



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

ALISTER SMITH  
Executive Director for  
Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean

July 19, 2016

Ms. Helene Davis Whyte  
General Secretary  
Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers  
Kingston, Jamaica  
By email

Dear Ms. Davis Whyte,

I would like to thank you for writing to express your concerns regarding the World Bank Group's support for the privatization of water services and potential conflict of interest at the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

As Executive Director for Canada, Ireland the Caribbean, I believe that the World Bank Group must follow the highest standards with respect to financial, environmental and social safeguards in its operations, including the proper management of potential conflicts of interest.

The World Bank Group's operations are guided by two goals: to reduce extreme poverty, by reducing the percentage of people living with less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3 percent by 2030; and, to boost shared prosperity by promoting income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population in each country.

As part of these ambitious objectives, expanding access to clean water and basic sanitation services is a priority to reducing poverty. Under-investment in water infrastructure can have very serious health and social implications, and impede economic development. Improving access to clean water is a complex challenge and the World Bank Group works with governments to find the most appropriate solution to meet their needs. The goal of the World Bank Group is to ensure reliable services for those who need them the most, particularly the poor, in a sustainable and affordable way. As such, the World Bank Group does not have a preference for public or private solutions.

With respect to the letter from U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore to the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, I understand that Philippe Le Houerou, IFC Executive Vice-President, has responded directly to her on behalf of President Kim.

Sincerely,

Alister Smith