



October 24, 2023

Jennifer Luedey
Director of Fund Development
Oxfam Canada
39 McArthur Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8L7

Dear Jennifer Luedey:

I am writing on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), and our more than 425,000 members across the country, regarding Oxfam Canada's humanitarian appeal for Gaza.

NUPGE joins you in feeling absolute horror at the escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza. We were shocked by the deadly October 7 attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians and the taking of hostages. As outlined in NUPGE's public statement on the violence, we unequivocally condemn these heinous acts, which violate international law. We express solidarity with the Jewish people, in Israel and around the world, who are experiencing immense grief and fear.

Following the October 7 attack, Israel's bombardment and siege of Gaza has led to enormous loss of life, injury, and suffering among Palestinians. The violence, coupled with cutting off food, water, fuel, and electricity and the forced displacement of 1.2 million civilians, is inhumane, not to mention a violation of international law. It serves to worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where people have been under occupation and experiencing a blockade for years. Now, human rights and international law experts have warned of an impending genocide in Gaza.

We join Oxfam in refusing to be bystanders in this moment. We join with the many voices, including Jewish and Palestinian people around the world, who call for an end to this horror.



NUPGE.ca

15 Auriga Drive
Nepean, Ontario, Canada
K2E 1B7

e national@nupge.ca
p 613-228-9800
f 613-228-9801

President Bert Blundon
bblundon@nupge.ca
709-727-6892

Secretary-Treasurer Jason MacLean
jmaclean@nupge.ca
902-549-1888

NUPGE will contribute \$20,000 from our John Fryer Fund to Oxfam's appeal to provide urgent humanitarian relief in Gaza. As soon as it is possible to provide humanitarian aid in Gaza, we hope this donation can assist with the much-needed assistance, including food, water, shelter, and health services. Please contact NUPGE Financial Administrator, [Lynda McGuigan](#), to arrange for the transfer of funds. I would ask that you continue to keep my office updated on Oxfam's work and on the humanitarian response. Please continue to contact National Representative [Nadia Ibrahim](#).

NUPGE has called for an immediate ceasefire and for the respect of international and humanitarian law. I am glad to see that Oxfam Canada is also urging the Canadian government to call for an immediate ceasefire and calling for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. We, too, have been dismayed at the insufficient response from many of our elected leaders.

We hope that a ceasefire and meaningful opening of humanitarian corridors will allow for life-saving relief. But we also hope that it is the first step on a path to address the root of the current situation. NUPGE joins the calls for a just and lasting peace in the region, which must include an end to the brutal occupation and apartheid conditions that Palestinians have experienced. Both Israeli forces and Hamas must be held accountable for war crimes.

This is a moment that calls for humanity. It must not be controversial to say that both Palestinians and Israelis are deserving of peace and human rights.

We will continue to stand together with Oxfam and with all people working for peace and justice.

Sincerely,



Jason MacLean
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Ryo Nakane, Philanthropy, Oxfam Canada
Bert Blundon, NUPGE President
National Executive Board