



January 13, 2010

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism
Jean Edmonds Building
South Tower, 21st Floor
365 Laurier Street West
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

Dear Minister:

Re: Earthquake in Haiti

I write to you on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA). The CBA is a national association representing 38,000 jurists across Canada. We work to promote the Rule of Law and improve the administration of justice in Canada and around the world. We are writing to request that the government expedite processing of immigration applications for those affected by the recent earthquake and humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

The CBA is gratified for our government's commitment for urgent humanitarian assistance for Haiti. News reports state that the urban areas of Haiti have been hardest hit, and the death toll could reach 500,000. We are acutely aware of the significant devastation to the infrastructure of the country. Another significant way that Canada can extend assistance is by bringing those with ties to Canada to our country on an expedited basis.

We applaud the government's previous immigration initiatives to help those affected by natural disasters. Most recently, Canada expedited the processing of more than 400 immigration applications to help victims of Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines reunite with close family members in Canada. As you said in relation to that effort, "Canada has a proud tradition of helping Canadian citizens and permanent residents reunite with their family members abroad when natural disasters occur." We wholeheartedly agree. We believe it is imperative that the Canadian government act now to mitigate the effects of the earthquake on Haiti's vulnerable population.

We are establishing a website with a list of Canadian immigration lawyers who are willing to work *pro bono* to assist those with relatives in Haiti to complete necessary sponsorship applications and other documentation.

The Canadian Bar Association stands behind the government's efforts to alleviate the suffering of those affected by natural disasters around the world, and will do what we can to assist that effort.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by D. Kevin Carroll)

D. Kevin Carroll