



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT POLICY

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT POLICY

1. RATIONALE

This policy provides the framework and main guidelines for the PWRDF Public Engagement Program.

2. DEFINITIONS

Public Engagement: the continuous journey along which we move from awareness of global justice issues to informed action that is rooted in faith and responsive to gospel call for social transformation. (Approved by the Public Engagement Committee, April 2002).

Membership: PWRDF membership refers to individuals, parishes and dioceses within the Anglican Church of Canada.

3. VALUES

Prophetic Hope

Our incarnational experience of God inspires us to seek hope and resist despair.

Compassionate Action for Transformation

Our roots in the prophetic tradition and our belief in the sacredness of life compel us to denounce forces that destroy life and announce our hope that God is alive in movements that are dedicated to social transformation.

Diversity and Participation

All human beings, created in the image of God have a fundamental dignity regardless of their background, identity, status, ability, accomplishment or belief. As people of faith we strive towards this vision of life in all its fullness.

Stewardship

Generous offerings of time, talent and treasure are a faithful expression of Christian witness.

Solidarity

Our partners, the people most affected by the world's inequality, have a right to be the authors of their own development. In relationship with them, we seek to accompany and support them on this journey to self-determination.

4. PRINCIPLES

Our Public Engagement Program is informed by the following principles:

Prophetic Hope

Faith-based social transformation is rooted in community. Anglicans are involved in PWRDF through their parish community and seek the company of others in local ecumenical groups and regional, national and international networks. PWRDF is

committed to acting in concert with faith communities on issues of common concern and to join with wider social movements of people seeking alternatives.

Compassionate Action for Transformation

Awareness of root causes of social and global injustice leads to long-term commitment to social transformation.

Diversity and Participation

Discrimination and exclusion are barriers to participation that require systemic and sustained efforts to transform.

Stewardship

PWRDF seeks to be a vehicle for generosity and a part of the stewardship of every parish.

Solidarity

In partnership with the South we seek to engage people in Canada in addressing issues of crisis, justice and peace.

5. GUIDELINES

Our principles are translated into the following actions.

Prophetic Hope

PWRDF will nurture and sustain involvement of our membership by:

- *giving priority to the support of Diocesan and Parish leaders;
- *supporting networks of Youth, Refugee advocates and ecumenical committees;
- *providing opportunities for people to meet together, to share their stories, to communicate with each other and to share their faith;
- *mobilizing faith communities as a sector within the broader ecumenical movement and within civil society.

Compassionate Action for Transformation

PWRDF will educate and animate our membership to take informed action for global justice by:

- articulating a faith connection in global education and campaigns;
- applying the principles and practices of popular education;
- inviting donor response beyond the short-term, one-off donation;
- providing a variety of entry points in campaigns – to include newly interested people along with seasoned activists;
- combining time-limited campaigns with ongoing analysis and ensuring that advocacy work is well supported in policy and expertise;
- engaging church leadership at local, national and ecumenical levels.

Diversity and Participation

PWRDF will intentionally address issues of systemic discrimination and exclusion by:

- identifying and enabling sectors in our constituency (age, gender, race, indigenous);
- educating on issues of inclusion;
- giving priority to participation of young people.

Stewardship

PWRDF will cultivate generosity by:

- providing resources and support for volunteers to interpret the PWRDF program;
- recognizing and affirming volunteers;
- providing transparency and accountability to our donors.

Solidarity

PWRDF will demonstrate solidarity by:

- giving priority attention to the issues where we work in partnership;
- promoting positive images of partners as agents of change, not victims or dependents;
- by using sensitivity and discretion in the use of time and resources, to gain first hand experience of partner relationship, without disrupting the work of our partner;
- Avoiding exploitative, demeaning strategies for raising funds and giving priority to partner's needs over donor-driven needs;
- Learning from Southern experiences and perspectives and responding to Southern led campaigns.

APPENDIX 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT BACKGROUND

The organizational development of PWRDF can be seen as a process of deepening engagement. In **1959** the General Synod created the Primate's World Relief Fund as a vehicle for "**Love in Action**".

A. Development

In 1969 "Development" is added to the name based on a recognition that long term needs are not met by short term relief and a desire to address root problems, guided by the principle that the people who are most affected hold the solutions.

"Behind the move to include development in the mandate of the Primate's Fund (1969) was an important theological development – a recognition that it was called to a more prophetic role: at the heart of the Third World's movement out of suffering was a profound plea for justice. For the vast majority of the world's people, nothing short of a transformation of their world would succeed in establishing the beginning of God's kingdom on earth. (We Are the Branches. 15)

Development work is inextricably linked with issues of social, economic, and political justice. There is also a recognition that Development work will lead us toward work for broader solutions and that will necessitates the involvement of our constituency beyond fundraising.

B. Development Education

In 1973 Development Education – faith based action for justice – was mandated by the General Synod:

The Anglican Church of Canada, through its constituency seeks to:

1. Assist persons to understand the struggle for justice as an imperative from the Gospel and to become involved in this struggle in meaningful ways;
2. Address, with the public at large and with organized groups...issues of global economic justice in Canada and the world;
3. Respond in solidarity with overseas churches and groups on issues of global economic justice and development;
4. Encourage critical evaluation of development policies both public and private; promote involvement in support of changes, which will favour the disadvantaged and oppressed...

The evolving sense of mission in the Fund grew to mean standing alongside people who are struggling against the causes of their poverty. The "gap between those who give money as relief and the actual work of the Fund in development" was identified as a source of concern. In 1976, a National PWRDF Development Education Officer was hired by PWRDF.

C. Ecumenical Partnership

Early on in our approach the vehicle for engagement was rooted in a commitment to ecumenism and the Lund principle:

Churches should “act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.”
-World Council of Churches, 1952

In 1973, the ecumenical coalition Ten Days for World Development was launched as a strategy to involve Canadians more actively in the movement towards a more just society.

In 2001, the inter-church coalitions were brought together in the new organization – KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. In addition to five thematic program committees, KAIROS includes a national Education and Animation Program Committee and a regional network of ecumenical communities in Canada.

D. Network Building

In 1976 PWRDF hired national **Development Education** staff and Bishops were invited to appoint a volunteer Dev. Ed. Coordinator in each diocese. In 1977 PWRDF began to support **Refugee** work with both a domestic and international focus in response to the new Immigration Act and a growing global refugee crisis. A Refugee Consultant was hired with global and domestic mandate. In 1984 a Refugee Subcommittee was formed by the National PWRDF Committee to “promote and strengthen the Anglican Church of Canada’s awareness of and response to refugees. One of the first concerns for the Committee was to identify a network through which to work. This work was also grounded ecumenically through the Inter-Church Coalition on Refugees.

E. CIDA

PWRDF has had a funding partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency since 1973. CIDA defines public engagement as “the continuum along which individuals move from basic awareness of international cooperation through understanding to personal involvement and informed action.

F. Parish & Diocesan Partnership

After a series of grassroots Consultations in 1993, PWRDF was called to emphasize the Parish as the basis of PWRDF ministry. The Parish and Diocesan Partnership program was created by combining the development education work with promotion and fundraising efforts as an integrated response by Canadian Anglicans (learn, act, give and pray) to global concerns. The Offering Envelope Program was designed to optimize parish based giving.

In 1995, PWRDF relationships with Dioceses were de-centralized within the PWRDF staff team and Development Coordinators liaised with Diocesan Representatives. Following Incorporation, these relationships were re-centralized within the Parish and Diocesan Partnership Team as a means to coordinate planning and resources in the new structure.

G. Youth Initiative

Youth were named as a priority constituency in the 1996 strategic plan and the beginnings of a national Youth Initiative were formed. In 1999 a Youth Coordinator was hired and in 2000 an Initiative with a three-pronged approach was mandated to include global education, networking, international development. A 12 member National Youth Council with representative from Ecclesiastical provinces has been developed as a reference group for the Initiative.

H. Incorporation

With Incorporation in 2000 the organization was moved to formalize the identification of membership and each Canadian Diocese was added as a voting member while every Anglican was identified as a potential member of the Primate's Fund. Membership was defined in three categories: voting, associate and honorary. The Public Engagement Committee was identified as a sub-committee of the first Board of Directors.

APPENDIX 2 DELEGATION GUIDELINES

PWRDF Delegation Guidelines Draft

This operational guidelines will be followed when seeking PWRDF volunteers as delegate(s)/representative(s) to international events.

Staff will recommend to the Executive if the situation requires an appointment or an application process for participation.

Appointments

The Executive will approve appointments which will be made in writing and include the information related to the **Description of the Opportunity/Event** listed below.

Applications

If the situation requires an application process, staff will produce a short document that summarizes the opportunity and invites volunteers to apply. The summary will include:

Description of the Opportunity/Event

- the purpose and timeframe;
 - the connection with PWRDF;
 - a breakdown of the delegation composition, including: inclusion considerations; language skills; knowledge/expertise;
 - availability requirements including specifics related to preparation, orientation and follow-up;
 - reporting / follow up requirements;
 - parameters on media strategy;
 - assessment of the situation including security and health considerations;
 - travel requirements (passport, visa, travel conditions – i.e. small boats, bad roads, on foot);
- and contribution to the cost (if required).

Description of the selection process including:

- PWRDF contact person;
 - who is being invited to apply;
 - the deadline for applications;
 - information as to how to apply;
- and when the decision will be made by the Executive Committee and how it will be communicated.