

Canadians ready to act against hunger

World Food Day poll shows concern is high

A new Ipsos survey commissioned by the international development organizations Development and Peace and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank reveals that a majority of Canadians are concerned about world hunger and want to take action in the struggle against it.

Released today on World Food Day, the survey, which had 1,002 respondents from across the country, showed that over 60 per cent of Canadians are concerned about world hunger, and that 65 per cent believe that funding programs that support small family farmers in developing countries to be the most effective way to reduce hunger.

Canadians, however, underestimated the number of those suffering from hunger, with 42 per cent placing the number below 500 million, and another 26 per cent admitting to not knowing. The United Nations World Food Programme estimates that there are actually 805 million undernourished people in the world today.

The survey also indicated that a majority of Canadians believe that they can play a role in the fight against world hunger, mainly by



Peasant women in Haiti are earning better incomes from their crops thanks to support from Development and Peace. CONTRIBUTED

donating to organizations that support small family farmers in developing countries, calling on the Canadian government to increase funding for international aid aimed at helping small family farmers, and by making lifestyle changes, such as wasting less food.

The theme for this year's World Food Day is Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth, which highlights the essential role

of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty.

"We have seen time and again how our programs that support small family farmers can have a real impact on the quality of life of their families and their communities," says Michael Casey, Executive Director of Development and Peace.

"It is really encouraging to see that Can-

adians are making the connection that small family farmers need our solidarity if we want to see an end to hunger, and are willing to show that solidarity through concrete actions," he added.

Development and Peace works with grassroots organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East whose projects are aimed at eradicating poverty and addressing issues of injustice faced by groups that are marginalized, such as women and indigenous communities.

The organization is currently running a campaign called Sow Much Love that draws attention to the challenges faced by small family farmers in developing countries, including diminishing access to seeds. As part of the campaign, Canadians across the country are signing a petition to ask that Canadian policies and programs support small family farmers, and protect their right to preserve, use, and exchange seeds.

"When a mother in Haiti tells you that she can now send her children to school because her crops can fetch a fair price, it is truly uplifting. We want to make sure that we keep going in the right direction, and Canadians can help do that," said Mr. Casey.

To learn more about Development and Peace, visit devp.org.

SOW
Small family farmers feed the world
Much Love

Together, we can end world hunger!

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