities began right after the earthquake and continue today to ensure communities are ready should they be impacted by another disaster.

These efforts were vital when both Hurricanes Irene and Emily headed towards Haiti in August. Red Cross staff and volunteers worked around the clock to ensure communities were prepared for the impending storms. Preparedness activities included sending millions of text messages with information on how families can prepare, training local disaster response committees, re-inforcing embankments, digging drainage ditches and installing simple early warning systems.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Red Cross is committed to supporting communities in Haiti today and in the years to come. Due to the many vulnerabilities that existed in Haiti before the earthquake, recovery is not just about rebuilding what was lost, but helping communities become stronger, healthier and more resilient.

Thank you for your donation, your contribution is truly making a difference in the lives of thousands of people.

RED CROSS RESPONSE

- 15,260 shelter solutions
- 26,513 hygiene kits distributed
- Over 1,500 patients treated at Carrefour cholera treatment center
- 2,625 Canadian Red Cross shelters built in Leogane
- 1,566 Canadian Red Cross shelters built in Jacmel
- 1,360 water latrines built
- 6 water points established
- More than 216,000 people have received medical care at a Red Cross facility



HAITI RESPONSE FINANCIAL UPDATE JUNE 2011

The Canadian Red Cross has received over \$205 million from generous individuals, corporations, provincial and local governments and the Government of Canada to support Red Cross efforts in Haiti.

As of June 30, 2011 the Canadian Red Cross has spent over \$116 million on emergency and recovery activities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PHASE

Contributions to the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)*	23,840,000
Contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	304,000
Emergency Relief Items	2,003,000
Emergency Response Unit Hospital	3,117,000
Deployment of relief and recovery staff	1,302,000
Cholera Outbreak Response	1,829,000
	\$ 32,395,000

RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION PHASE

Canadian Red Cross shelter program in Jacmel and Leogane	43,331,000
IFRC shelter program	21,770,000
Hurricane preparation activities	3,326,000
Other recovery programming and support	15,427,000
	\$ 83,854,000

CANADIAN RED CROSS SPENDING

Total **\$116,249,000**

* Contributions to IFRC emergencies activities are part of the larger Haiti earthquake response (e.g. relief item distribution, emergency shelter items, medical assistance, and water and sanitation activities)

Based on current assessments, which may change to best meet the needs of affected communities, the Canadian Red Cross anticipates spending in each response phase as follows:



The emergency phase includes activities that meet basic needs, such as the distribution of relief supplies, clean water, medical care (field hospitals) and emergency shelter materials. Recovery work aims to rebuild damaged and destroyed shelter, water and sanitation systems and social/health systems. Long-term development helps communities become stronger, healthier and more resilient, based on the needs within communities. Phases overlap, particularly in Haiti where emergency activities are ongoing as new crises develop.

PLANNED SPENDING

The Canadian Red Cross is committed to supporting communities in the months and years ahead as Haiti recovers and rebuilds. This process is expected to take 10 years.

In addition to spending to date, the funds received will be used to implement programming in community-based health, violence prevention, and disaster preparedness. It will also be used to rebuild health infrastructure and strengthen the disaster response capacity of the Haitian Red Cross.

The bulk of donations will be spent during the recovery phase, where careful planning and community engagement is vital to ensuring a sustainable result.

