

February 11, 2008

Honourable Beverley J. Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Dear Minister,

Thank you for responding to our November 15, 2007 letter concerning the Canadian-financed Three Gorges Dam in China.

We are relieved to know that the Canadian International Development Agency has not provided any further support to this disastrous dam project since funding the \$14 million feasibility study that recommended its construction. Moreover, CIDA's support for "legal aid for the disadvantaged, protecting the rights of migrant workers, and building the capacity of Chinese civil society groups" is a welcome change of direction.

But none of this addresses our main point. We believe Canada has an obligation to share responsibility for the Three Gorges dam's extraordinary human and environmental costs given its role as lead international promoter and financier through the 1980s and 1990s.

Your letter fails to acknowledge that Canada's support for Three Gorges did not, in fact, end with CIDA's feasibility study or even the Tiananmen Square massacre. Between 1995 and 1997, Canada's Export Development Canada provided \$178 million in loans for turbines from General Electric Canada as well as project management training provided by AGRA Monenco.

The people forcibly displaced by the Three Gorges dam – many of them cheated out of compensation, replacement land and promised jobs – are precisely the people that would stand to benefit from the support CIDA is now offering China's disadvantaged, migrant workers, and citizens groups.

So we ask you again: will CIDA assist the people disadvantaged by the Canadian-financed Three Gorges dam?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Adams', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patricia Adams
Executive Director

cc.: The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Diane Bourgeois, MP (Bloc Quebecois)
Keith Martin, MP (Liberal Party of Canada)
Alexa McDonough (New Democratic Party)