



Andrew Cash

Member of
Parliament/Député
Davenport

Ottawa

Room 835
Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-2576
Fax: 613-995-8202

Constituency

1162 College St
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 1B6
Tel: 416-654-8048
Fax: 416-654-5083

Ottawa

Pièce 835
Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6
Tél: 613-992-2576
Télééc: 613-995-8202

Circonscription

1162 rue College
Toronto (Ontario)
M6H 1B6
Tél: 416-654-8048
Télééc: 416-654-5083

Web

Andrew.Cash@parl.gc.ca
www.andrewcash.ca

September 3, 2014

The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister,

The recent conflict in Gaza has taken a tragic human toll, especially on children. It is estimated that one thousand of the three thousand Palestinian children injured will have permanent disabilities.

With a ceasefire in place and the fighting hopefully ended, the people of Gaza look towards the difficult task of rebuilding and recovery. Countries like Canada, with the capacity to help, have a responsibility to help.

Earlier this month, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to pledge his personal support and that of his government to the proposal launched by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish to bring injured Palestinian children from Gaza to Canada for treatment.

Dr. Abuelaish himself lost three of his daughters in 2009 when his apartment in Gaza was hit by a shell from an Israel Defence Force tank. Instead of turning to anger, he committed himself to finding solutions to end the bloodshed through reconciliation. He now aims to bring one hundred children to Canada for treatment in Ontario alone – setting the example for other territories and provinces across Canada.

As Tom Mulcair said, Dr. Abuelaish's unifying message of reconciliation is an example to us all.

We believe humanitarianism is a Canadian value – and Canadian health professionals want to help. We see this in the growing consensus of support across Canada for Dr. Abuelaish's appeal including premiers, health ministers, hospitals, physicians, surgeons, nurses, and others across the country.

Dr. Abuelaish has recently returned from Gaza where he was compiling medical files of children who are able to fly and are in need of treatment that will be virtually impossible to receive in or near Gaza.

Canadian hospitals and health professionals have experience treating victims of conflicts and disasters. They have the ability to help and the willingness to help – but they need support from your government, and specifically from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, to make Dr. Abuelaish's humanitarian appeal into reality.

As minister, you are in a unique position to help these badly injured kids and back this important initiative, including through issuing expedited visas on compassionate grounds to children coming for treatment, along with their caregivers.

We urge you to heed the growing consensus of Canadians wanting to support these efforts and direct your department to work with Dr. Abuelaish, alongside hospitals and health professionals across Canada, in support of these efforts to bring injured children to Canada for treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Cash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Andrew Cash, MP
Davenport

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lysane B.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L" and a distinct "B." at the end.

Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe, MP
Pierrefonds—Dollard