



January 15, 2010

Message from the President

Helping Earthquake Relief Efforts in Haiti

Many CBA members have shared with me their desire to reach out and help in the wake of this week's massive earthquake in Haiti. As members of a helping profession, we are ready and willing to offer our assistance and support.

With this in mind, I have written to the federal minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Hon. Jason Kenney, asking for his assistance and intervention in dealing with this crisis. I have asked him to take immediate steps to expedite the processing of immigration applications for those affected by the earthquake. We are urging the government to complement its humanitarian assistance with a program to bring Haitians with ties to Canada to our country on a priority basis.

- [Letter to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism](#)

Members of our national Citizenship and Immigration Law Section have offered their expertise, *pro bono*, to help review the applications and necessary paperwork for Canadians and permanent residents who wish to sponsor family members living in Haiti. These lawyers' names, along with a description of how to take advantage of their services, will be posted on our CBA website early next week.

As individuals, we can also choose to make a financial contribution. The federal government will match individual donations to registered Canadian charities aiding relief efforts in Haiti. Our dollars will deliver water, temporary shelter and medical supplies to those who have lost everything. For your convenience, here is a list of registered charities accepting donations.

Canadian Red Cross

www.redcross.ca/helpnow

1-800-418-1111 or at any Red Cross office

The Salvation Army

www.salvationarmy.ca

1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

The Humanitarian Coalition (CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam-Quebec, Save the Children)

www.humanitariancoalition.ca

Médecins Sans Frontières

www.msf.ca

1-800-982-7903 or 416-964-0619

I know our kindness and generosity can and will make a difference.

Thank you.

(Original signed by D. Kevin Carroll)

D. Kevin Carroll, Q.C., L.S.M.