



**ELCIC**

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# Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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April 12, 2011

Chief Electoral Officer of Canada  
Marc Mayrand  
Elections Canada  
257 Slater Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0M6

Dear Marc Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

I wish to express my concern and disappointment that advance polls will be open on Good Friday.

Good Friday is one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar. It is a solemn day of worship, personal reflection and prayer. While respecting the diversity of faiths in this country, as a church leader I wish to note that this is a day regarded as sacred by the many, many Canadians who identify themselves as Christian. Clearly, April 22, 2011 is in conflict with a day of religious and cultural significance.

This day is also a Canadian statutory holiday. It seems inconsistent to have advance polling stations in conflict with both a statutory holiday and a day sacred to so many Canadians.

An obvious solution seems to be to have the polls closed this Good Friday, and instead open on another day.

I encourage Elections Canada to review its practices for advance polling procedures, with the intention of more clearly demonstrating respect for the holy days, not only of Christians, but of other faiths as well.

Yours in Christ,

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