



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 16, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year, through the 2024 Share Lent Campaign, “Reaping Our Rights”, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada reminds us that everywhere on Earth, and especially in the Global South, impoverished peoples are facing growing challenges. Rural populations in particular are negatively impacted. As a people of Christian faith, animated by the social teaching of the Church, we defend rural communities’ rights to life, land, water, biodiversity, justice, health, participation in decent livelihoods, and a healthy environment.

I encourage you wholeheartedly to join the “Reaping Our Rights” campaign through its Lenten and fall phases by:

- donating generously to the Share Lent collection, especially on Solidarity Sunday, which is always on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Solidarity Sunday falls on March 17th, this year.
- participating in the education and action campaign that will take place in the fall of 2024. This element of the campaign will encourage our country Canada to do more for small-scale farmers and peasants around the world.

For fifty-seven years, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada has encouraged Canadians to build a world of justice and confront the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality.

As our Holy Father said, “Today, too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!” (Pope Francis 2013 at Installation Mass, Rome).

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Let us stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South, who are met with increasing inequality and hardship. Let us be the “light of hope” emanating from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

✠Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton