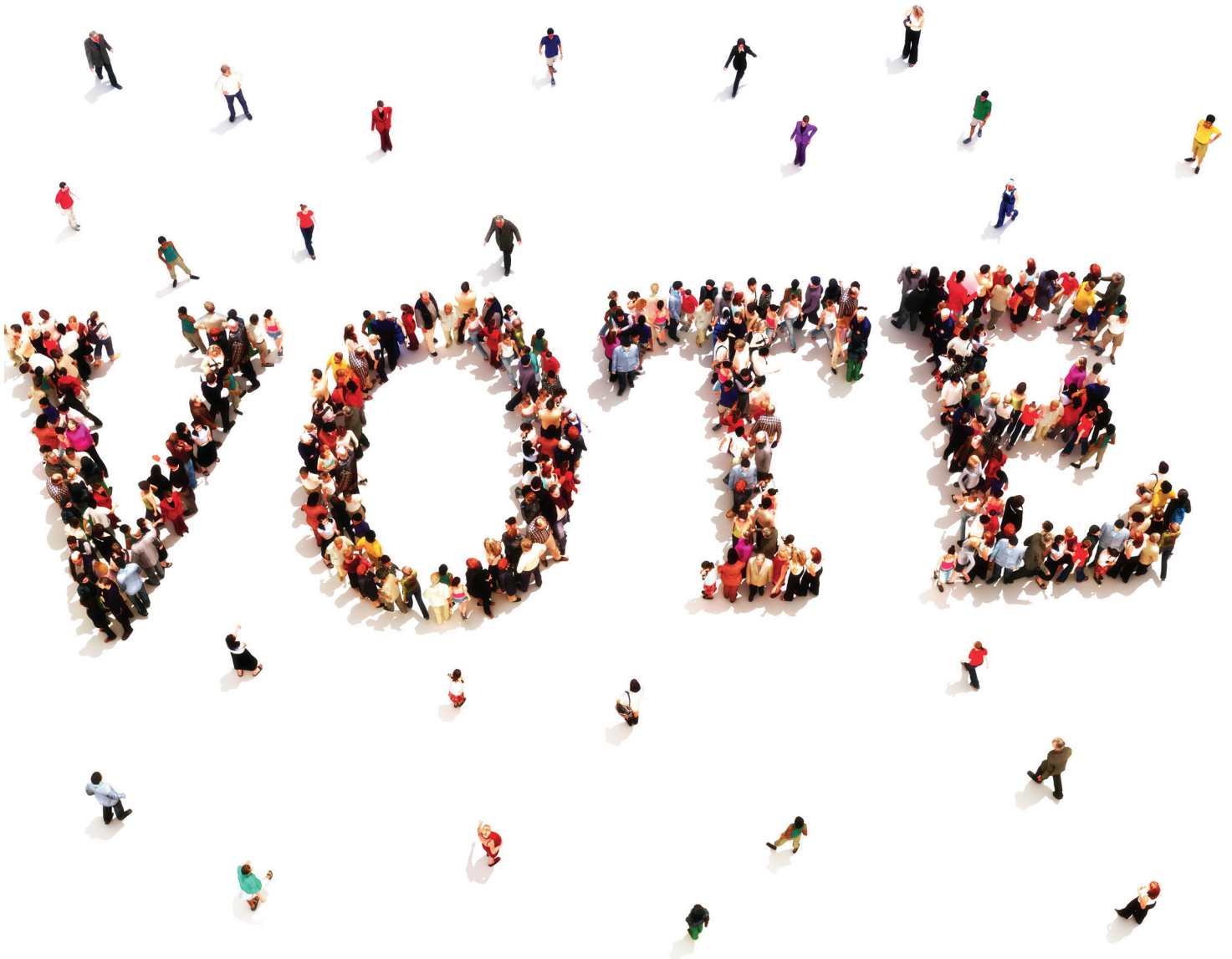


Compassion, Justice, and Reason

# An Anglican Approach for Election 2015



The Anglican Church of Canada

# An Anglican Approach for Election 2015

Anglicans approach life in the world through a faith that is based on scripture, tradition, and reason.

Time and again, God calls us through Holy Scripture and ancient and modern prophets to build a society based on justice and righteousness, a kingdom of compassion and justice. Anglican tradition is one of “walking with others,” learning about and respecting other beliefs and faiths. Anglican long-standing commitment to reason helps us hold opposing views in creative tension, finding the common good through prayerful discernment.

Compassion and justice, tempered by reason, form the basis for three broad sub-themes for the coming federal election, designed to respond to the Gospel call:

- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation; and
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

## Bridging Divides

We live in a country of abundance, yet not all benefit. Among the most vulnerable are the many who are homeless or living in precarious or unaffordable housing, children living in poverty with little hope for a brighter future, and young people who are underemployed and increasingly alienated from the political process. Their voice is not heard and their needs are not reflected adequately in election platforms. A compassionate and just society cares for the most vulnerable. Governments need to be encouraged to pursue concerted and collaborative approaches to bridge these divides—to end homelessness, to eliminate child poverty, and to give hope to future generations.

## Restoring Right Relations

We live in a country that believes in democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. And yet, we find ourselves facing major challenges—in our relations with the First Peoples of this land, our care and responsibility for the environment, and the balance of rights and freedoms with safety



and security in a diverse society. Responding to these challenges requires new conversations between government and people.

## **Promoting Peace and Stability**

We live in a country that is an active member within a global system of relationships, including the privileged G7 group of countries. Canada's voice can make a difference in promoting peace and stability and the growth and prosperity of our world. Words, however, have greater effect when they are matched with action. As partners with government, we encourage greater generosity in our international assistance, greater commitment and streamlined processes to welcome refugees, and continued efforts to find a meaningful approach to peace in the Middle East.



The following letter was sent to:

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper (Conservative),  
The Hon. Thomas Mulcair (New Democrat),  
Mr. Justin Trudeau (Liberal),  
Ms. Elizabeth May (Green),  
Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Bloc Quebecois)

August 26, 2015

**OPEN LETTER TO POLITICAL LEADERS:**

The race is on. Throughout our country, Canadians are listening to what you, as leaders of our political parties, have to say about what matters to them.

In shaping your party platforms and election slogans, may your ears and your hearts be open to the call of Canadians for compassion, justice, and reason. As a spiritual leader who travels from coast to coast to coast, I hear this call echoed by so many who aspire to build upon the firm foundations of a democracy that we value dearly and who are committed to love and serve others.

We live in a country of great abundance, yet not all benefit. Among the most vulnerable in our society are those who are homeless and the inadequately housed, children living in poverty with little hope for a brighter future, and young people who are underemployed and increasingly alienated from institutions, including the political process. Economic growth and prosperity are laudable goals, but they are not ends in themselves. If we are to live up to our commitment to love and serve others, we need to develop better ways to share our abundance.

We live in a country that believes in democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. And yet, we find ourselves facing major challenges — in our relations with the First Peoples of the land, our care and responsibility for the environment, and the balance of rights and freedoms with safety and security in a diverse society with its underlying tensions. The time has come to engage in new conversations and to work together toward a common good for this and for future generations.

We live in a country that is an active member within a global system aimed at promoting international economic growth and shared prosperity, peace and stability, environmental stewardship, and providing humanitarian assistance. Yet our own actions are what give meaning to our words as we share our abundance through greater international assistance, welcome refugees, adopt sound environmental policies, and work for peace.



While these issues are not at the centre of political debate in the current campaign, that does not diminish their importance in living up to the values that we hold as Canadians. The Anglican Church of Canada is actively engaged in all of these areas and remains committed to pray for and to work with all those in authority in building a society whose hallmarks at home and abroad are compassion and justice for all people.

As you continue your journey along the campaign trail, I encourage you to listen to all voices. How we choose to respond says a great deal about who we are and the values to which we adhere. For safety in all your travels and meaningful exchanges with Canadians from all walks of life, I hold you in my prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Hiltz".

Archbishop Fred J. Hiltz  
Primate, Anglican Church of Canada



Cette lettre a été envoyée à :

Le très honorable Stephen Harper (Conservateur),  
L'honorable Thomas Mulcair (NPD),  
M. Justin Trudeau (Libéral),  
Ms. Elizabeth May (Vert),  
M. Gilles Duceppe (Bloc Québécois)

le 26 août 2015

La course est bien commencée. Aux quatre coins de notre pays, les Canadiens et Canadiennes écoutent ce que vous, les dirigeants de nos partis politiques, avez à dire sur ce qui leur importe.

Lors de l'élaboration des programmes et des slogans électoraux de vos partis, que vos oreilles et vos cœurs soient ouverts à l'appel des concitoyens canadiens à la compassion, la justice et la raison. À titre de chef spirituel qui parcourt le pays de mer en mer, j'entends cet appel que reprennent tant d'individus qui cherchent à mettre à profit les solides fondations d'une démocratie qui nous est chère et qui s'engage à aimer et servir leur prochain.

Nous vivons dans un pays d'abondance, mais pas tous en bénéficient. Parmi les plus vulnérables de notre société, l'on compte les sans-abri et les personnes mal logées; les enfants vivant dans la pauvreté avec peu d'espoir d'un avenir meilleur; et les jeunes sous-employés qui se sentent de plus en plus détachés vis-à-vis les institutions, y compris le processus politique. La croissance économique et la prospérité sont des buts louables, mais elles ne sont pas des fins en soi. Si nous respectons notre engagement d'aimer et servir les autres, nous devons trouver de meilleurs moyens de partager notre abondance.

Nous vivons dans un pays fondé sur la démocratie, les droits de la personne et la primauté de la loi. Pourtant, nous affrontons des défis majeurs — dans nos relations avec les peuples autochtones, notre souci et responsabilité envers l'environnement et l'équilibre entre les droits et libertés et la sûreté et sécurité d'une société diversifiée et ses tensions sous-jacentes. Le temps est venu d'amorcer de nouvelles conversations et de travailler ensemble vers le bien commun pour les générations actuelles et futures.

Nous vivons dans un pays qui est un membre actif d'un système mondial favorisant la croissance économique internationale; une prospérité partagée; la paix et la stabilité; une gestion environnementale de même que la fourniture d'aide humanitaire. Or, nos propres actions sont ce qui donne un sens à nos mots alors que nous partageons notre abondance en augmentant notre aide internationale, en accueillant des réfugiés, en adoptant des politiques environnementales saines et en œuvrant pour la paix.



Bien que ces questions ne soient pas au centre du débat politique de la campagne actuelle, cela ne diminue pas leur importance en tant que valeurs que nous défendons comme Canadiens. L'Église anglicane du Canada s'engage activement dans tous ces secteurs et reste déterminée à prier et travailler avec toutes les personnes au pouvoir pour bâtir une société dont les principes au pays comme à l'étranger sont la compassion et la justice pour tous.

Alors que vous poursuivez votre campagne électorale, je vous encourage à être à l'écoute de toutes les voix. Notre façon de réagir en dit long sur qui nous sommes et sur les valeurs que nous appuyons. Afin que vos voyages se fassent en toute sécurité et que vos échanges avec les Canadiens de tous les milieux soient fructueux, je prierai pour vous.

Je vous prie d'accepter l'expression de mes sentiments distingués,



Archevêque Fred J. Hiltz  
Primat, Église anglicane du Canada



# Bridging Divides: *Homelessness and Affordable Housing*

## Issue

Federal funding is essential to support provincial and municipal delivery of affordable housing programs and measures to alleviate homelessness. Over 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness each year, with as many as 35,000 people homeless on any given night. In addition, nearly one in five Canadians spends more than 50% of their income on housing costs, resulting in extreme housing affordability problems.<sup>1</sup> Federal investment in affordable housing remains insufficient, resulting in long wait-lists and a lack of investment in maintenance and improvements for many low-income households. Housing in many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities is currently in extremely poor condition, with many families living with mould, insufficient heating, and overcrowding. Federal commitment to address homelessness and to invest in safe and affordable housing in partnership with others is key to tackling this crisis.

## Anglican Experience

Anglicans have been active in the area of homelessness and affordable housing for decades. Our 2013 Joint Assembly Declaration commits us to learn about the underlying issues, to support existing programs, to explore innovative approaches, and to advocate for renewed federal funding and a collaborative national strategy on housing. Parishes across Canada are engaged in hosting or supporting a range of programs to provide shelter to the homeless and to support affordable housing programs. Our supportive housing programs have experienced a reduction in funding recently as a result of a shift in federal policy funding that favours a “Housing First” approach. Although we support Housing First as an important innovation in addressing homelessness, it is not a panacea for all situations, and there is a need to continue to provide adequate funding for supportive housing that may not meet Housing First criteria.

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1. Stephen Gaetz, Tanya Gulliver, and Tim Richter. “The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014,” The Homeless Hub Press, June 1, 2015—<http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC2014.pdf>





## Anglican Perspectives

Does your Party:

- Support a collaborative approach with other levels of government to develop a national response to homelessness and affordable housing?
- Commit to invest in the maintenance and renewal of existing affordable housing stock?
- Recognize the need for housing assistance, including health and social services, rent supplements, and increased housing allocations for northern and First Nations communities?

### For More Information

#### Dignity for All: A National Anti-Poverty Plan

[http://www.cwp-csp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DignityForAll\\_Report-English-FINAL.compressed.pdf](http://www.cwp-csp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DignityForAll_Report-English-FINAL.compressed.pdf)

#### The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014

<http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC2014.pdf>

#### 2013 Joint Assembly Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada

<http://jointassembly.ca/delegates/acc/cc/joint-assembly-declaration.html>

#### Canada is on the cusp of an affordable housing crisis. An initiative of the Canadian Housing Renewal Association

<http://housing4all.ca/>



# Bridging Divides: *Child Poverty*

## Issue

Child poverty persists at alarming levels in Canada. One in two children on Aboriginal reserves lives in poverty; one in seven children for the whole of Canada lives in poverty. Despite a unanimous House of Commons Resolution in 1989 to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000, Canada trails most Western industrialized countries in tackling this critical issue. Studies confirm that children experiencing poverty are at a higher risk of health problems, developmental delays, and behavioural disorders, and tend to attain lower educational levels. They are more likely to live in poverty as adults. The human cost is devastating, but so are the social and economic costs to our society. A concerted approach on the part of all levels of government, together with religious, social, and private sector partners, with measurable goals, outcomes, and accountabilities is required to meet this moral, social, and economic imperative.

## Anglican Experience

As part of its commitment to respond to human need by loving service and to seek to transform unjust structures of society, the Anglican Church of Canada is engaged actively in poverty alleviation through both word and action, at local and national levels. Partnering with other faith-based and not-for-profit organizations, we raise awareness, advocate for responsive social policies, and promote practical solutions. Through our parishes from coast to coast to coast, we provide a range of nurturing programs to alleviate suffering and to provide meaningful support for those experiencing poverty in our midst, regardless of their faith background, including those living in the North and in remote locations. “I’m hoping that we’ll see legal, political, popular, cultural, spiritual and social support to change a system that is in desperate need of being changed,” said National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald.

## Anglican Perspectives

- How does your Party intend to meet its commitment to eliminate child poverty?
- What policies do you advocate to improve the lives of low-income families?
- What policies do you advocate to improve the lives of Indigenous children?



**For More Information**

**Dignity for All: A National Anti-Poverty Plan**

<http://www.cwp-csp.ca>

**Campaign 2000: End Child Poverty in Canada**

<http://www.campaign2000.ca>

**Conference Board of Canada Poverty Report Card**

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca>



# Bridging Divides: *Intergenerational Inequities*

## Issue

There is a “generation gap” in Canada that warrants public policy concern and attention.

Witness the widening income gap between older and younger workers in Canada over the past three decades, the underemployment of young people, precarious jobs with fewer benefits, decreased socio-economic upward mobility, and the disengagement of young people from the existing political process. Left unresolved, these issues can lead to increased social tensions and affect political stability, undermine sustainable economic growth, and pose serious challenges to the fabric of our democracy.

## Anglican Experience

Young people are not only the future, they are the present. Through learning and formation experiences, mission and outreach initiatives, and social engagement and community service, the Anglican Church of Canada seeks to help shape responsible and caring members of Canadian society. Although this can provide young adults with valuable emotional and spiritual support and leadership skills, nevertheless crippling student loans, unaffordable adequate housing, especially in large cities, and fewer permanent jobs with benefits increase the generation gap. Samara’s “Democracy Talks” is an initiative that strengthens intergenerational commitment to exploring democratic resolutions to these issues.

## Anglican Perspectives

- What is your Party’s commitment to young people? What policies and measures are you willing to put in place to help bridge this serious divide?
- What measures does your Party propose to provide better and more sustainable jobs for young people?



## **For More Information**

***The Buck Stops Here: Trends in Income Inequality Between Generations,***

Report by The Conference Board of Canada, September 2014

***Youth Employment in Canada: Challenges and Potential Solutions,***

Report by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, June 2014

([www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications](http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications))

**Samara Canada Report Card**

<http://www.samaracanada.com>

**Samara “Democracy Talks”**

<http://www.samaracanada.com/samara-in-the-classroom/democracy-talks>



# Restoring Right Relations: *Steps on the Journey of Reconciliation*

## Issue

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) completed its five-year mandate in 2015—to acknowledge residential school experiences, impacts, and consequences, and to promote a lasting awareness of these truths for all people living in Canada. Moving beyond the legacy of residential schools requires reconciliation—through formal apologies made by the Government of Canada (2008), churches, and other institutions—and by new commitments to justice and Indigenous rights.

## Anglican Experience

The Anglican Church's relationship with Aboriginal peoples on Turtle Island (what is now called North America) began in the 1600s. More recently, the Anglican Church of Canada refers to its 1993 *Apology* and the 1994 *Covenant and Our Journey of Spiritual Renewal* as key moments leading to healing and reconciliation and the growing self-determination of the Indigenous Church within the Anglican Church of Canada.

The TRC mandate (2009–2015) with its focus on truth-telling and witnessing will be followed up with concrete actions as the church reviews and implements the TRC Final Report's 94 *Calls to Action* in the church and in society with ecumenical, Aboriginal, and government partners.

Anglicans across Canada are joining the call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Education and action resources will be posted on <http://www.anglican.ca/tr/> in September 2015.

## Anglican Perspectives

1. What will your Party do to implement the TRC's *Calls to Action*? Specifically, how will your Party respond to:
  - the call for a public inquiry that includes an investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls
  - the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody
  - curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples.



2. How will your Party commit to implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that was endorsed by the Government of Canada in 2010?
3. With respect to resource extraction, what does Free, Prior and Informed Consent mean to you?

### **For More Information**

#### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada *Calls to Action***

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

#### **Churches respond to the Calls to Action**

<http://www.anglican.ca/tr/response-of-the-churches-to-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/>

#### **Anglican Church of Canada ministry, programs, and resources**

<http://www.anglican.ca/tr/>

#### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

#### **Government of Canada's Apology to Survivors of Indian Residential Schools**

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100015644/1100100015649>

**The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women said Canada has violated the rights of Indigenous women by failing to thoroughly investigate why they are targeted for violence. For background and the full report**

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15656&LangID=E>



# Restoring Right Relations: *Caring for Creation*

## Issue

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the earth's temperature must not rise more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Climate change is already causing the extinction of plant and animal species, the melting of northern glaciers, rising sea levels, and correspondingly, conflict over natural resources, threats to agrarian and fisheries-based livelihoods, large-scale migration, and poverty.

At their annual summit in Germany in June 2015, G7 leaders, in what is viewed as a “hopeful” and “historic” agreement, committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by phasing out the use of fossil fuels by the end of the 21st century. The way forward for an energy-dependent economy such as Canada's is not yet clear and will require continued close attention and public engagement to ensure progress.

## Anglican Experience

Anglican bishops meeting in South Africa in February 2015 urged Canadian and world leaders to work with haste toward “fair, ambitious, accountable and binding climate change agreements at national and international levels...to develop policies that genuinely assist climate refugees and promote mechanisms of entire governmental co-operation that ensures their human rights, safety and resettlement.”

The Anglican Church of Canada has long articulated a commitment to caring for God's creation. This commitment encompasses a view of humanity within the web of creation, not separate or apart from it. Thus, actions destructive of creation must be met with resistance and a turning to the protection of the Earth as originally created by God.

One of the five global Anglican Marks of Mission obligates us: *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth.* That Mark of Mission is reflected in an addition to the church's baptismal vows in 2013: “Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?”...“I will, with God's help.”

With ecumenical partners such as KAIROS and many others (see below), we advocate for our governments to live up to stated commitments to reduce carbon emissions; for resource extraction to move away from fossil fuels; to respect for the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples; and, for awareness of the disproportionate impact of climate change on people living in poverty. In April 2015, we joined with other church investors in calling





for a clear price on carbon emissions. We are also “greening” Anglican institutional spaces by providing matching funds to parishes undertaking green audits. In October 2015, we are supporting the participation of Indigenous leaders from Canada as they join faith leaders from the whole circumpolar region in an Arctic summit on climate change.

## Anglican Perspectives

1. In 2009, Canada committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 17% from 2005 levels by 2020. The G7 Leaders’ Summit in June 2015 committed to phase out the use of fossil fuels by the end of the 21st century. There is not, as yet, any plan of action to support these commitments. What will your Party do to help Canada live up to its stated commitments?
2. What is your Party’s position on carbon pricing?
3. The United Nations 2015 Climate Conference in Paris in December, will, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, aim to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. What will you do to ensure that Canada is committed to an active and constructive role at this conference?

### For More Information

#### Resources and statements

<http://www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/creationmatters/>

“The World is our Host” (April 2015)

<http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/The-World-is-our-Host-FINAL-AMENDED-150330-kjg.pdf>

**Anglican Church of Canada baptismal vow**

<http://www.anglican.ca/news/covenant-and-care-a-baptismal-promise-to-safeguard-creation/3006799/>

#### Anglican and Lutheran commitment to responsible resource extraction

[http://jointassembly.ca/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Assembly-Declaration-2013\\_FINAL.pdf](http://jointassembly.ca/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Assembly-Declaration-2013_FINAL.pdf)

#### KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/sustainability/climate-justice/hopeful-signs-alarming-realities-on-the-road-to-climate-justice-briefing-paper-41/>

#### Canadian Council of Churches

<https://www.councilofchurches.ca/social-justice/climate-justice/>

#### Citizens for Public Justice

<http://www.cpj.ca/sites/default/files/docs/files/2015ElectionBulletin.pdf>

#### SHARE (Shareholders Association for Research and Education)

<http://www.share.ca>. See especially: <http://www.anglican.ca/news/churchinvestors-sign-ecumenical-letter-calling-for-price-on-carbon/30010727/>

#### Faith and the Common Good

<http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net/>



# Restoring Right Relations: *A New Dialogue on Restorative Justice*

## Issue

Over the last several years, there has been a shift in government policy with respect to justice and security, altering the delicate balance all societies must achieve between safety and security on the one hand and individual rights and freedom of expression on the other. Legislation (Bill C-53) affecting incarceration has altered the situation for victims and offenders alike. Changes to the Criminal Code under the anti-terrorism act (Bill C-51) alter definitions of lawful protest and freedom of expression. In a climate of increased international and domestic tensions and terrorist attacks, the need to protect Canadians is evident. However, the measures introduced through recent anti-terrorism legislation could constrain lawful protest and freedom of expression in ways that undermine our tenets of democracy.

In addition, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has put forward 18 recommendations for changes with respect to incarceration and justice for Aboriginal people. Finally, the mandate and financial support for highly successful programs such as Circles of Support and Accountability need to be extended.

## Anglican Experience

Forty-three years ago, the Anglican Church of Canada joined other churches to establish the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. CCJC “serves as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections,” promoting restorative justice for victims and offenders through education, programs, and advocacy.

Anglicans throughout Canada are engaged in a range of programs in partnership with governments at all levels and others to provide spiritual care for offenders through chaplains and volunteers and to support their rehabilitation and re-integration into communities. They also support victims through healing and reconciliation programs.

For the past 20 years, Anglicans have taken a leading role in the establishment of Circles of Support and Accountability in 18 communities across Canada, an initiative that has proven to improve the transition for ex-offenders into community life and to improve community safety. The continuation of this highly successful program is affected by reduced government funding.

Anglican commitments to live into right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the church and in society mean that we are concerned about the disproportionate number of incarcerated Aboriginal men and women in Canada’s prisons, and the inequities



faced by Aboriginal people charged and tried in the Canadian justice system. We have come to recognize these injustices as a legacy of residential schools, a legacy that resulted in people being marginalized from the benefits and privileges extended more broadly. We support the 18 *Calls to Action* under “Justice” in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report.

## Anglican Perspectives

What will your Party do:

- To restore a sense of hope for victims and offenders alike and belief in restorative justice through the corrections system?
- To enable the flourishing of Circles of Support and Accountability?
- To ensure that sentencing and release decisions remain with the Parole Board of Canada?
- To commit to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission *Calls to Action* 25 — 42?

### For More Information

#### Bill C-51 Anti-terrorism Act

<https://openparliament.ca/bills/41-2/C-51/>

#### Bill C-53 Life Means Life Act

<https://openparliament.ca/bills/41-2/C-53/>

#### Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

See especially “Justice” and 18 related *Calls to Action*.

#### The Church Council on Justice and Corrections

<http://ccjc.ca/about/about-ccjc/>



# Restoring Right Relations: *A New Dialogue on Diversity, Inclusion, and Interfaith Co-operation*

## Issue

Canada is an increasingly pluralistic country, and more and more Canadians are living, working, and socializing side by side with people of other religious traditions. There is a growing need not just for dialogue with people of other faiths, but for genuine relationships with them. Increased awareness of religious plurality, the potential role of religion in conflict, and the growing place of religion in public life all present urgent challenges that require greater understanding and co-operation among people of diverse faiths.

## Anglican Experience

The Anglican Church of Canada is involved in inter-religious relations locally and nationally, often in partnership with other churches. Our approach consists of two main aspects: 1) We participate in **dialogue** with people of other faiths to grow in mutual understanding and to share spiritual insights; 2) We engage in **common action** with people belonging to other religions to address issues related to life together in society. By finding common ground as people of different faiths, we can work collaboratively for the common good, on causes such as poverty, the environment, peacemaking, and religious liberty. Our church also has a long-standing commitment to combating anti-Semitism in Canada, and has more recently committed to actively oppose Islamophobia in our midst.

## Anglican Perspectives

- World events have resulted in a documented rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric and Islamophobic incidents in Canada. How would your Party help counter this troubling trend?
- Criticism of the policies of the State of Israel is sometimes equated with being an act of anti-Semitism. Would your Party agree that this is unhelpful and that one can support the Jewish people's right to self-determination while still legitimately challenging particular actions of the Israeli government?
- What measures would your Party take to safeguard the religious freedoms of all Canadians from restrictive measures such as were proposed in Quebec's "Charter of Values" and its current proposed legislation on religious apparel?



## **For More Information**

**General Synod 2013 resolution on peace and justice in Israel and Palestine**

<http://jointassembly.ca/delegates/acc/cc/resolutions/a172.html>

***From Darkness to Dawn*, an Anglican study resource on Christian-Jewish relations**

<http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/from-darkness-to-dawn-c.pdf>

***Generous Love*, an Anglican theology of interfaith relations**

[http://www.acommonword.com/lib/downloads/generous\\_love\\_A4\\_with\\_foreward.pdf](http://www.acommonword.com/lib/downloads/generous_love_A4_with_foreward.pdf)



# Promoting Peace and Stability: *Welcoming the Stranger – Refugees*

## Issue

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) there are currently more refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world than at any time since World War II.<sup>1</sup> Nations need to share the responsibility of accepting refugees. Canada's performance in welcoming refugees has diminished significantly in recent years. In marked contrast to our generous response to the plight of the Indochinese "boat people" that resettled over 60,000 refugees over an 18-month period between 1979 and 1980, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) reports that only 12,186 refugees were resettled in Canada in 2013, of which 6,396 were Privately Sponsored Refugees.<sup>2</sup> The process is slow, the financial and health care support offered refugees has been cut significantly, and negative stereotypes of "bogus refugees" and "queue jumpers" have distorted the actual situation of most asylum seekers.

## Anglican Experience

As people of faith and through our baptismal vows as Anglicans, we commit ourselves to care for the stranger and the most vulnerable in our communities and in the world. Jesus, himself a refugee as a child, exhorted his followers to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35). This call was echoed by Archbishop Fred Hiltz in his Refugee Rights Day 2014 message to Canadian Anglicans: *"As people of faith, we are called by the gospel to 'welcome the stranger' in our midst... From coast to coast, Anglican parishes 'welcome the stranger' through Private Sponsorship Agreements and advocacy for the rights and hopes of refugees. I am very proud of your commitment to this ministry. It is a powerful witness to the law of Moses, the call of the prophets and the teaching of Jesus."*<sup>3</sup>

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1. The UNHCR's Global Trends 2013 report, "War's Human Cost," documented that more than 51 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013, the largest number since the end of World War II. Half of the world's refugees in 2013 were children: <http://www.unhcr.org/5399a14f9.html>

2. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2013/permanent/02.asp>

3. "PWRDF is Proud to Protect Refugees," a public letter about the Anglican Church's work with refugees through PWRDF, by Archbishop Fred Hiltz: <http://pwrdf.org/2013/pwrdf-is-proud-to-protect-refugees/>



Anglican parishes across the country have participated actively in Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PRSP) since its inception in 1979, welcoming and settling literally thousands of refugees to Canada and into their communities and lives. Currently, 14 dioceses are Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Through The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the official development and relief agency of the Anglican Church, Canadian Anglicans have also supported emergency relief and long-term development programs for refugees overseas since the agency's founding in 1959. PWRDF has a decades-long engagement in education and advocacy work with and on behalf of refugees overseas and in Canada.

## Anglican Perspectives

Will your Party:

- Renew/honour commitments to expedite applications of asylum seekers and those seeking resettlement in Canada?
- Establish a meaningful consultation with SAHs regarding their capacity to respond to Ministerial resettlement priorities?
- Enhance consultations with those SAHs engaged in resettling Syrian refugees to ensure greater effectiveness in achieving the Government's stated objectives of processing 10,000 over the next three years?
- Re-instate the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) in full for both privately sponsored refugees and refugee claimants?
- Increase the number of resettlement spaces available to Government-Assisted Refugees?
- Uphold the principle of "additionality" that recognizes that all privately sponsored refugees are *in addition to* and not *in place of* Government commitments to resettlement?
- Improve application processes so that they are both fair and timely for refugee claimants in Canada, and allow adequate time for case preparation?
- Promote a positive image of refugees in Canada?

### For More Information

Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)

<http://ccrweb.ca/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<http://www.unhcr.org/>

Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders (UNHCR)

<http://www.unhcr.org/51b6de419.html>

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

<http://www.pwrdf.org>



The Anglican Church of Canada

# Promoting Peace and Stability: *Investing in a Fragile World through International Assistance*

## Issue

The Creator's community of life calls for justice, health, and peace for every family, community, and country. Collective actions are needed to ensure that sustainable development outcomes are achieved for everyone, everywhere, a wise investment in support of a fragile world. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is the flow of official financing from donor government agencies to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Since 1970, when the UN Pearson Commission recommended that 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) of developed countries should be directed toward overseas development assistance, developed countries, including Canada, have repeatedly committed themselves to do so. However, Canada's aid budget and program has seen significant cuts in recent years. Canada's provision of international aid as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) has fallen from 0.34% in 2010 to 0.24% in 2014 (currently 16th out of 28 donor countries). Approximately \$CAD1.1 billion funding has lapsed from 2010 to 2014.

Parallel to the negotiation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is a global Financing for Development process underway on how these might be financed. Trillions of dollars are required. It is recognized that multiple sources of financing will be required, including domestic resource mobilization, private sector investments, multilateral bank loans, and official development assistance. Canada rightly notes that official development assistance can play only a small part in the total financing needed. Canada wrongly uses this as an excuse to resist calls for it to reverse its declining aid budget. Critical investments need to be made that can and should be supported with official aid dollars. Canada will be under growing international pressure to increase the volume of its aid program.

## Anglican Experience

Through its General Synod resolutions in 2004 and 2007, the Anglican Church of Canada called on the Government of Canada to meet the international commitment of 0.7% GNP for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Anglicans across Canada, through their support to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), Anglican Appeal, and Global Relations, commit themselves to support international development programs, fight poverty, and strengthen international and intra-Anglican partnerships.

Canadian Anglicans have worked with the Government of Canada since the creation of the





Canadian International Development Agency in 1968. The Government currently provides PWRDF with a 3:1 match to administer ODA funding through the Partnerships with Canadians program, for preventive health, food security, and HIV and AIDS work in five countries. PWRDF is an active participant in the Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The Fund also represents the Anglican Church of Canada in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which supports conservation agriculture among smallholder farmers. PWRDF is a member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation which continuously monitors and analyzes trends and developments related to the International Assistance Envelope, Canadian Official Development Assistance, and its implications on development and programming.

## Anglican Perspectives

What is your Party's position with respect to:

1. The commitment to reach the 0.7% GNP target?
2. Reversing the cuts to Canadian Official Development Assistance and improving Canada's aid spending performance?
3. Supporting small farmers? Will you help restore a focus and increase financial support for agricultural development, especially for smallholder farmers and women? Supporting smallholder farmers is an important and effective way to reduce world hunger and promote the health and well-being of all, especially mothers and children. It is also vital for building strong economies and a safer, healthier world.

### For More Information

#### Anglican Church of Canada, General Synod Resolutions

Resolution A153, 2004, <http://gs2004.anglican.ca/atsynod/resolutions/A153.htm>

Resolution A213, 2007, <http://archive.anglican.ca/g2007/rr/resolutions/a213.pdf>

#### Organization for Economic and Co-operation and Development

The 0.7% ODA target—a history <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/the07odagnitarget-ahistory.htm>

#### Government of Canada

**Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's Official Development Assistance, 2013-2014** [http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/dev-results-resultats/reports-rapports/oda\\_report-rapport\\_ado-13-14.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/dev-results-resultats/reports-rapports/oda_report-rapport_ado-13-14.aspx?lang=eng)

#### Statistical Report on International Assistance 2013-2014

<http://international.gc.ca/development-developpement/dev-results-resultats/reports-rapports/sria-rsai-2013-14.aspx?lang=eng>

#### Official Development Assistance Accountability Act

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/O-2.8/FullText.html>

#### Canadian Council for International Cooperation

Aid policy [http://www.ccic.ca/what\\_we\\_do/aid\\_cdn\\_policy\\_practice\\_e.php](http://www.ccic.ca/what_we_do/aid_cdn_policy_practice_e.php)

#### Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Good Soil Campaign <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/good-soil/>



# Promoting Peace and Stability: *Partnerships for Peace in the Middle East*

## Issue

The achievement of justice, peace, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

## Anglican Experience

The Anglican Church of Canada has worked for decades in companionship with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and with Canadian and global ecumenical church partners to promote justice, peace, and reconciliation in the Middle East through prayer, study, policy, and advocacy. The Church has worked historically, and to this day, with Canadian and Israeli Jewish organizations, networks, and representatives, and with members of the Canadian Palestinian and Muslim communities.

The Anglican Church of Canada recognizes the legitimate aspirations, rights, and needs of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace with dignity within sovereign and secure borders. We condemn the use of violence of all kinds, especially against civilians, and call for an end to the Israeli occupation, transfer, and settlement of Palestinian territories. We are committed to learning about the complexities of economic advocacy measures. We challenge theologies and beliefs such as Christian Zionism that support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, as well as theories and beliefs denying the right of Israel to exist. We continue to resolutely oppose anti-Semitism, anti-Arab sentiments, and Islamophobia.

## Anglican Perspectives

- What are the key issues today for Palestinians and Israelis in their conflict with one another?
- What must be strengthened in the current Israel/Palestine context for peace with justice to develop and be sustainable?



## **For More Information**

**General Synod 2013 resolution on peace and justice in Israel and Palestine**

<http://jointassembly.ca/delegates/acc/cc/resolutions/a172.html>

**“Christian Zionism a ‘heresy,’ says Anglican priest”**

<http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/christian-zionism-a-heresy-says-anglican-priest>

***From Darkness to Dawn*, an Anglican study resource on Christian-Jewish relations**

<http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/from-darkness-to-dawn-c.pdf>



# Tips for a successful meeting with your MP or candidates for election

## Meetings with candidates (during an election)

While any time during a term in office offers opportunity to engage Members of Parliament on issues, the pre-election period is one of intensified focus. Meeting with candidates for the 2015 federal election will offer opportunities for further engagement once the elected candidate takes office.

Meetings held with candidates will help to convey the message that Anglicans are active citizens on issues concerning the common good. Strive to meet with all candidates, ensuring equal time with all, and having a neutral moderator such as a member of a local chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women. Many Anglicans also participate in public engagement and government relations via ecumenical relationships. These tips are meant to be helpful in a variety of settings.

## Meetings with sitting Members of Parliament (outside of an election period)

Many MPs are willing to meet only with constituents. Their staff will likely ask for a postal code for verification. The lead person seeking and attending a meeting should be a constituent. Use the Parliament of Canada web site to identify the MP in your riding. <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

In your first approach, introduce yourself as a constituent, and a member of a parish, giving any office you may hold or experience with the issues you wish to discuss. If your parish has a strong, lived-out commitment to social justice, for example, present this for information.

## Be prepared

Before going to the meeting do some research. Every MP has a website that includes contact information, biographical notes and details about issues that interest the MP. Going into the meeting with an understanding of the MP's background and priorities will help establish credibility and get your meeting off to a good start. Also visit web sites of Opposition parties and review their policies and positions on issues.

Familiarize yourself with the issues you plan to discuss. As a representative of your parish you are offering to present the issues as outlined in the Anglican Church's Election 2015 Resource. Regardless of personal political views, it is important to be non-partisan in your conduct. You



are not expected to be an expert and to provide technical details. If your MP asks a question to which you don't have an answer, offer to find out and follow-up by email or phone.

You will be asking for the MP's understanding and support. Consider what you can offer that will be of interest to the MP. For example, if your parish is supporting a homeless shelter or resettling refugees, preface your remarks with a few facts about this experience.

## Be organized

If you are meeting an MP as a group, be organized. Decide beforehand who will speak on each issue to be raised. The group should be no larger than three or four, and group members should be identified in advance of the meeting.

## Get to the point

MPs have busy schedules and they meet with many groups. You will impress if you are clear and concise. Stick to your key messages. An MP who may not be keen to discuss a particular issue may try to deflect from your concerns to theirs or reframe the issue.

## Outcomes

What are your "asks" of the MP? You will want to know whether your MP agrees or disagrees with your position. If they disagree, inquire about the reasons and the views the MP holds. If there is agreement, ask what the MP is prepared to do to advance the issue, such as raising it in caucus or, for the governing party, communicating with a minister. Regardless of the outcome, follow up with a thank you card or email and keep open the line of communication.

### Anglican, ecumenical, and partner resources

Diocese of Toronto, *Tips for Working with Politicians*.

<http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/social-justice-and-advocacy/advocacy-resources/>

Canadian Council of Churches Ecumenical Election 2015 resource

<https://www.councilofchurches.ca/2015-federal-election/>

KAIROS issue briefings

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/research-analysis/kairos-briefing-papers/>

Citizens for Public Justice Election 2015 resource

<http://www.cpj.ca/sites/default/files/docs/files/2015ElectionBulletin.pdf>

