



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Canadian High Commission Assists Flood Affected Communities in the North Central and Eastern Provinces.**

**Colombo 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011.** The Canadian High Commission is pleased to announce an immediate contribution to supplement efforts made by the Government, UN and other agencies to assist those affected by severe flooding afflicting many parts of Sri Lanka.

"We wanted to help get assistance to people quickly and Caritas has a record of being able to deliver efficiently," said Canada's High Commissioner, Bruce Levy. "We will also give careful consideration to any further appeals that may come from the Government of Sri Lanka and other agencies."

Canada's support to the Social and Economic Development Centre (Caritas Sri Lanka) will help to bring relief to almost six thousand families and will also focus on the provision of emergency relief supplies and shelter materials.

"We have all been touched by the accounts of terrible hardship as a result of the floods," remarked the High Commissioner. "With this contribution from our Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, it is our intention not only to render much-needed assistance but to encourage others to do the same."

Through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, the Social and Economic Development Centre (Caritas Sri Lanka) will receive \$20,000 toward a project that it will manage over the next three months and which is expected to require a total of approximately \$240,000. Canada has had a long association with Caritas in Sri Lanka and elsewhere and recognizes its valuable experience in dealing with disaster management.

The Canadian people have responded promptly and generously in the past to humanitarian emergencies, including after the 2004 tsunami and assisting with caring for the internally displaced people after the end of the violent conflict in 2009.

For Further information, media representatives may contact:

Indirani Jayawardena  
Political Officer  
High Commission of Canada  
33A, 5<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Colombo 3

Tel: 522 6232 Ext: 3352  
E-mail: [indirani.jayawardena@international.gc.ca](mailto:indirani.jayawardena@international.gc.ca)