

We stand with WE Charity

An open letter from donors to CBC's editor-in-chief

Dear Mr. Fenlon,

Together we represent the donors who have made the most substantive financial contributions to the WE Villages program in Kenya.

We are proud to have helped support a development model that has created meaningful and sustainable change and has saved and empowered tens of thousands of lives.

WE Charity's development model is holistic. It takes funding from multiple donors to ensure schools and school rooms are built and can deliver education to children over the long term, or for a borehole to be drilled and succeed as part of a full community water system.

This multi-faceted approach often requires multiple supporters to contribute to a community development initiative. For example, WE Charity's "education pillar" not only builds, repairs and renovates primary and secondary school rooms, including classrooms, libraries, teacher accommodations and teacher administration spaces, it also delivers multi-year programming that includes student lunches, teacher training and community education initiatives.

As you know, WE Charity has been the subject of media scrutiny over the past year, including three features by the Fifth Estate. Following initial stories, several featured donors published a letter expressing serious concerns about how they were represented, pointing to inaccuracies in the reporting. Since then, many other significant donors have expressed their concerns and pointed to their on-going and continued support of WE Charity and its model.

Nonetheless, the CBC has continued down an ill-informed path. The Fifth Estate has repeatedly reached out to many of us and/or to members of our organizations over the last few months. We do not agree with their thesis that we, as donors, were misled about the projects in Kenya. We supported WE Charity precisely because of its holistic model that welcomes many supporters. We have all been to Kenya and have witnessed first-hand the impact our donations have made in the country.

We do not see any public interest in this kind of journalism. We are requesting your personal assurance that our voices, as major donors of the projects, will be appropriately reflected and considered.

We are asking you, as Editor in Chief, to prevent further damage to the work and to the communities in Kenya that we have tried so hard to help.

Sincerely,

Dave Richardson 	Rht. Hon Kim Campbell 	Gail Asper, O.C. Gail Asper	Michael 'Pinball' Clemmons 	John Peller, O.C. 	Mario Romano 	Chip Wilson 
Don Morrison 	Heather Skoll Heather Skoll	Karyn Levy 	Lane Merrifield 	Bob Silver, OM, LLB 	Gerry Connelly 	V. Tony Hauser, C.M. 
Jennifer Tory, C.M. 	Donna Cansfield 	Dr. Tom Ross 	Stuart McLaughlin 	Kannan Arasaratnam, CPA 	John Nicola, CFP, CLU, CHFC 	Donna McFarlane 
Brian Scudamore 	Heather Briant 	Fred Losani 	Jon Levy 	Dr. Elaine Chin 	Jim and Valerie Milostan 	Ted Fransen 
Susan Hughes 	Berry Meyerowitz 	Greg & Olivia Yuel 	Richard Abboud 	Lynn Ross 	Miranda Tollman 	Andrea Farris 
Louis Treppel 	Barb Cowen 	Della McLaughlin 	Matt Corrin 	Brian Evoy 	Dr. David Baum 	Kathy Karn 
Dr. Michael Pearce 	David Asmus David Asmus	Dr. Barbara Hoskins 	Gabby Ghorbani 	Nicole Rustad Nicole Rustad	Mark Quattrocchi Mark Quattrocchi	Ken Alexander 
John Knapp 	Andy Stillman 	Nicholas Lasky 	John J. Oliver 	Theresa Alford 	Greg Rogers 	Kirk T. Schroder 
Kevin Reed 	Bob McFarlane 	Lauri Reed 	Shayna Haddon 	Rosanne Leddy 	Rebecca A. Wesfield 	Brett Tollman 
Dr. Josh Wesfield 	Leah Farris 	Duncan Stiles 	Heather Hare 	Mary Lynn Asmus 	Taylor Conroy Taylor Conroy	Elaine Silver 
Mary Farris 	Cassandra Stillman 	Franco Lomboardo 	Dolores Franco 	Sean Murray 	Lori Adams 	Randall Mang 
Craig Kreeger 	Thomas Lundgren Thomas Lundgren	Tom Cowen 	Crystal Murray 	Marvin Silver 	John Grace 	Ruben Borba 
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Cassandra Duarte 	Carly McFarlane 	Maggie McFarlane 	Carolyn Khali 	Marina DiPasquale 	Stephen MacDonell 	Kitty McGilly 