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To all the Faithful of the Diocese of Whitehorse,

RE: Development and Peace Donations

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development of Peace was established by the Bishops of Canada in 1967 in response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter *Populorum Progressio* whose founding principle is to "strive towards a more perfect justice among human beings" (76). Development and Peace is the Canadian representative of *Caritas Internationalis*, whose approach is based on the social teaching of the Catholic church, and which focuses on the dignity of the human person. For many years, The Diocese of Whitehorse has supported this organization through the annual Share Lent Campaign.

In order to fulfill its mission, Development and Peace works with more than one hundred overseas partner agencies in seventy countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. These partners carry out specific projects and programs related to people's right to better education, women's equality, agrarian reform, housing and cooperative movements. Recently, serious and credible allegations have been made against several of these overseas partners that they condone and even at times advocate policies and practices, which are not in compliance with Catholic teachings and, in particular, do not fully respect the sanctity of human life.

For this reason, the Diocese of Whitehorse will withhold the Development and Peace portion of the 2018 *Together We Serve* Share Lent Campaign donations coming through our Diocese. The funds will be withheld until such time as we receive clear assurance that Development and Peace partner organizations in the Global South are complying with Catholic teachings and are meeting the criteria of *Caritas Internationalis*.

Meanwhile, we will respect the intent of your donations through 2018 *Together We Serve* Share Lent Campaign; the funds designated for Development and Peace will only be used to assist people in need in the Global South.

Many of you generously support the programs of Development and Peace through your financial donations or by promoting the organization's initiatives within our Diocese. I write this letter in a spirit of transparency and accountability, and assure you that I will keep you posted on any developments which arise.

Yours in Christ,

+Bishop Héctor Vila