

Keeping commitments to the world's poor

NDP **BACKGROUNDER**

Despite great progress among developed nations over the last century, more than a billion people in the rest of the world live on under a dollar a day. Six million die each year from preventable diseases. And every three seconds, another child dies from the effects of extreme poverty.

Canada can afford to help developing nations provide people with education, clean water, sustainable power and life-saving drugs. And most Canadians consistently say that they want to see their country play this compassionate role. Yet Prime Minister after Prime Minister keeps breaking key commitments to the world's poor.

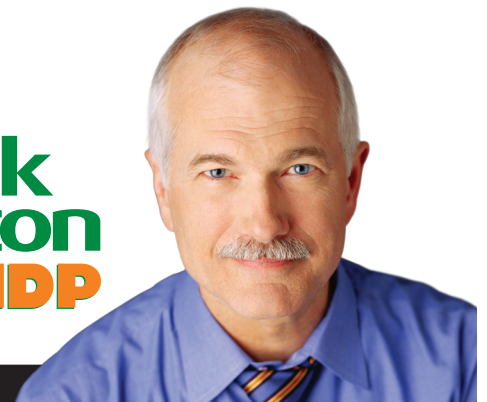
Four years after Canada promised affordable medicines to save lives in Africa, not one pill has been shipped. And while Stephen Harper found billions of dollars to subsidize his powerful friends in big oil, Canada has fallen further behind to its lowest-ever ranking among international donor countries.

It doesn't have to be this way.

It's time for a Prime Minister who shares your compassionate priorities. A Prime Minister who will keep Canada's commitments to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Jack Layton will be that Prime Minister.

Don't let them tell you it can't be done.

**Jack
Layton**
NDP



Stephen Harper can't be trusted.

- After promising to reverse Liberal cuts by boosting Canadian aid levels to the OECD average by 2010, he let aid spending fall from 0.34% to 0.32% of national income—nowhere near the 0.7% target urged by the UN.
- While he short-changed foreign aid, Harper squandered \$50-billion on tax cuts for Canada's most profitable corporations—including banks that profit off poor countries' desperation, and brand-name drug companies that price life-saving drugs out of Africa's reach.
- After criticizing Liberals for not delivering promised generic medicines to fight AIDS, malaria and other diseases in Africa, Stephen Harper's Conservatives haven't shipped one pill either—four years after Canada promised to help.
- Development experts like Jeffrey Sachs say that most new money that Harper classifies as "aid" is really going to security budgets in Afghanistan, not to development assistance.

Stephane Dion is not the change we need.

- He instructed his MPs to rubber-stamp Harper's plan to spend \$50-billion on corporate tax cuts instead of finally keeping Canada's commitments to the world's poorest people.
- With Dion at the cabinet table, even with record surpluses, Liberal governments cut spending on aid from 0.44% of national income (1993) to a miserly 0.23% (2004)—and broke their promise to ship generic medicines to Africa. That's not the change we need.

Jack Layton's New Democrats: Solutions for the world's poor.

This election, Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats will present a plan to provide better aid, forgive immoral debt, fight preventable disease, and make trade fairer. Already, Layton's team has led the way in Parliament.

- Introduced a motion to **make aid more effective** by making poverty-reduction and human rights promotion its main goals, improving accountability for results, and strengthening NGO partnerships.
- Pressured Harper to **respond to humanitarian emergencies**—including helping 20-million victims of the South Asian floods, and acting to avert humanitarian catastrophe in Sri Lanka and Darfur.
- Consistently pressed Conservative and Liberal governments to ensure Canada does its part to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals**—including committing to devote 0.7% of national income to international aid.
- Exposed **Conservative rhetoric on aid in Afghanistan**—where for each dollar Canada spends on humanitarian aid, nearly ten dollars go into counter-insurgent combat operations.
- Earlier, When Jack Layton **rewrote the 2005 Liberal budget**, he stopped \$4.6-billion in corporate tax giveaways and invested in better priorities—including an urgently-needed \$500-million boost for international aid.