



Invitation to Endorse the Interfaith Statement *On Promoting Climate Justice and Ending Poverty in Canada: Faith Communities in Canada Speak Out.*

I am writing to invite the faith leader in your community to endorse the statement *On Promoting Climate Justice and Ending Poverty in Canada: Faith Communities in Canada Speak Out.*

As a result of a series of *Justice Tour 2015* stops across the country organized by [The Canadian Council of Churches](#) and [Citizens for Public Justice](#) earlier this year, a decision was made to craft, edit and agree on the text of an interfaith and ecumenical statement on the two topics of promoting climate justice and ending poverty in Canada. In Canada, neither topic can be addressed without paying attention to the experience of Indigenous Peoples in Canada so the statement also includes a section on that topic.

Members of both the [The Canadian Council of Churches](#) and the [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#) were involved in the decision-making, drafting, and editing process. Many members of both organizations have already endorsed the statement, including The Canadian Council of Churches as a whole.

First released at the start of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 on September 25, we are inviting additional endorsements from faith communities and faith-based organizations in Canada throughout the month of October. **The current deadline for endorsement is 2 November 2015** when a final list of endorsing organizations will be released in advance of the Paris Climate Conference.

The statement is accompanied by an annotated list of statements made in Canada and by global faith leaders on the topics, as well as a resource on *Suggested Actions Citizens Can Take*.

Endorsements are invited from leaders of faith communities and faith-based organizations. If your faith leader has already endorsed the statement and appears in the current list, then I encourage you to take the opportunity to call that endorsement to the attention of your colleagues and ask the people in your local community to consider some of the Suggested Actions Citizens Can Take. If your faith community leader does not appear in the list of endorsing bodies, then please be in touch about including your leaders' endorsement on the statement.

The statement has already been broadly used by people of faith across Canada during the election period, and now that the Federal election is in the rear view mirror it will be sent to the newly elected members of parliament. Here is a short list of some of the other recent and upcoming events where it is and can be used:

- the [Future of Life in the Arctic – the Impact of Climate Change. Religious and Indigenous Perspectives](#) conference in Lulea, Sweden, October 5-8 2015;
- during the [Dignity for All Chew on This](#) campaign during Thanksgiving and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17 2015;
- during the G20 Religious Leaders' Summit in Istanbul November 16-19 2015; and
- the 2015 Paris Climate Conference November 30 – December 11 2015.

Over the long term, the statement also serves as a shared platform and reference point for continued dialogue, cooperation and action.

Thank you for your careful consideration. To endorse the statement, please send the name, title and faith community or faith-based organization name to Peter Noteboom by email at noteboom@councilofchurches.ca. I can also be reached by phone at 416 939 3595.

Sincerely,

Peter Noteboom
Deputy General Secretary
The Canadian Council of Churches

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