



CANADIAN  
FEDERATION  
OF NURSES  
UNIONS

WWW.NURSESUNIONS.CA  
INFO@NURSESUNIONS.CA

2841 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1V 8X7  
CANADA

T 613-526-4661  
F 613-526-1023

1-800-321-9821

February 21, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

**Re: Reverse decision to suspend UNRWA funding**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) is joining the call of six Canadian labour unions representing now over 2.5 million workers to raise concern about the recent announcement by the Government of Canada to suspend funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). They are the primary aid agency for Palestinian refugees in Gaza and throughout the region. In the interest of safety and security for millions of Palestinians, we urgently request that you reverse this decision.

UNRWA is an irreplaceable aid organization relied upon by millions of Palestinians for over 7 decades. It is particularly cruel for large donor countries to deny this critical organization its funding at this time, considering the current catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Interim measures announced for funding to other aid organizations are not a sufficient response and do not mitigate the devastating impact the suspension of funding will have on the work of UNRWA.

We also want to draw your attention to Doctors Without Borders who [warned](#), "The consequences these cuts in funding will have on the ground contradict the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice on Friday (26th January, 2024), which include immediate measures to ensure sufficient humanitarian aid flows into Gaza."

It is projected that UNRWA will run out of funding at the end of February. We urge you to work alongside fellow donor countries to remedy this situation before that time. We again call on the Government of Canada to reverse the suspension of funding to UNRWA until the UN completes its investigation, which will ensure that the urgently needed, lifesaving aid can continue to reach Palestinians.



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Sincerely,

Linda Silas  
President

Cc: Jan Simpson, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Mark Hancock, National President, Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Bert Blundon, President, National Union of Public & General Employees  
Chris Aylward, National President, Public Service alliance of Canada  
Lana Payne, National President, Unifor  
Marty Warren, Canadian National Director, United Steelworkers  
Bea Bruske, President, Canadian Labour Congress  
The Honourable M. Joly, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable A. Hussen, MP, Minister of International Development  
J. Singh, MP, NDP Leader  
H. McPherson, MP, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic  
B. Rae, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Canada to the  
United Nations in New York