

On Promoting Climate Justice and Ending Poverty in Canada
Faith Communities in Canada Speak Out
September 2015

Suggestions for actions citizens can take

Faith Communities in Canada Speak Out

1. Print the statement, then write your current MP a letter calling the statement to their attention.
2. Tell your friends and colleagues. Share the statement by email or on social media. Bring it to your place of worship and request announcement time or more.
3. After the election, plan to write your MP again reminding them of the actions you are taking and the actions you expect your representative to take.
4. Send the statement to your local community newspaper and ask them to print an excerpt with a link to the full statement. Write an article that explores the statement, how it speaks to your faith and informs your actions.
5. If your faith leader has endorsed the statement, write to them and thank them for their endorsement. If you do not see your faith leader's signature, write them to ask them to consider endorsing the statement by sending their endorsement to Peter Noteboom at The Canadian Council of Churches (noteboom@councilofchurches.ca).

Promoting Climate Justice in Canada

1. Using the ecumenical [Federal Election Resource](#) plan to ask your MP candidates questions on Responding to God's Call for Climate Justice (page 3).
2. Focus on climate justice before the UN conference on Climate Change (COP 21), which begins in Paris, France, on November 30, 2015. Citizens for Public Justice, an affiliate member of the Canadian Council of Churches, has prepared worship resources for the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, including model homilies from three Christian traditions, Prayers of the People, hymns with environmental themes, Bible studies, and resources for youth. CPJ's resources are available at cpj.ca/climate.
3. Explore a wide range of ecological justice issues as a faith community. *Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis* is an inspiring, relevant, and practical resource that includes prayers, reflections from writers from seven Canadian Christian traditions, and action suggestions for personal or congregational contemplation and action. It is available at cpj.ca/lej.
4. Find out about your own faith community's climate justice resources and actions.

Ending Poverty in Canada

1. Using the ecumenical [Federal Election Resource](#) plan to ask your MP candidates questions on Dignity for All: A National Anti-Poverty Plan (page 4).
2. Sign on to Dignity for All: the campaign for a poverty free Canada, and share the National Anti-Poverty Plan at www.dignityforall.ca.
3. Join and participate in the [Chew on This](#) campaign from Thanksgiving onward and plan to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17.
4. Organize a workshop or event on a faith-based response to poverty in Canada. *Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty* is an ecumenical worship resource that includes contributions by writers from various Christian traditions and offers an action guide for reflection and advocacy on poverty. It is available <http://www.cpj.ca/livingjustice>. To learn more or for further opportunities to get involved in poverty eradication activities in your faith community, contact [Citizens for Public Justice](#).
5. Find out about your own faith community's resources and actions on poverty

Indigenous Peoples in Canada

1. Using the ecumenical [Federal Election Resource](#) plan to ask your MP candidates questions on the Duty to Consult Indigenous Peoples and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children (page 6 & 7).
2. Download your copy of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#). Plan to get involved in action related to at least one of the 94 Recommendations.
3. Find out about how your own faith community is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Canadian Council of Churches is coordinating this statement and welcomes leaders of faith communities and faith-based organizations to speak out and endorse the statement. For more information on how to endorse, please contact Peter Noteboom (noteboom@councilofchurches.ca). For communications, please contact Jesse Hair (hair@councilofchurches.ca).

The Canadian Council of Churches is the broadest and most inclusive ecumenical body in the world, now representing 25 denominations of Anglican; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox; Protestant; and Catholic traditions. Together we represent more than 85% of the Christians in Canada. The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.

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