



Afghan-Canadian Coalition Set to Meet with Conservative Shadow Minister & Urge Canada to Fulfill Their Obligations to Evacuate Those Promised

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
AUGUST 26, 2021

The full scale crisis occurring in Afghanistan is a humanitarian emergency that requires an exceptional and time-sensitive response. The Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace (CCAP) is extremely concerned about media reports that the last Canadian-operated flight out of Kabul is expected to leave on Thursday. CCAP wants Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to be clear about what former Afghan employees of the Canadian military, vulnerable groups, and Afghan-Canadians should expect and present their plan for how they will continue evacuations beyond the August 31 deadline. Canada must continue to call on the Taliban to allow Afghans and Afghan-Canadians to exit the country on their free will. We are calling on all federal party leaders to put the crisis in Afghanistan front and centre right now.

Thousands of Canadians have family in Afghanistan including many of the CCAP's members. We are extremely worried about them and their fate. We have heard reports directly from the ground about the Taliban preventing Canadians from accessing Kabul airport and have valid reports about the Taliban already committing human rights atrocities including against the Hazara community. It is the responsibility of Canada to respond to the country's humanitarian crisis and continue to airlift Afghans to safety and evacuate Afghans beyond the August 31 deadline.

The pledge to take in 20,000 Afghan refugees in the coming months and years is not enough and we have seen that Canada is not even close to reaching that number. Canada has resettled less than 3,000 people so far. We want the government to accept 40,000 resettlements this year and temporarily waive the requirements that Afghans must be recognized as a refugee by either the UNHCR or a foreign state. Canada must provide timely communication and access to diplomatic channels for those still within Afghanistan and those who choose to stay.

CCAP is calling on the leaders of Canada's federal parties to commit to making the situation in Afghanistan as the number one foreign policy priority and part of their election agenda.

We are meeting with **Garnett Genuis**, the Conservative Party of Canada's Shadow Minister of International Development and Human Rights later today on Thursday, August 26 at 4:00 PM EST to discuss our open letter and solutions related to how Canada should be taking immediate action for the Afghanistan crisis.



Jagmeet Singh, the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, has met with CCAP organizers and is the only party leader to have endorsed our four solutions outlined in our open letter. However, we are still awaiting further commitment from the NDP on how they would take action.

CCAP has so far been unsuccessful in reaching Justin Trudeau and Ministers Marc Garneau, Marco Mendicino, and Harjit Sajjan in order to discuss the concerns of the Afghan-Canadian community about their response to the Afghanistan crisis, despite sending meeting requests.

This is an extremely time-sensitive matter. The election must not take away attention and resources from Canada's response to the full blown Afghanistan crisis. We are calling on all political parties to stand with our open letter solutions and to urgently address Afghanistan's humanitarian catastrophe.

#Canada4Afghanistan