



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0W5, Canada

Phone: 204.984.9150, Toll Free: 1.888.786.6707, Fax: 204.984.9185, Website: www.elcic.ca

December 5, 2019

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Champagne:

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I am writing to express our support for the recent vote by Canada at the United Nations that recognized the right of Palestinian people to self-determination and equality.

The ELCIC supports Canada's *goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel.*¹ We seek a peace with justice for both Israelis and Palestinians and see your willingness to show support for the end of the occupation and the rights of Palestinians to self-determination as a crucial step forward.

The ELCIC has a long standing relationship with our partner church in the region, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Through this relationship, I have had many opportunities to visit and witness first-hand the impact of the occupation on the lives of Palestinians of different faiths. My most recent visit was last month; as such, safety and peace for all people in the Holy Land are very much on my heart and mind. Our hope is rooted in our belief that *God desires that all people live in peace and without division and that there is a deep longing among Palestinians, Israelis, and the people of the world for safety, freedom, justice, security, dignity, and respect.*²

¹Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Policy, www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/mena-moan/israeli-palstinian_policy-politique_israelo-palestinien.aspx?lang=eng

² ELCIC Resolution on Peace in the Holy Land, 2009, www.elcic.ca/Public-Policy/documents/600.52009-ELCICResolutiononPeaceintheHolyLand.pdf

We encourage the Government of Canada to play an active, constructive, and balanced role in creating the conditions for peace in the Holy Land. We look forward to Canada voting in favour of other United Nations resolutions that promote peace and human rights in Israel and Palestine.

I offer my ongoing prayers for peace for all people in the Holy Land, and for you and for the Government of Canada as you carry out your responsibilities.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Johnson", with a small cross symbol to its left.

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

cc. Hon. Erin O'Toole, MP, Conservative Critic for Foreign Affairs
Yves-François Blanchet, MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Jack Harris, MP, NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs
Annamie Paul, Green Party Critic for International Relations
ELCIC National Church Council