

**United Church of Canada Solidarity with Cuba Partners
Origin: Acting General Secretary**

On January 30, the Trump administration issued an [executive order](#) that enacts on the people of Cuba "a new tariff system that allows the United States to impose additional tariffs on imports from any country that directly or indirectly provides oil to Cuba."

As noted in the ACT Alliance and World Council of Churches [statement](#) released February 19th, Cuba is highly dependent on imported fuel for all essential services. The consequences for the people of Cuba of the US blockade on fuel supplies are therefore likely to be severe – from impacting electricity generation, hospitals and health services, water and sanitation systems, public transportation, to food production and distribution.

[Mission and Service partners in Cuba](#) (includes churches and ecumenical organizations):

- Cuban Council of Churches
- Cuban Centre for Reflection and Dialogue CCRD in Cardenas
- Martin Luther King Memorial Centre
- Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba
- Ecumenical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas

Partners report that they are on the brink of a catastrophic humanitarian crisis that money alone will not resolve. They note:

- Lack of access to basic food stuffs, the closure of small private grocery stores, others empty of products, food costs rising daily due to scarcity, long queues.
- No milk for children through the state food program that has historically provided a basket of food basics for Cubans. State bakeries that once provided bread are closed because they do not have fuel.
- Daycares are closed because they cannot provide food, not even bread or milk
- There is no fuel to bring milk or food from the countryside to towns
- Health and sanitation in crisis: municipal garbage bins are overflowing to the point that streets are blocked, and which endanger health
- Schools and universities are closed
- Workers do not have the means to get to work

Prior to the January 30th executive order, Cuba had been experiencing a deepening economic crisis due to the 60-year financial and trade embargo by the United States, which was worsened by COVID and its effects on the tourism industry, increasing climate-related emergencies and the imposition of additional punitive sanctions under both Trump and Biden governments.

Mission and Service Partner Response

In already difficult but now worsening conditions of electrical outages, scarcity of transportation, and blocks to financial transfers, Mission and Service Partners are responding by

- Providing Humanitarian Assistance
- Developing an ACT Appeal
- Advocating for the end of the blockade

United Church of Canada Response to Date

Advocacy

- The United Church of Canada issued a [statement of solidarity](#) with the Cuban people, inviting an [urgent response](#), through prayer and action with Cuban Mission and Service partners and the people of Cuba, who face multiple and deepening crises.
- The United Church is also working through the [Americas Policy Group](#) and the ACT Canada forum to send letters to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand and Secretary of State (International Development) Randeep Sarai.
- Working ecumenically United Church members are invited to send emails to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and International Development to press for robust and urgent humanitarian response from Canada. This strategy is being updated and strengthened. See: <https://petition.web.net/CanadaActNowOnCuba>.

Humanitarian Assistance

ACT Alliance

- ACT Appeal - the ACT Cuba forum (which includes 2 Mission & Service partners - the Cuban Council of Churches and the Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue) is considering launching an ACT Appeal in response to the deepening blockade and crisis, recent devastating impacts of Hurricane Melissa (category 5 strength) and previous major storms. Needs may include food assistance, access to clean water, non-food items including medicines and essential household needs, shelter, psychosocial support, and support for rural livelihoods.
- ACT Rapid Response Fund (RRF) used for the alert issued in October 2025 in response to Hurricane Melissa. Due to US sanctions, Cuba forum members are unable to receive funds from ACT. ACT is working with the members in Cuba and internationally to explore options.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)

- Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is partnering with the Cuban Council of Churches on a three-month food assistance project through CFGB. The United Church has committed \$130,000 in equity for this response. The project planning is underway, and we hope it will launch in March 2026.

United Church Communities of Faith

United Church communities of faith actively embody a decades-long history of ongoing people-to-people relationships between Canada and Cuba. Among these:

- Leaders in Halifax and London are actively organizing and contributing to containers of humanitarian assistance bound for Cuba.
- Westworth United in Winnipeg has a deep history of relationship with the Presbyterian Reformed congregation in Luyanó, Havana and other partners in Cuba. They have reached out to Cuba partners to express their concern and solidarity, encouraging members to take action and raise funds for humanitarian aid
- Members of Trinity United in Lively Ontario, first visited the Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue (CCRD) in Cárdenas in 2024, hosting a return visit of CCRD staff in 2025. As a result of the relationship, the region along with local Mennonite congregations raised \$7000 to support CCRD.
- In early February 2026, a congregant from Burbank United Church physically delivered a suitcase full of supplies for CCRD.

Mission and Service partners in Cuba are clear that the only just path forward includes an immediate end to the US blockade on Cuba, respect for sovereignty and international law and ongoing accompaniment and solidarity with the Cuban people in exercising their full rights to self-determination.