JNF Canada Leadership,

We are sharing this note as you may be contacted by individuals who have read recently published articles that appear to suggest that the policy decisions of Keren Kayemeth L’Yisrael (KKL) are necessarily supported by or should be attributed to JNF Canada. We want to dispel any notion that JNF Canada is in any way subservient to KKL. JNF Canada is not party to KKL’s policy decisions in any way. It is not consulted by KKL and it has no seats at the board of directors table where KKL’s policy issues are debated and adopted. This is part of the reason why JNF Canada removed the KKL logo from inside our old logo. We removed KKL from our corporate name and signed an MOU defining our relationship. JNF Canada is and always has been completely autonomous from KKL. JNF Canada cannot take responsibility for any decisions taken by KKL, particularly those that have significant political implications.

As we have decades of history between our two organizations and as KKL still refers to itself as “KKL-JNF,” we are concerned that people will perceive JNF Canada as a subsidiary of KKL. We want to communicate in the clearest possible terms that JNF Canada is an independent charity with its own board, governance, property and bank accounts. JNF Canada has sole direction and control over the money it disburses on its projects in Israel and when JNF Canada does collaborate with KKL, it is pursuant to a legally binding agency agreement. The agency agreement provides assurance that every dollar disbursed by JNF Canada goes to the charitable project that JNF Canada selected and designed, and does not get co-mingled with KKL’s general accounts. JNF Canada identifies the projects that it wishes to undertake to benefit Israel’s citizens. We find the best partner to help us bring our charitable projects to fruition. We take responsibility for the funds that the generous Canadian community has donated to ensure that they are all dedicated to that project. Therefore, if one makes a gift to JNF Canada, the funds are dedicated to a Canadian project that our agent (various Israeli charities) in Israel advances on our behalf. Canadian dollars only fund Canadian projects.

JNF is a non-political non-partisan organization. We are sensitive to the fact that the Canadian Jewish community is diverse with a wide variety of political opinions. We are a community organization and respect the diversity of perspectives. CRA has instructed us that it is a violation of Canadian policy to develop projects in the disputed territories. JNF Canada has gone on the record with CRA that we will respect their guidance and
therefore we will not fund projects in the disputed territories.

We are sharing this note as you may be contacted by individuals who have read recently published articles that appear to suggest that the policy decisions of KKL with respect to activity across the Green Line are necessarily supported by or should be attributed to JNF Canada.

We would like to share a statement from the leadership of KKL with respect to these articles. “The preliminary discussion, scheduled for Sunday [February 14, 2021] will revolve around general principles of action and will be based on a legal opinion that was requested and received during the previous management term. At this stage, there is no intention of opening up a new area in Judea and Samaria. Regardless, KKL-JNF’s policy remains that every contribution for every project in Israel is confirmed by and coordinated in advance with its donor, in accordance with the laws of the donor’s country.”

We hope this addressed the issues raised in recent articles. If you have any questions, you can feel free to contact us.

Beth S. Price         Lance Davis
President, JNF Canada  CEO, JNF Canada