



7 February 2013

The Honourable John Baird, P.C., M.P.
Department of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building
Tower "A", 10th Floor
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Baird,

I write to you today on behalf of the members of Food Secure Canada, a national membership-based network of organizations and individuals working towards zero hunger, healthy and safe food, and sustainable food systems. Our vision for a food policy for Canada is laid out in *Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada*, with which you are familiar.

As you know, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food will be formally delivering his report on his mission to Canada to the United Nations Human Rights Council on March 4. Many of our members met with the Special Rapporteur during his mission to Canada last May and found his preliminary recommendations constructive. In particular, we think his recommendations on a national right to food strategy, the need to revise social assistance levels, and the need to ensure proper dialogue with and access to land for indigenous peoples merit serious attention from our Government. We hope that you will take this opportunity to clarify Canada's unwavering commitment to both the UN human rights protection system and to the elimination of hunger here at home.

We shall be organizing community events across the country in early March and we would be delighted to engage Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers and indeed all sectors of the Canadian public in a conversation about the right to food in Canada. We are available to discuss these important matters with you at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Diana Bronson
Executive Director