

We need to develop a foreign aid policy that addresses the real challenges facing developing countries. It's not about just money, but about providing help in finding solutions to the underlying challenges. A hand up, not a hand out.

Canada is a “have” nation, yet we have fallen down on our responsibilities to help others. That, in my view, is a key Liberal value – we are citizens of the world. And because we can help, we have an obligation to do so.

But the world has changed. We simply can't be the “peacekeepers” we once were, and of which we were rightly so proud. But we can, and should, engage our resources in promoting peace, in assisting where we can in the areas of human rights, democratic reforms, and health – not driven by ideology or religious views, but based on finding practical solutions.

We are not a superpower, we never were – but we were, and can again be, respected for our ability to engage in thoughtful diplomacy and intelligent involvement on the international stage. We know that money alone is not the answer – indeed, sending money, food, and other resources to countries with corrupt or mismanaged governments and systems may do no good. We must focus much more on providing **intelligent** foreign aid. **Intelligent** financial help (following the money and ensuring its use where needed) that is used to change how things are done for the better, not simply to offer band-aids. The goal must be creative resources, assistance, and solutions to specific agricultural, health, education, management, and governance challenges. That's what Canada should be doing.