

# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## Introduction



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### Focus

Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, was rocked by a massive earthquake that killed over 200 000 people and left most of the country in ruins. This *News in Review* story looks at the earthquake that devastated Haiti and Canada's response to the humanitarian crisis that followed.

### Did you know . . .

By the end of February 2010, 34 Canadians were confirmed dead, while over 50 were still missing in Haiti.

Late in the afternoon on January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, unleashing indescribable devastation on an already destitute nation. Over 200 000 people were killed, including up to 80 Canadians, in what may be the deadliest earthquake in history. Almost 90 per cent of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, was flattened by the quake, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and leaving millions desperate for food, water, and medical treatment.

The day after the earthquake an emotional Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean, herself an expatriate Haitian, appealed to the global community: "Now more than ever, it is time for us to show our solidarity with the most vulnerable people in the Americas, our brothers and sisters in Haiti, whose courage is once again being so harshly tested." Rocked by political and economic instability since the nation was founded in 1804, Haiti could ill afford the catastrophic consequences brought on by the 7.3 magnitude earthquake. Unfortunately, as Jean so astutely and articulately posited, one of the poorest nations in the world was "once again being so harshly tested."

Canadian authorities responded to the crisis quickly and efficiently. Almost immediately Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) gathered the necessary resources and deployed to Port-au-Prince. The navy

sent HMCS *Athabaskan* and HMCS *Halifax* to the devastated Caribbean nation. By the end of January, Canada had committed 2 000 troops to provide aid in Léogâne—the epicentre of the quake—and Jacmel—a crucial sea port off the southern coast of Haiti.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Stephen Harper put Haiti at the top of his foreign policy agenda. With over 100 000 expatriate Haitians living in Canada, and Haiti counting itself as the second largest recipient of Canadian foreign aid after Afghanistan, the Prime Minister seized the opportunity to help the impoverished nation. An immediate \$5-million relief fund was extended to Haiti, followed by an additional \$130-million as the crisis unfolded. Harper's government also agreed to match donations given by individual Canadians to recognized non-profit organizations.

In late January in Montreal, Canada hosted an international conference on the crisis. Those at the conference concluded that the rebuilding of Haiti would require a 10-year, \$10-billion commitment if the Caribbean nation hopes to rise from the rubble. Canada vowed to be an ally in this cause and promised Canada's long-term involvement in the reconstruction of Haiti.

The humanitarian emergency in Haiti is still in its infancy. Canadian efforts, both in the short and long term, should help Haiti emerge from this crisis.

## To Consider

1. How devastating was the earthquake in Haiti? Use specific examples from the article.
2. Why was an earthquake in Haiti considered particularly unfortunate?
3. How did Canada respond to the crisis? Should more have been done?

# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## Video Review

### Pre-viewing Questions

Read the following passage and respond to the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your comments with the class.

Picture the main street of the town or the skyline of the city where you live. Next, picture an earthquake that flattens more than half of what you have pictured in your mind. While this devastation takes place in your imagination, real devastation struck Haiti on January 12 when a 7.3 magnitude earthquake destroyed much of the impoverished nation.

1. Describe how drastically life would change if an earthquake wiped out most of the town or city where you live.
2. What complications would you face?
3. What would you have to do to survive?
4. How would you stay healthy?
5. How would you keep yourself clean?

### Viewing Questions

As you watch the video respond to the questions in the spaces provided.

1. What evidence does *News in Review* host Carla Robinson provide in her introduction to suggest that Haiti was in rough shape prior to being struck by an earthquake on January 12, 2010?

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2. Describe some of the desperate circumstances people were forced to endure as described in David Common's report.

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3. What complications did authorities face in the delivery of emergency aid to people seeking food and water?

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4. How many people were left homeless by the earthquake?

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5. How did the earthquake affect the lives of Andre Pierristil, Kevney Maxim, and Marita Abraham? Briefly describe their suffering.

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6. Where were Canadian troops asked to concentrate their efforts?

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7. Where was the epicentre of the earthquake?

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8. What part of Haiti sustained the most damage?

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9. Where did the homeless of Haiti move after the earthquake? What does the United Nations hope to provide for the hundreds of thousands of homeless people living in Haiti's capital?

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10. How long does Prime Minister Stephen Harper think it will take to rebuild Haiti?

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11. Describe the efforts of Canadian Forces personnel in Léogâne and Jacmel? Identify some the things the soldiers were doing to help the people of the area.

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12. How many dead bodies did Haitian authorities say they collected after the earthquake?

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13. How did the earthquake affect Haiti's already struggling economy? What do experts suggest Haiti needs to do to get back on its economic feet? Use examples from the video.

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14. Why do some economists see the rebuilding of Haiti as an opportunity for Haiti to improve economically?

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## Post-viewing Activity

Read the following passage and respond to the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your comments with the class.

Major Annie Bouchard describes an incident that happened a few days after the Canadian Forces opened a medical clinic in Jacmel. It was late in the afternoon, around 5:00 p.m., when the exhausted Canadians, having treated hundreds of sick and wounded Haitians, turned toward the clinic gate and saw a gathering of people. The locals of Jacmel proceeded to sing songs of thanks and praise to the Canadian medical staff and soldiers.

1. How do you think the Canadians would have felt about this tribute?

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2. Why does this event seem remarkable in light of the earthquake and its aftermath?

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3. Is this "proof" that nations need to help one another through difficult times, or not? Explain your response.

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# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## *The Devastation*

**Did you know . . .**  
Prime Minister Stephen Harper was the first world leader to visit the devastated region, which he did in February 2010.

How do you put a human face on a tragedy that killed over 200 000 people? How do you humanize the telling of such a story without becoming lost in a sea of statistics? While the magnitude of the earthquake was rated at 7.3, the human toll is almost beyond description:

- 1.5 million Haitians left homeless, leading to the emergence of over 50 tent cities in the capital alone
- 5 million people in need of water, food, and medical assistance
- 70 000 bodies recovered within the first few days of the earthquake
- only 90 people rescued from demolished buildings in the days immediately after the earthquake

Do any of these statistics really do justice to the scale of human suffering brought on by the events of January 12, 2010?

### **Aid**

Even describing the international response to the disaster seems like an exercise in fact listing. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, 40 nations sent search-and-rescue teams to Haiti. A number of nations also sent troops, including Canada—2 000 soldiers—and the United States—10 000 soldiers—in an effort to provide security and aid in the relief effort. Canadian troops were credited with setting up a critical-care hospital in Léogâne and opening an airport in Jacmel, allowing relief flights to deliver aid to people living in southern Haiti. Meanwhile U.S. troops turned the Port-au-Prince airport into a vital international aid hub that saw the number of daily flights shoot from 30 to 180 a day. Again, unless you can really visualize 40 rescue teams struggling

amid the rubble, soldiers working in field hospitals, and relief flights taking off and landing, the true extent of human suffering is lost in a sea of numbers and facts.

### **Money**

And then there's the money. Global donors opened their pocketbooks and gave generously once they heard of the earthquake. Within days of the catastrophe, the international community pledged USD \$300-million in emergency aid, with the United States putting up \$100-million and Canada \$50-million. The international number doubled to USD \$600-million a week after the earthquake, and Canada's contribution rose to \$135-million by the end of January—not including over \$50-million in donations given to aid agencies by individual Canadians. It is also important to note that in 2006 Canada pledged to provide \$555-million in aid to Haiti over a five-year period. Do these numbers put the devastation in perspective?

### **The Haitian Government and the United Nations**

After the earthquake hit, some people criticized the Haitian government for not providing relief quickly and efficiently. But the earthquake wiped out six government ministry buildings and left the other 11 damaged beyond repair. The Haitian government was forced to set up residence at a police station near the Port-au-Prince airport. How does a government whose infrastructure has been destroyed, and many of its employees killed, respond quickly and efficiently to a disaster of this magnitude?

**Did you know . . .**

Canada has asked the international community to cancel Haiti's debt, leading the way with the cancellation of \$965-million in debt incurred over the past several years.

As well, the United Nations headquarters in Port-au-Prince was flattened by the earthquake, and over 100 staff were killed, including the head of the mission. Fortunately, most of the 9 000 UN peacekeepers survived and were able to provide security amid the chaos of Haiti's capital. The UN scrambled to provide aid for suffering Haitians and, by February, seemed to have a system in place for distributing food and setting up shelter for the homeless. However, criticism rained down on the UN and the Haitian government in the days following the earthquake. An elderly woman named Jacqueline Thermiti, whose nursing home was destroyed in the earthquake, told reporters: "The government is a joke. The UN is a joke. We're a kilometre from the airport and we're going to die of hunger" (*Toronto Star*, January 18, 2010). Do Thermiti's comments give us a

real picture of her own suffering and the suffering of others? Was it even possible for the government of Haiti and the United Nations to deliver aid to Thermiti and the five million other people who needed help?

**Looting and Crime**

While the overwhelming majority of Haitians responded to the crisis with courage and determination, some tried to take advantage of the situation, looting stores and terrorizing earthquake victims. The fact that 3 000 prisoners escaped the prison in Port-au-Prince, and over 1 000 police were killed in the earthquake, didn't help security matters.

Death, injury, starvation, and disease are all aspect of the post-earthquake life of the people of Haiti. Can words really describe the hardships the people of this impoverished nation are enduring?

**Follow-up**

1. The article includes a number of questions. List the questions and attempt to answer them in point form. Your teacher might choose to have you work on the questions with a partner.
2. In a 100- to 150-word reflective response, indicate the thoughts and feelings that the questions provoked in you.

# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## *Canada's Response*

**Did you know . . .**  
Over 100 000 people of Haitian origin live in Canada, with most residing in the province of Quebec.

When Canadian authorities heard of the earthquake in Haiti, they responded with unprecedented speed. They had learned some lessons from past disasters. For example, in 2005, it took Canada 12 days to get aid to victims of a tsunami in Indonesia. In 2006, it took

a prolonged period for Canadians to be evacuated from embattled Lebanon. As a result of these experiences, in 2010 the Canadian government started preparing a relief mission as soon as officials got word of the crisis.

### Focus for Reading

Copy an organizer like the one below into your notebook. As you read the following information, complete the organizer.

Canada's Response in Haiti	
Who	What
DART	
Canadian Embassy	
Canadians at home	
Canadian government	

The first phase of the mission involved dispatching the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—a group of about 200 highly trained Canadian Forces personnel who specialize in dealing with crises. Less than 24 hours after the earthquake, the first Canadian military aid flight landed in Port-au-Prince, with 20 DART soldiers ready for their mission as well as a host of badly needed medical supplies.

The Canadian Embassy became a crisis hub as embassy staff worked tirelessly to locate Canadians and arrange for their safe return to Canada. One group, a collection of staff and students from a British Columbia high school, had just arrived in Haiti to help set up a goat

farm on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck. Fortunately no one was hurt, but the terrified group was forced to sleep outside with no food or water for several days. Their ordeal came to an end when Canadian troops located them and moved them to the embassy to arrange for their evacuation back to Canada. Meanwhile, as the humanitarian crisis began to unfold and the true magnitude of the quake became apparent, Canadian authorities offered to move outside the capital while the United States and United Nations focused on Port-au-Prince.

This marked the beginning of the second phase of the relief effort. Canadian Forces (CF) personnel,

**Did you know . . .**

Léogâne is located 15 kilometres west of Port-au-Prince, and Jacmel is located 40 kilometres south of the capital. It is estimated that close to 90 per cent of both Léogâne and Port-au-Prince were destroyed by the earthquake, while close to 60 per cent of Jacmel was destroyed.

including DART, brought their expertise to the epicentre of the earthquake in the town of Léogâne and the vital southern port city of Jacmel. Once DART was fully operational, CF personnel were distributing 2 500 meals a day and purifying thousands of litres of water. Their colleagues from HMCS *Athabaskan* and HMCS *Halifax* also purified water, provided security, and supplied logistical support for operations from Jacmel. Meanwhile, state-of-the-art mobile field hospitals were rapidly assembled in Léogâne and Jacmel, and hospital personnel began treating hundreds of patients per day. CF soldiers also repaired Jacmel's airstrip, allowing 160 relief flights a day to land in the region. While scenes in Port-au-Prince were described as chaotic and unruly, aid efforts in Léogâne and Jacmel went smoothly for the Canadians. By the end of February, 2 000 CF personnel had been committed to Haiti.

Meanwhile, back home, Canadians jumped into action. Community groups began preparing thousands of care packages. Quilts, blankets, towels, and medical supplies were just a few of the items located, packaged, and shipped to Haiti. Thousands of cards and messages of hope were sent to Haiti. Canadians set up a telecommunications network to share news of missing Canadians and to help locate information about loved ones. This information was shared via e-mail and on Facebook and Twitter, and once

again demonstrated the effectiveness of social media in times of chaos.

The Harper government did its best to show its commitment to help Haiti in its time of greatest need. First, Harper pledged financial aid to the Haitian government. By the end of February around \$135-million had been promised. Second, the government loosened Canada's immigration laws for Haitians looking to unite with family and friends in Canada. The rule changes would allow as many as 5 000 Haitians to immigrate to Canada. The government also made it easier for Canadians to adopt Haitian children orphaned by the earthquake. Third, Canada hosted a conference in Montreal to study the crisis in Haiti.

The late January meeting was attended by major political figures from a variety of nations that vowed to stick with Haiti for the long haul. Prime Minister Harper noted that the rebuilding of Haiti would take 10 years and could cost \$10-billion. The Montreal conference set the stage for a conference for major donors to be held at the United Nations in New York in March 2010. Finally, in a show of solidarity, Harper became the first world leader to visit Haiti since the earthquake. The Prime Minister offered \$12-million in immediate aid to help Haitian President René Préval get his government back on its feet. He also visited CF personnel working in Léogâne and Jacmel.

## Analysis

1. Besides the fact that Haiti needed help, what other reasons did Canada have for responding to the crisis with unprecedented speed?
2. Describe the first and second phases of the Canadian effort to help Haiti.
3. What did the government of Canada do to make it easier for Haitians wanting to come and live in Canada?
4. What did the Canadian government do to demonstrate its long-term commitment to Haiti?
5. Why is a long-term commitment to Haiti particularly important?



# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## *A Marshall Plan for Haiti*

### **Did you know . . .**

The financial plan to support European countries after the Second World War was formally known as the European Recovery Program. But historians commonly refer to it as the Marshall Plan since the program was devised by U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall at Harvard University in 1947.

Shortly after the earthquake that brought Haiti to its knees, commentators began calling for a “Marshall Plan” for Haiti. The Marshall Plan was an economic scheme put forward by the United States in the aftermath of the Second World War. The term “Marshall Plan” was being used in reference to Haiti to highlight the need for massive aid for the devastated country.

### **The Marshall Plan**

As the Second World War came to an end in 1945, the U.S., Britain, France, and the Soviet Union sought to keep Germany under their control. The defeated nation was divided into zones of occupation, with each victorious allied country controlling a zone. Shortly after this strategy was put in place it became clear that political differences between the Soviet Union on the one hand and the U.S., Britain, and France on the other would destroy any hope of co-operation in the rebuilding of Germany along with the rest of war-torn Europe. In fact, by 1947, the Cold War battle lines were drawn, with Western Europe favouring capitalism and democracy and eastern Europe turning to Soviet-style communism.

In an effort to ward off the spread of communism into Western Europe, the United States offered significant financial assistance to European countries trying to get back on their economic feet in the post-war period. The Marshall Plan saw the U.S. invest \$13-billion in the European economy between 1948 and 1952. By the time the plan came to an end, the European economy had enjoyed unprecedented growth, surpassing pre-war levels and essentially making the democracies of Western Europe major global economic players.

### **A “Marshall Plan” for Haiti?**

Prior to the earthquake Haiti was already in dire straits. Universally acknowledged as the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, Haiti’s gross domestic product (GDP) was a mere \$11-billion. (Canada’s GDP is \$1.3-trillion). Haiti’s inability to provide stable livelihoods for its nine million people was connected to decades of political unrest and financial mismanagement. By the time the earthquake hit in early 2010, 80 per cent of Haitians were living below the poverty line, with over half of that group existing in abject poverty. Couple this with the fact that Haiti was struggling to recover from a series of hurricanes and tropical storms that had pounded the nation since 2008 and it became clear that the last thing Haiti could handle was another natural disaster.

Nonetheless, a natural disaster was exactly what Haiti was forced to endure on January 12, 2010, when a 7.3 magnitude earthquake destroyed up to 90 per cent of the country’s capital and many other Haitian cities and towns. Indeed, the damage brought on by the earthquake could be likened to the after-effects of war. Thus, the Marshall Plan references started to surface as soon as the global media became aware of the extent of the devastation.

Little did most people know that a kind of Marshall Plan had already been in the works. A group of 33 Haitians—some living abroad and some living in Haiti—had been working independently prior to the earthquake to try to develop a plan for their homeland. Their overall impression was that Haiti was mired in a perpetual cycle of poverty and corruption brought on by greedy and incompetent politicians. If Haiti hoped to emerge

as a legitimate Caribbean political and economic entity, it needed to put the people first and find a way to make government work better. About a month after the earthquake, the group released the Strategic Plan for National Salvation, a comprehensive, long-term scheme designed to lift Haiti out of poverty. The plan called for:

- Decentralization of government so that all of Haiti—not just people living in Port-au-Prince—received administrative services
- Transparent economic policy and government spending (it is believed that once government accountability is in place and the economy begins to grow, modest taxation could be introduced to fund government initiatives)
- Infrastructure development to help bring running water, sewers, and electricity to all Haitians—not just the wealthy; Haiti is in appalling shape, with fewer than 50 per cent of the people enjoying the benefits of running water and electricity; there are no modern public sewage systems to speak of

- Creation of a national tourism agency to make Haiti a tourist destination that can compete with Haiti's island partner, the Dominican Republic
- Abolition of school fees so that all children can enjoy the benefits of education
- Creation of an agency to deal with the reconstruction of the nation in the wake of the earthquake

The plan would cost \$100-billion over 25 years. Proponents of the plan argue the \$4-billion annual cost is not much more than what Haiti receives in international aid in a given year. They also note that Haitians who have left their homeland send \$1.6-billion back to relatives in Haiti every year. In other words, the plan is workable if the Haitian people are able to compel their politicians to co-operate. The goal would be to wean the country off international aid and build a sustainable economy with a level of government service that sees all Haitians enjoying a comfortable and healthy standard of living. The plan also avoids quick-fix solutions and acknowledges that the rebuilding of Haiti is long-term endeavour.

## Follow-up

1. What was the original Marshall Plan? What was it designed to do?
2. What is the "Marshall Plan" for Haiti? Describe its main ideas.
3. Do you think the Strategic Plan for National Salvation can work or is it too ambitious?
4. What might be an alternative to the Strategic Plan?

# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## **VI** *A Heartfelt Appeal from the Governor General*

The day after the earthquake in Haiti, Governor General Michaëlle Jean captured the hearts of Canadians with a speech that recognized the early efforts of the Canadian government in dealing with the humanitarian crisis. The speech also called on the global community to help Haiti in its greatest time of need.

Jean, a native of Haiti whose family fled to Canada when she was 11, spoke earnestly and with emotions that moved many Canadians. She communicated compassion and concern with a clarity that motivated people to consider the plight of the people of Haiti. Here is what she said:

Ottawa – Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Exactly one year ago, I was in Haiti to assess the damage caused by the hurricanes that had cruelly ravaged a country that has suffered so much, and to support the reconstruction efforts there.\*

Yesterday, fate once again turned against the people of Haiti, who had only just begun to see a glimmer of hope.

I would first like to say that my husband, Jean-Daniel, our daughter, Marie-Éden, and I are all thinking about the victims, the countless families who have been affected and are in mourning, and all those who, like us, are so worried about their loved ones and friends in Haiti.

Like me, Haitian communities across Canada are heartbroken and overwhelmed by the magnitude of this catastrophe. The images and news reports are unbearable to watch. So much distress, suffering, and loss. We are also, of course, imagining the worst, situations no image can capture that only increase our feeling of helplessness.

I salute the friendship and solidarity being demonstrated all across Canada and throughout the international community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister of Canada for all the emergency assistance that has been sent. I thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs and in particular the Minister of Defence, with whom I have closely monitored the situation as it evolved and discussed, along with the Chief of the Defence Staff, the urgent needs to be deployed to Haiti.

I am also grateful to our ambassador, Gilles Rivard, and to his team in Port-au-Prince, with whom we have remained in contact via satellite, who are making remarkable efforts to help Canadians in Haiti and who are standing beside the people of Haiti at this terrible time.

My thoughts are also with our police officers, soldiers, missionaries, and humanitarian workers, and our UN family, who have all been hit very hard by this new disaster.

We still have no news of our dear friend, Hédi Annabi,\*\* Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Haiti. All we know is that he was with his colleagues in the United Nations' headquarters, which collapsed.

As I say that to you what comes to my mind are all of the images . . . and the terrible night . . . [the] terrible evening . . . that long day yesterday and the long day today . . . and know that every minute, every hour can make a difference . . . and draw a line between life and death.\*\*\*

Thank you to you, the media, for your all your reports and updates on the situation.

Now more than ever, it is time for us to show our solidarity with the most vulnerable people in the Americas, our brothers and sisters in Haiti, whose courage is once again being so harshly tested.

Ayisyen Ayisènn  
Pran couraj  
Pa lag\*\*\*\*

Source: Statement from the Governor General following the earthquake in Haiti, January 13, 2010, [www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=13483&lan=eng](http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=13483&lan=eng)

### Notes

\*Michaëlle Jean starts by referring to a visit to Haiti in 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, Haiti was pounded by hurricanes and tropical storms that left a widespread path of destruction and misery.

\*\*During the speech, the Governor General mentions a number of names, including Hédi Annabi, the Tunisian diplomat who headed the mission in Haiti. It was later learned that Annabi died when the UN Headquarters in Port-au-Prince collapsed, killing him and scores of other UN personnel.

\*\*\*The ellipses (...) indicate points where an emotional Jean had to pause during her speech.

\*\*\*\*The Governor General's speech ends with a brief comment in Creole. Jean later translated: "I said in Creole, 'Women and men of Haiti, we must not lose hope. We are known for our strength and resilience, and need to stand courageously before this challenge that is affecting us again'" (*The Globe and Mail*, January 14, 2010).

### Follow-up

1. To get a true sense of Michaëlle Jean's public appeal, watch the speech at [www.citizenvoices.gg.ca/en/videos/167](http://www.citizenvoices.gg.ca/en/videos/167). How does viewing and listening to the speech enhance your understanding of the Governor General's message?
2. Does a speech like this make a difference in how governments and the public respond to a crisis? Explain your opinion.

# A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI

## **Activity: Rebuilding Haiti**

This activity will provide you with the opportunity to participate in a Four Corners Debate. Here's how it works: A Four Corners Debate is a non-threatening way of debating topics in a timely yet provocative manner. Your teacher will post four signs, one in each corner of the classroom. They will say: AGREE, DISAGREE, STRONGLY AGREE and STRONGLY DISAGREE.

Next your teacher will write a statement on the board. Your job is to read the statement and go to the corner that you feel best describes your position regarding the statement. Once you are in your corner, you will work with your classmates to develop your own statement that summarizes your position. Listen carefully to what others have to say to make your summary as clear and concise as possible.

After about five minutes, your teacher will ask one member of each group to deliver their summary statement along with a one- to two-minute explanation of the group's position. After your spokesperson has finished delivering your summary, the floor will be opened to debate as people from other groups question and challenge your position. Each group will present in turn and you will have a chance to question and challenge their statements as well. At the end of the debate, your teacher will ask if you want to move to another corner of the room because your opinion has changed.

The goal of this debate style is to allow for informal debating while enhancing listening and presentation skills.

**Resources:** Before starting the debate, it might be helpful to review the video and the Guide material from this *News in Review* story.

Here are a few debate statements that your teacher might choose to use:

- Canada has a moral obligation to provide whatever humanitarian assistance the people of Haiti require, even if it means endangering the lives of Canadian soldiers and aid workers in the process.
- U.S. President Barack Obama echoed the sentiments of many of the world's political leaders when he said: "To the people of Haiti, we say clearly, and with conviction, you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten" (*The Globe and Mail*, January 16, 2010). While these remarks are promising, it is more than likely that the crisis in Haiti will be forgotten and the world community will once again turn its back on Haiti.
- Haiti should be left completely in charge of where relief donations are used and all aspects of the reconstruction effort. Foreign countries like Canada should not interfere even if they are giving hundreds of millions of dollars in reconstruction money.
- Canada cannot afford to help Haiti rebuild for the next 10 years. With the price tag set at a minimum of \$10-billion, Canada needs to admit that the reconstruction of Haiti is too time consuming and too expensive.
- Canada must forge a reconstruction partnership with Haiti. If Canadians and Haitians work together, they can make Haiti a prosperous Caribbean nation.