



January 6, 2020

Via email: Karina.Gould@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Karina Gould, PC, MP
Minister of International Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Gould:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association to extend congratulations to you as the new Minister of International Development for the Government of Canada.

The CBA is a national association representing over 36,000 jurists, including lawyers, notaries, law teachers and students across Canada. We promote the rule of law, access to justice and effective law reform, with expertise on how the law touches the lives of people every day. The CBA is committed to the values of an independent judiciary, an independent legal profession and the dignity of the individual.

Through our International Initiatives Department (CBAIL), we look forward to working together with the government on global access to justice and rule of law programming, as prioritised in Pillar 6 of the Feminist International Assistance Policy and the United Nation's SDG 16.

CBAIL has 30 years of experience delivering international justice system reform and capacity building projects in over 30 countries across Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. Our member volunteers play an important role in many of our projects, giving technical expertise and sharing practical, hands-on experience. Our projects have supported public interest and constitutional litigation, human rights training for lawyers, access to justice through legal aid for disadvantaged groups including women, youth and children, constitution building, capacity building for the legal profession, as well as strengthening government law and policy making capacities and the administration of justice.

Building on our Canadian experience, the expertise of our membership and our institutional linkages in Canada and overseas, we take an integrated approach to legal and justice reform. We have developed and delivered programs with the legal profession, judiciaries, ministries of justice and civil society organizations in our partner countries.

Global Affairs Canada has generously provided program funding for most of our program work. We thank you for the past support and look forward to collaborating with you and the GAC professionals to continue this important work across the globe.

We would be pleased to give you more information on our current programming and to discuss future initiatives and the role of CBAIL in Canada's international development plans and priorities.

Sincerely,

(original letter signed by Vivene Salmon)

Vivene Salmon