



# 2011-2012 Annual Report

Prepared March 2012

## CCRDA 2011-2012 Annual Report – March 2012

### 1 Overview of CCRDA

The Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is comprised of organizations and individuals who are committed to integrated, transformational development. CCRDA was previously known as the Relief and Development Group (R&D Group) of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). The group was formed in 1984, and since that time it has provided a forum for members to encourage one another, cooperate, share expertise, respond to changes in their field, and speak with one voice on social and policy issues. CCRDA was officially incorporated in June 2006 and received charitable status in May 2007 (retroactive to January 2007). The elected Board of Directors governs CCRDA.

### Activities April 2011 - March 2012

#### Advocacy and Positioning

##### Membership with CCIC

At our last workshop in Mississauga, many of our members had the opportunity of hearing the CEO/President of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), Julia Sanchez, speaking on the issue of partnership. At that time, Julia and Board Member Phil Tanner discussed the benefits of CCRDA membership in CCIC next year. The issue was raised at CCRDA's board meeting in December and a motion was carried to circulate an update to our members regarding membership.

There are a number of benefits to being part of CCIC. In particular, CCIC promotes the following:

- A Distinct Voice: A common identify for civil society groups and NGOs, consisting of (presently) over 90 members.
- Effective Analysis: A source for latest trends in Canadian aid spending and practice. Policy is analyzed and compared with donor practices around the world.
- Network Opportunities: Direct contact with key sector leaders, knowledge sharing and providing a 'learning environment.'
- Ethics: Standards of operation, openness, transparency and accountability. CCIC's Code of Ethics are available on their website. The Code outlines the principles of development, standards for partnership, governance, management and human resources, as well as fund-raising communications and financial management.
- Advocacy: CCIC is influential and has proven to be an effective watchdog, as quoted by Ottawa's newsweekly *Embassy*.

The Council has a proven track record in government policy and a strong profile in Canada. CCIC has represented Canadian Civil Society in a number of international forums and has been effective in tracking and analyzing Canadian Official Overseas Development Assistance.

The board, along with the approval of our membership, agreed that these areas would add considerable value to the work of CCRDA. Furthermore, CCRDA members who are not already members of CCIC would gain access to many of the benefits of CCIC membership through CCRDA's membership. CCRDA has been pre-approved for membership by CCIC and is currently in the process of completing the membership package.

### **Letter to the Ministry of Finance**

One of the objectives of CCRDA is to *create a united Christian voice by advocating together from a Christian perspective for social and policy changes on international relief, development and justice issues to federal and provincial governments and agencies.*

In February 2012, CCRDA worked alongside Ron Knechtel (C.A., C.M.A. and a retired Advisor to the 4Cs) to send a letter to the Ministry of Finance regarding the disparity between Canada's stated affirmations of aid effectiveness policies and the current Income Tax Act as interpreted by CRA's Guidance for activities overseas. Specifically, the letter addressed the inconsistency of the requirement for activities to be "carried on by the organization itself" and the principle of local "ownership" for effective development.

CCRDA, along with the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of Canada, submitted this letter to the Ministry of Finance on February 17, 2012. On March 6, CCRDA received a note stating that the letter will be brought to the attention of the Minister of Finance, Honourable James M. Flaherty, as soon as possible.

### **Annual Forum**

CCRDA's 2012 Forum on Relief and Development will take place on November 20-22 at the Grande Rockies Resort in Canmore, Alberta. World-renowned Christian social activist and theologian Ron Sider will be the keynote speaker as we explore the theme *Understanding Integrated Transformational Development*. Plenary sessions and panel discussions will help participants understand and articulate this core value of our association and our membership.

Ron Sider is Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry and Public Policy and Director of the Sider Center on Ministry and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary and Presidents of Evangelicals for Social Action. A widely known evangelical speaker and writer, Sider has spoken on six continents, and published thirty-one books and scores of articles. His ***Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*** was recognized by Christianity Today as one of the hundred most influential religious books of the twentieth century, and was named the seventh most influential book in the evangelical world in the last fifty years.

### **Finances**

In early 2012, CCRDA had an external audit of the 2011 fiscal year by McClurkin Ahier & Company LLP. No issues were identified. The financial statements have been approved by the Board and sent to the membership for approval at the AGM.

### **Membership**

We are pleased to report that CCRDA has 37 members, including 36 organizations and one individual. This year, CCRDA's membership campaign took place in January for the second time. Over eighty membership kits were sent to Canadian Christian relief and development agencies that are not yet members. The Board followed up with telephone calls. Based on expressed interest, past trends and plans to strengthen outreach, we are anticipating a growth in membership in 2012.

The following membership was approved by the Board since the last AGM: Compasio. As well, ACTS applied for membership in February, 2012. These members will be ratified by the membership during the AGM.

In early March, membership renewal invoices were sent to all members except the Salvation Army, Crossroads, EMCC, and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. When we have received their revenue totals for relief and development in 2011 we will send their invoice. Several agencies have indicated to our Board their interest in applying for membership.

**Membership Totals 2005-2012**

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
27 including 2 associate members	27 including 2 associate members	28 including 1 associate and 1 individual member	33 including 1 associate and 2 individual members	34 including 1 associate and 2 individual members	35 including 3 associate and 2 individual members	38 including 3 associate and 2 individual members	37 including 3 associate and 1 individual member

**Current Members**

ACTS *	Lifeline Malawi Association
ADRA Canada	Mennonite Central Committee Canada (Associate)
Africa Inland Mission International (Canada)	The Leprosy Mission Canada
The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission Inc.	Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada
Asian Outreach International (Canada)	Ontario Christian Gleaners
BethanyKids Canada	Partners Relief & Development Canada
CAUSE Canada	The Salvation Army Canada
CBM Canada	Samaritan's Purse Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada	SIM Canada
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	Visionledd
Compasio *	Watoto Canada
Compassion Canada	The Wellspring Foundation for Education
Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.	Word & Deed Ministries
Emmanuel International Canada	World Hope Canada
Engineering Ministries International Canada	World Relief Canada

ERDO	World Vision Canada
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada Global Initiatives	Wycliffe College (Associate)
FIDA	Will Postma (Individual Member)
Food for the Hungry Canada (Associate)	

\* To be ratified by membership at the AGM

## Newsletter

CCRDA's newsletter, *Now That's Progress*, is distributed to members quarterly. The publication is also available at [www.ccrda.ca](http://www.ccrda.ca). For each issue, member agencies are invited to write about a specific theme in addition to submitting general news and announcements. This publication is meant to act as a forum where members can keep each other informed, share their knowledge and learn from others' best practices. Since last June, the themes have been: women and children's health, economic empowerment, fighting famine and food security, and work in the policy arena. If you have an idea for a future theme, please let us know!

## Staff

Elizabeth Faulkner resigned as part-time Coordinator after a one-year maternity leave which she began in December 2010. Joella De Boer was hired as the permanent replacement as part-time Coordinator in November 2011.

## Website

The Best Practices Online Forum is available for members to use. We are all very busy with planning, implementing, and reporting on projects, but in order to design the most effective interventions, we need to stay informed. This is the impetus for the Best Practices Forum. It is a space for sharing the extensive and varied knowledge and experiences of our member organizations, as well as outside sources, for the improvement of on-the-ground programming by all of us, around the world. Both searchable and easy to browse, the objective of the Forum is to be a dynamic online library of CCRDA Best Practice knowledge, a single efficient source for the information your organization needs most.

The site contains a wealth of information, including contemporary theory, program case studies, statistical reports, and practical manuals. While these are important assets, the true wealth of the Best Practices Forum comes from CCRDA members. You can access materials posted by your CCRDA partners, as well as post your own. Take advantage of this opportunity, and help make it the best resource it can be, by posting relevant program reports, successful funding applications, practical manuals, baseline surveys, and philosophical and spiritual foundations.

## Workshops

In November 2011, the CCRDA hosted one-day workshops in Mississauga and Surrey with the theme “Joining Forces: A CCRDA Workshop on Inter-agency Collaboration”. In Surrey, there were 26 participants representing 16 organizations. Gary Edmonds, President of Breakthrough Partners, presented on the topic: “A Framework and Process for Establishing Strategic Partnerships”. In Mississauga, there were 29 participants representing 17 organizations. Kent Hill, World Vision USA, presented on the topic: “The Distinctly Christian Challenge and Opportunity of Partnerships”.

At the workshops, we affirmed that CCRDA is a catalyst/hub which is meant to create connection points and bring people together. The starting point is that we all have something in common—we are working to alleviate poverty around the world as ambassadors for Christ’s Kingdom. We share a common pursuit of overcoming the causes and effects of poverty and injustice. As Christians, we share a common faith that shapes our identity, our approaches, our values, and our goals. On the basis of these commonalities, we agreed there are several reasons we should work together:

- 1) We all have something to learn and we all have something to share
  - If we can learn from the successes, mistakes, and strengths of others, why would we re-invent the wheel?
  - In the work we do, we all learn lessons that would be valuable to someone else.
  - So collaboration is about being humble enough to take advice from another and being concerned enough about another’s work that we take the time to share our advice when it’s needed.
  - Give & Take – We can’t just ask everyone else for ideas to help us reach our goals. We have to be ready to use the lessons we’ve learned to strengthen the work of others.
  - We all come out stronger in the end.
  - You might feel like sharing ideas takes up valuable time that you should be spending on your organization’s goals and programs. But if it allows all of us to do what we do better, ultimately we’ll make greater strides in fulfilling our common purpose.
- 2) We can combine strengths instead of trying to be experts in everything
  - Maybe you have a great education program, but you see that the community you’re in really needs improved health services – an area where you may lack experience. Is there an organization that has strong expertise in delivering health programming that can use the foundation of relationships and community engagement you already have in place combined with their strengths in healthcare to meet this need more effectively than you would have been able to accomplish alone?
  - eMi for example – Most organizations don’t have professional engineers at their disposal, and while eMi designs schools and hospitals, they don’t try to be experts in education or healthcare.
  - So we can draw on each other’s strengths not only by learning from one another, but by working together.
- 3) As Christians, we are part of One Body
  - 1 Cor. 12:7 - The gifts we are given are for the benefit of the whole body
  - Gal. 6:2 - We are told to bear one another’s burdens
  - Eccl. 4:12 – A strand of three cords is not easily broken
  - What does not characterize the Body of Christ is competition, self-preservation, pride, jealousy, and anxiety – all things that stop us from working together

- Aside from the purely practical benefits of working together when we can both gain from the relationship, there is also an inherent value in simply being willing to help one another as members of a common body.

All of this is not to say that we should undertake every task in partnership with a multitude of other agencies. But strategic collaboration with other agencies is an important component of effectively achieving our own goals and our common purpose, as well as evidence that we are part of a body bigger than ourselves.

## **2 Current Goals and Objectives**

- ◆ UNITED CHRISTIAN VOICE: *Advocating together from a Christian perspective for social and policy change on international relief, development, and justice issues to federal and provincial governments and agencies.*
- ◆ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION: *Providing an annual members' consultation for group reporting, interaction, and decision-making.*
- ◆ ANNUAL FORUM: *Holding an annual forum for sharing information and expertise, networking, and dialogue.*
- ◆ JOINT STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:
  - *Encouraging cooperation, fostering partnerships and leveraging our resources and capacities in order to maximize the impact of our programs*
  - *Working together to address issues and topics of common interest*
  - *Facilitating joint learning opportunities*
  - *Stimulating joint publicity and promotion*
- ◆ CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT: *Enabling, engaging and mobilizing our constituencies.*

## **3 Finances**

The chart attached as **Appendix A** outlines the following:

- 2011 Budget and Actual
- 2012 Budget and YTD Actual to February 29, 2012 (2 months)

## **4 Board**

### **4.1 2011-2012 Board Members**

Chair	Julia Trotter*	Africa Inland Mission International (Canada)
Vice-Chair	Steve Clarke	Compassion Canada

Director	Ida Kaastra Mutoigo	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Director	John Rose	SIM Canada
Director	Kelvin Honsinger	ERDO
Director	Patrick Canagasingham	World Vision Canada
Director	Phil Tanner	Christian Children's Fund of Canada

Kathy Elias has served as Treasurer (non-director) since July 2011 when Grace Cheung resigned.

\* Julia Trotter served as Chair of the Board until February 2012 when she went on maternity leave. The Board is very grateful for Julia's dedicated leadership on the Board during this time. Phil and Patrick will be sharing the role as co-Chairs of CCRDA for the next six months.

#### **4.2 Board Responsibilities**

As a whole, the Board provides direction and vision for CCRDA. Board members are expected to be in tune with membership needs and to seek ways of supporting members. This year, Board members have each taken on at least one area of oversight. General responsibilities of the Board include:

- Developing and maintaining a strategy for CCRDA to be a Christian voice in the Canadian international development arena.
- Initiating and maintaining activities that will benefit the majority of CCRDA members, while contributing to the achievement of the CCRDA objectives (i.e. briefs on specific issues, brochures, articles in local newspapers or national papers, etc).
- Maintaining a relevant database of key information related to the activities of the members, thus enhancing the potential for linkages and collaborative efforts in Canada and overseas.
- Maintaining links with relevant groups and coalitions in North America (i.e. CIDA, CCIC, AERDO, Make Poverty History) and internationally (i.e. Micah Network, Micah Challenge).
- Representing the membership at key meetings and functions (i.e. CIDA meetings, etc.)
- Ensuring that members are updated frequently on CCRDA activities.
- Developing and monitoring an annual CCRDA budget.

Specifically, Board members commit to:

- A 2-year term, with the possibility of renewal at the end of that term.
- Participating in 80% of Board meetings. These are held approximately every month, and most are conducted via conference call. Face-to-face meetings occur semi-annually or as needed.
- Participating in e-mail discussions among Board members regarding CCRDA initiatives.
- Updating Board members on recent conferences or discussions in which they may have participated.



- Attending the annual CCRDA members' consultation.
- Potentially serving as Chair of a sub-committee (i.e. Forum Committee, Development Education Committee, Issues Committee).
- Fairly representing the views of the entire CCRDA Board when in situations where s/he is identified as a Board member.

#### **4.3 Role of the Board Chairperson**

- The Chair of the Board will coordinate overall functions and activities of the Board and work closely with the CCRDA Coordinator, dividing up functions between the two accordingly.
- The Chair will call Board meetings and establish the agenda for those meetings in collaboration with the CCRDA Coordinator.
- The Chair will represent the Board and CCRDA at key events and functions, but not exclusively. The task should be shared as needed and possible with other members of the Board.

### **5 Committees**

#### **5.1 Forum Committee**

The Forum Committee has organized the CCRDA Relief and Development Forum to be held November 20-22 in Canmore, Alberta. The theme for this year's Forum is theme *Understanding Integrated Transformational Development*. Volunteers are invited to join the committee to continue planning Forum 2012.