

Canada Pledge
GPE Second Replenishment Conference
June 26, 2014

Good morning / afternoon,

It is a pleasure to be here today to deliver these remarks on behalf of Canada and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie.

He sends his greetings and his regrets.

As is demonstrated in our concrete action, Canada is committed to increasing access to quality basic education and expanding learning opportunities for all children and youth.

This is particularly true when it comes to supporting the world's girls as well as the most marginalized groups – where Canada has a strong track record of action.

Through support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Canada shares the commitment to delivering good quality, basic education to all girls, boys and youth.

Canada strongly supports the strategic objectives of the GPE.

And we are especially committed to:

- improved learning outcomes;
- training effective teachers;
- advancing girls' education; and
- supporting fragile and conflict-affected states.

One of the key ways to achieve these goals is by strengthening the role of civil society.

To ensure they are part of the design and implementation of innovative approaches.

And to work with them to increase access to high quality education services for hard-to-reach children and youth.

Canada also supports country-led efforts to strengthen education systems.

At the country level, as members of Local Education Groups, Canada works with our partners, including the GPE, to ensure results for girls and boys.

The foundation of all of Canada's international programming is accountability.

The ability to track what is working, and what is not, is the only way to ensure concrete results.

Canada will continue our efforts to advance global accountability in education.

I think we can all agree that education is the cornerstone upon which a healthy and productive life is built.

Canada will continue to be a strong supporter of education and education programming.

While Canada is not in a position to announce its official pledge for the GPE's 2015-18 replenishment period today, we look forward to doing so soon.

We have also heard the GPE's call for increased funding for education in emergencies. I am therefore pleased to note that Canada supports the call for an increased focus on education in emergencies, which is why we have provided \$50 million to the No Lost Generation initiative for Syrian children and why we partner with humanitarian organizations like UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children Canada, that include this as a priority intervention in their respective responses.

We have begun a crucial conversation here today on our global commitment to education.

Canada is proud to be an active partner in that discussion.

Investments in education are making a real difference in the lives of girls and boys in the developing world.

And Canada looks forward to continuing our leadership role in supporting education across the developing world.

Thank you.