



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3H6 Canada. www.elcic.ca
Toll free: 1.888.786.6707, Phone: 204.984.9150, Fax: 204.984.9185

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Langevin Block
Ottawa, ON Canada K1A 0A2

December 15, 2010

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I am writing to commend the Government of Canada on its decision of November 12, 2010 to endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

This decision is in keeping with your apology to the survivors of Indian Residential Schools, the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the history of Canada as a promoter of human rights. It is in keeping with our church's desire to have fair, just and renewed relationships with Canada's indigenous peoples. It is also in keeping with the policies of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, who faithfully give voice to the importance of this declaration.

The UNDRIP articulates a standard by which all citizens, organizations and governments can review history, reflect on practices and choose positive actions for our shared journey toward right relationships. Now that the important step of endorsement has been taken, the real work of implementation begins. I am encouraging members of the ELCIC to reflect on how we can renew our relationship with indigenous peoples.

The members of our church look forward to working with all who call this land home to live out the covenant of the UNDRIP. Our prayers are with you and all who hold public office as you offer faithful leadership for implementing the declaration.

Yours in Christ,

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

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cc: National Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
National Chief Sean A-in-chut-Atleo, Assembly of First Nations
The Hon. John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
The Hon. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the official Opposition
The Hon. Gilles Duceppe, Party Leader, Bloc Québécois
The Hon. Jack Layton, Party Leader, NDP
Mary Corkery, Executive Director, KAIROS