

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Whereas:

1. Canada has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which, according to Article 6 (1) asserts that all states “recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right,”
2. Canada voted in favor of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/13, on October 21, 2003, demanding “that Israel stop and reverse the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,”
3. The UN Secretary-General’s Report (A/ES-10/248) of November 24, 2003, pursuant to Resolution ES-10/13 states that “The [Wall’s] route through Jerusalem will... severely restrict movement and access for tens of thousands of urban Palestinians... [affecting] jobs and essential social services...” “The northern section of the [Wall] has harmed long-standing commercial and social connections for tens of thousands of people...” (paragraph 26)
4. A December 15, 2003 report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), among other independent witnesses, states, “More than 400,000... Palestinians living to the east of the Wall will need to cross it to get to their farms, jobs and services.”
5. Without direct international pressure, there is no apparent hope for an abatement of the day-to-day struggle of individual Palestinians to maintain their economic livelihoods,

We call upon the House of Commons to apply direct pressure on the government of the State of Israel – to respect the human rights of Palestinians – via one or more of the following mechanisms:

- The unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing construction of Israel’s Wall within the Occupied Palestinian Territories,
- The exclusion of imports from Israeli settlements (located in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) from the Canada – Israel Free Trade Agreement,
- The blocking of tax-free donations from Canadian citizens intended for the construction, expansion or enhancement of Israeli infrastructure – including settlements – in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,
- The suspension of funding of, and participation in the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation

SIGNATURES <i>(Sign your own name; do not print)</i>	ADDRESSES <i>(Give your home address, city, province or postal code)</i>

