



Creating a Better World
Créer un monde meilleur



January 14, 2010

Her Excellency,
Governor General Michaëlle Jean
Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A1

Your Excellency,

All members of Scouts Canada were saddened to hear of the devastation that struck Haiti on January 12th, 2010. As the International Commissioner and Chief Commissioner of Scouts Canada, we are writing to keep you, the Chief Scout of Canada, informed about Scouts Canada's response to this tragedy.

We have immediately begun to encourage all of our Beaver, Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover sections to donate one week's dues to help support the relief funds. We undertook a similar effort for the tsunami relief program and were able to raise over \$36,000. Of course if groups wish to do more to help provide relief, we will support them in those efforts as well. We will be collecting donations here in Canada and forwarding these to the Red Cross to support the relief efforts for Haiti.

The World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) is also taking action. In a message sent out to all National Scouting organizations around the world the Secretary General Luc Panissod stated the following: "I am sending an immediate message of support to my counterpart in the "Association des Scouts d'Haiti" to offer aid and support from Canadian Scouts." In the longer term we will be in contact with WOSM to try and organize rehabilitation and reconstruction projects through Scouts Canada's World Brotherhood Fund. The projects that we fund help teams of Canadian Scouts participate in community development projects around the world.

We have also contacted Scouts et Guides de France who have developed a long lasting cooperation process with this NSO and have several direct contacts there. They received some news through one of their young volunteers who sent a reassuring e-mail to his family but they have heard nothing since then. We are in constant contact with French Scouting and we continue to attempt to contact the Haiti NSO by phone, but so far have not received a response.

We are also posting a solidarity message to the "Association des Scouts d'Haïti" through our Internet not being sure that it will reach them. Scouts de France have located the Haitian Chief Commissioner whom they are aware survived the earthquake. They are trying to contact him and will let us know once they have so that we can contact him personally to verbally express solidarity and determine what kind of assistance is required."

We will continue to keep you informed of developments concerning Scouts Canada's and WOSM's response.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Scott CM
International Commissioner
Scouts Canada



Steve Kent
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Canada