

The following was sent via email to CANAC in response to the Board's letter to Stephen Harper:

Dear Ms. Shaw:

On behalf of the Prime Minister, thank you for your e-mail regarding the sixteenth International AIDS Conference in Toronto. We are pleased to have this opportunity to respond.

Please be assured that the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada supported this biennial conference. We contributed over \$4 million to the event and were directly involved in organizing several conference sessions including a leadership forum.

As you are aware, the Prime Minister was unable to attend the conference in August. Unfortunately, the demands on the Prime Minister's schedule are significant and all event considerations have to be balanced accordingly.

The Government of Canada was represented at the conference by two Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Health, the Honourable Tony Clement, as well as the Minister of International Cooperation and Minister for la Francophonie and Official Languages, the Honourable Josée Verner.

Our government remains committed to providing the resources that are needed to combat the growing public health crisis caused by the global AIDS epidemic.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Susan Ross  
Executive Correspondence Officer  
for the Prime Minister's Office /  
Agent de correspondance  
de la haute direction  
pour le Cabinet du Premier ministre