



*In Mission  
for Others*

# Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0W5 Canada. [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca)  
Toll free: 1.888.786.6707, Phone: 204.984.9150, Fax: 204.984.9185

August 25, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
[pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I am writing to share with you our concern for the climate and our hopes for an effective global process through COP21 in Paris.

July 8-12, 2015 the ELCIC gathered in Edmonton, Alberta, for our biennial National Convention. One action of the convention was to adopt an “ELCIC Resolution on Climate Justice.”

In this resolution, the ELCIC affirms our understanding that:

- Climate change is real and influenced by human actions;
- Increasingly severe impacts are already being experienced on every continent, with growing economic and social costs;
- If we act now it will still be possible to keep global warming below the internationally agreed danger-threshold of an increase of 2 degrees Celsius. To achieve this, carbon pollution must be reduced quickly; and
- Climate change is a matter of social and economic justice, as it most affects the poorest people and displaces the most vulnerable.

The ELCIC believes that taking global action now can make a difference. We have called on members of our church to participate in this effort and to work toward the goal of becoming carbon-neutral at organizational, congregational and personal levels by 2050.

We also believe that the Government of Canada has responsibilities and opportunities to make a difference.

As Prime Minister, we call on you to work with world political and business leaders to:

- Design and agree on elements of a strong global response to climate change that reflects the strong and growing scientific and environmental evidence and draft an ambitious new climate agreement to tackle climate change in the coming decades;
- Make it a personal priority to address the human contribution to Climate Change, and make firm commitments for deeper cuts in carbon pollution;
- Make national contributions meaningful by ensuring that they feature convincing targets to reduce carbon pollution while providing money to help poorer countries take climate action as well;
- Seek agreement at COP 21 in Paris to develop Low Carbon Development Strategies. The agreement should also refer to phase out of fossil fuels, and increase of renewable energy and energy efficiency; and
- Respect the principles of equity, ensuring that the response includes provisions to assist the most vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change already being experienced, and to account for the loss and damage being caused.

As members of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)—A Communion of Churches, the ELCIC commits to joining the global Christian community, and people of all faiths and persuasions, on the journey for climate justice. This task is one that we can only achieve when we unite in a common cause, living out our joint destiny in this fragile, beautiful world which we all share.

At a personal level, and as part of a global call to prayer (#fastfortheclimate), I fast on the 1st day of each month; and will do so until December 1, 2015, at the beginning of COP21 in Paris.

“We fast in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable who are unduly affected by extreme weather events. We fast to underline the urgency of the negotiations on climate change. We fast in many different places and faith communities worldwide, united in a common practice. We fast for climate justice.” <http://www.lutheranworld.org/fastfortheclimate>

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Susan C. Johnson  
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

c.c. The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, The Leader of the Official Opposition  
Justin Trudeau, MP, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
Elizabeth May, MP, Leader of the Green Party of Canada  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment  
ELCIC National Church Council