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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Canada works with Nova Scotia universities to reduce international poverty

**Antigonish, Nova Scotia** — Today, the Honourable Peter MacKay, Member of Parliament for Central Nova and Regional Minister for Nova Scotia, recognized support for the international poverty reduction efforts of Coady International Institute in Antigonish and Dalhousie University in Halifax. Through two separate food-security projects, they will deliver concrete results for people living in Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia and Cuba.

“Canadians want to make a difference for those in need around the world, and they expect real results from Canada's international assistance. Our Government will work with Canadian universities to deliver tangible results for people in developing countries,” said Minister MacKay. “By tapping into their expertise, Canada will help provide support to people in need, giving them the economic tools they need to become self-sufficient over the long term.”

Minister MacKay announced the news at the Coady International Institute on the Saint Francis Xavier University campus.

Today's event, supported through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Partners for Development Program's call for proposals, will help the Coady Institute and Dalhousie to support local economic growth and enhance food security in the target countries. These projects will empower and train 2,000 marginalized women and girls, as well as enhance the business skills of small farmers, enterprise owners and co-operatives.

The Coady Institute and Dalhousie were among 15 different schools and 17 different projects that CIDA selected to implement projects around the world that will stimulate sustainable economic growth, secure the future of children and youth, increase food security and advance Canada's commitments on maternal, newborn and child health. The selected Canadian universities will implement the projects in partnership with institutions and organizations in developing countries, to ensure the results will directly benefit people in need.

The total CIDA contribution to the Coady and Dalhousie is \$9,911,933 over five years. Each university will contribute at least 25 percent of the cost of projects.

“This is a unique opportunity to strengthen the leadership of women and their organizations so they themselves can build food security and sustainable livelihoods,” said Dr. Gaventa. “Our citizen-led and community-based approach will help this effort take root and create positive change well beyond the five-year mandate.”

“The Dalhousie-led project aims to support the Cuban government's new local economic development initiatives by working with Cuban universities, ministries and municipalities to build capacity in local economic development and enhance food security in the four eastern provinces of the country,” said Martha Crago, Vice-President (Research) at Dalhousie University. “The project will draw on experience which Dalhousie faculty and staff have gained through almost 20

years of continued collaboration with Cuban partners. The university is grateful to CIDA for its contribution to this important initiative.”

For more information on the Partners for Development Program and the call for proposals process, please visit CIDA’s website at [www.cida.gc.ca/partnership](http://www.cida.gc.ca/partnership).

**For more information, media should contact:**

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