



St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean

Tsunami Relief Efforts

January 14, 2005 - Update and Special Appeal for St. John Ambulance Tsunami Relief Efforts

COMMUNICATIONS

St. John Ambulance National Office is in continuous communication with Dr. Samarage, Director of Training and Development and Dr. Jayatilleke, Chief Commissioner, SJA Sri Lanka to identify and validate supply requirements. These communications have been undertaken by Bill Alexander, National Emergency Response Services Coordinator.

Sri Lankan Community in Canada - Communications with an ex-SJA Sri Lankan Area Commissioner residing in Markham, ON has been established. The National Emergency Response Services Coordinator, Mr. Bill Alexander, has met with Mr. Naggularaj and it has assisted SJA Canada in understanding the requirements of and challenges faced by SJA Sri Lanka.

PROVISION OF SUPPLIES

St. John Ambulance Canada has sent two shipments valuing 10,000 USD and \$53,000 CDN (retail) to date. All shipments have been received successfully by the Director of St. John Ambulance Sri Lanka. Where possible, support for shipments in terms of free cargo has been received departing Toronto, Canada from Airline Services Inc.

It is also important to note that the Minister of Health to Sri Lanka is a patron of St. John Ambulance Sri Lanka, and has directly assisted in ensuring that the supplies provided by St. John Ambulance Canada reach our sister organization.

We have received recent supply requirements from Sri Lanka and the necessary validation on January 11th. Approval has been received from the Overseeing Committee to source and supply the following: stretchers (50); fanny pack first aid kits (1000); Survival Kits (100); surgical masks (2000) and latex gloves (4000). This shipment is valued at \$14,500 Cdn plus 10% shipping cost. This shipment is estimated to arrive in Sri Lanka 10-14 days from 12-01-05. This will be the third shipment sent to SJA Sri Lanka.

Total expenditures to date are: approx. \$ 29,000 CDN.

Additional Requested Supplies (to be validated)- SJA Sri Lanka has identified the need for vehicles including two ambulances (\$60K U.S. each); a double cab (\$60K U.S. New/\$40K reconditioned); and a 12 seat micro-bus (\$ 15-25K U.S.) The National Team is investigating possible pro-bono sources for the above equipment, shipping mechanisms, and related logistics.

UPDATE

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VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

On January 9th, 2005, SJA Sri Lanka identified the need for volunteers as a result of the Sri Lankan government's announcement for a massive re-construction, re-location and re-settlement planning program for the displaced people who were living by the coast. SJA Sri Lanka was informed that they will be called upon to provide first aid services and training personnel. They have been inundated with requests for training in disaster management and first aid as people have realised the importance of these. Dr. Samarage stated "In Sri Lanka SJA is looked upon as the leader in training in First Aid."

An Overseas Emergency Response Services document was been prepared in anticipation of a possible future request. The document identifies the terms and conditions which an SJA Canada volunteer would need to agree to and sign off on if they agreed to go overseas. This document was built using the Salvation Army protocols as a foundation. It has been reviewed by Honourary Legal Counsel. The National Office Team recognizes the inherent risks associated with sending volunteers overseas. By appropriate screening of the volunteers combined with the risk mitigation put in place, risks will be appropriately managed. Approval was received by the Executive Committee to deploy a volunteer team to Sri Lanka January 12th, 2005.

SJA Canada Volunteer Team – Upon hearing the news of the Tsunami Disaster, three (3) volunteers with B.C. Council offered to assist and 1-2 others from divisions within Ontario Council. The purpose of sending the team would be to assist SJA Sri Lanka in meeting training obligations and provide disaster relief and nursing expertise to the affected areas. An additional benefit which would result from sending a small number of volunteers to obtain a better understanding of the future needs on the ground and how our resources to date have been utilized and the ability to report on same (e.g. outcome measures). It should be made perfectly clear that this does not in any way set a precedent in terms of any SJA Canada future role in international disaster response. It is understood that this must be thoroughly studied and in fact, discussed at the international Grand Council level. SJA Sri Lanka have confirmed their ability to support the team members (meals and accommodation).

FUNDING TO ST. JOHN AMBULANCE SRI LANKA

National Office received confirmation January 14, 2005 from CIDA that St. John Ambulance Canada is eligible for matching funding. St. John Ambulance Canada is now listed on the website <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca>.

For cheques, wire transfers and the like dated on or before the 11th January 2005 funding will be matched and tax receipts will be provided for the 2004 tax year. Please note, any donations received after January 11th, 2005 or later by mail but date on or before January 11th, 2005 are still eligible.

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FUNDING TO ST. JOHN AMBULANCE SRI LANKA (Continued)

The funding commitments communicated to National Office to date are as follows:

	Donations
B.C./Yukon	\$25,000
Ontario	\$25,000
Alberta	\$25,000
Nfld	\$15,000
Federal District	\$5,000
NS/PEI	\$3,000
NB	Individual Donations
Manitoba	Pending
Sask	Pending
NWT	Pending
Quebec	Pending
Sub total	\$98,000
General Donations	\$12,000
Grand Total	\$110,000

PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS

Sri Lankan High Commission - National Office has contacted the High Commission of Sri Lanka to arrange an interview between the Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Lord Prior. CTV and/or CBC will be contacted to request an interview opportunity.

Prime Minister's Visit to Sri Lanka – The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka on January 17th, 2005 and will be in Colombo meeting with humanitarian organizations. National Office

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will be communicating with the Director of SJA Sri Lanka to attend the event and will be contacting the Press Secretary to Paul Martin's Asia trip to advise about the St. John Ambulance Canada Support to SJA Sri Lanka.

Website Listings – St. John Ambulance has been added to the CBC website as one of the humanitarian agencies listed as receiving funding for the Tsunami Disaster Relief Efforts.

Sri Lankan Community in Canada – St. John Ambulance will be reaching out to the Sri Lankan community by sharing with them our efforts to assist their communities through SJA Sri Lanka.