



January 13, 2010

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FCM CALLS FOR MUNICIPAL SOLIDARITY WITH HAITIAN COMMUNITIES AND EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

Following the 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday, FCM is sending condolences and expressing solidarity with the people of Haiti, the mayor of Port-au-Prince and other mayors, as well the Canadian Haitian community.

Early reports indicate extensive infrastructure damage and concern about large numbers of killed and injured persons. The Red Cross reported this morning that more than three million people could be affected by the quake and that the damage is catastrophic. The earthquake occurred as Haiti was still struggling to recover from devastating hurricanes in 2008.

FCM is particularly expressing solidarity with the province of Quebec, the City of Montreal and other francophone municipalities in Canada that are home to Canadian-Haitians impacted by the tragedy.

FCM members wishing to contribute to relief efforts should donate money to established relief organizations that can respond immediately to the crisis. Well-known Canadian organizations already involved and working in Haiti include the Canadian Red Cross, the Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale (CECI), Doctors Without Borders and the Humanitarian Coalition made up of Oxfam Canada, Oxfam-Quebec, CARE Canada, and Save the Children Canada. Information on how to donate money can be found on their websites.

FCM International will be closely monitoring the situation during the coming days and will contact the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) to see if Canadian municipal technical expertise could be of assistance in the post-emergency phase of the earthquake.

For more information, contact Sébastien Hamel, Deputy Director, FCM International, at shamel@fcm.ca

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