

Trudeau Donates \$800M to Fund against Disease

By Jacob Dillon

Canada has put the world to the test by challenging them to pledge money to fight against AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau voiced this on Friday the 16th of September.

From around the world, delegates have come to the city of Montreal to discuss raising a hopeful \$13 billion US to refill the Global Fund. By doing this, they would be replenishing the pool of money set to fight the three major infectious diseases.

Trudeau, who is not only hosting the event, declared that Canada will be donating \$800 million for the 2017-19 funding period.

“Pledge with compassion, pledge with ambition!” he encouraged the other countries present. “We must lead by example!” he cried out to the delegates. “We must work together. Because when we do, we show the world what we can accomplish when we unite in a common purpose.” He said in one final push.

People of higher power and influence, such as the UN secretary general Ban Ki-Moon, rock star Bono, and billionaire Bill Gates, were in attendance at the conference.

The president and CEO of UNICEF, David Morley, said the Global Fund centralizes resources, cuts down administrative costs and makes it easier for organizations such as his to transfer money to governments in need of help

Morley added that today’s major problem is not getting the health care and medicine

needed, the problem is strengthening local health networks and fighting discrimination and stigma.

The main purpose of the conference is to show Canadian leadership on the international stage ahead of what is expected.

Trudeau states “poverty is sexist” because women in developing countries who are homeless are more susceptible to these diseases. It is more difficult for them to surmount obstacles that prevent them from being educated and they are victims everyday of social and political discrimination.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheik Hasina Wazed, confirmed Trudeau’s comment, saying that in her country, they are focusing on empowering women to help defend them against terrible diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

Sixteen thousand clinics around the country, most of which are staffed by women, offer 30 different types of medication for free. Sheik Hasina Wazed stated that in doing this, there has been a great improvement in school retention for girls and has reduced under-aged marriage and marital and child mortality.

This has been the fifth ever Global Fund. The amount of money pledged to fight against AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis would have been announced Saturday afternoon.

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