



Brendan Hanley
Député du Yukon

For immediate release
July 17th, 2025

Dear Minister Anand,

Congratulations on your recently appointed role as Minister of Foreign Affairs. I am writing to you in this role for the first time, and I look forward to working with you in this capacity.

As the Member of Parliament for the Yukon, I am deeply engaged with the concerns of Yukoners, and I committed to our government's principles of peace, human rights, and international law. We are not just observers of global suffering: we are stewards of Canada's moral voice in the world. I write to you regarding Canada's ongoing response to the continuous suffering, destruction, and violence in Gaza.

Since my previous correspondence to former Minister Joly and the Prime Minister Trudeau last November, the situation has only worsened, causing immense human suffering and raising serious questions about Canada's role and responsibilities. In follow-up to some of the conversations we have had in person, I am with this letter, formally asking for your responses to several specific areas where I believe Canada can and should amplify its voice and its diplomatic efforts.

We must ensure our current arms export controls fully reflect our commitment to peace and protection of civilians. While I recognize that new arms permits to Israel have been paused, many third-party reports indicate that ongoing shipments are continuing under existing permits. **What concrete measures are being taken to ensure that neither existing arms export permits nor indirect transfers, including dual-use technologies and third-country routes are contributing to Israeli military operations that risk civilian harm?**

I am aware of growing calls from across the country to apply SEMA sanctions more broadly targeting individuals and entities responsible for violations of international law and exacerbating the conflict. **Will our government expand the use of SEMA to sanction Israeli officials, institutions, or companies directly involved in or enabling violations of international humanitarian law?**

Given the escalating violence and civilian toll, I believe Canada must seriously evaluate the implementation of a full arms embargo on Israel and consider suspending defence trade relations until a sustainable ceasefire and humanitarian access are guaranteed. This would send a clear message in alignment with our values and those of our allies. **In view of the humanitarian toll and ongoing hostilities, is your ministry considering a full arms embargo and suspension of defence-related trade with Israel until a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian access are secured?**

We cannot allow starvation to become strategy, nor can we remain silent while aid workers are repeatedly targeted, and humanitarian aid continues to be militarized and grossly insufficient to avert famine. Hungry and desperate Palestinian citizens, including children, are killed daily at aid sites. **What diplomatic and political steps is Canada currently taking to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and how are we working with international partners to protect aid workers and civilians?**

Canadians are looking to us for leadership and clarity on these issues. I stand ready to support government initiatives that uphold Canada's reputation as a principled actor on the world stage and that meaningfully contribute to peace and the protection of civilians.

I know we share a common goal to see Canada uphold its values and international commitments while promoting peace and humanitarian relief. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

I look forward to working closely with you and our Cabinet colleagues to ensure Canada fulfills its responsibilities with courage, compassion, and conviction.

Sincerely,

Brendan Hanley
Member of Parliament for the Yukon