

EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

74 Weber Street West, Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3
Phone (519) 743-1461 Fax (519) 743-4291
Toll Free 1-877-373-5242

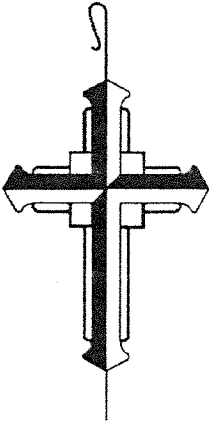
BISHOP

The Rev. Michael J. Pryse
mpryse@elcic.ca

ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP

The Rev. Dr. Mark W. Harris
mharris@elcic.ca

The Rev. Riitta U.T. Hepomaki
rhepomaki@elcic.ca



August 16, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

**Subject: A Call for the Federal Government to Develop a Federal Anti-poverty
Legislation**

At the June 24-27, 2010 Convention of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, delegates representing more than 200 congregations from Nova Scotia to Sault Ste Marie, ON passed the following motion:

Motion 1.3: Moved that this synod in Assembly call on the federal government to develop anti-poverty legislation that ensures an enduring commitment to and accountability for results, with sufficient investment in social security for all Canadians;

This motion grows out of our faith based support for measures that combat injustice. In previous letters to you I have stated my conviction that poverty in Canada is neither inevitable nor acceptable. A country that has such abundant resources must make a fair sharing of those gifts of God's grace a first priority. We therefore call on our federal government to lead the way by developing and enacting anti-poverty legislation.

On November 24, 2009, the House of Commons passed a motion that said:

"That, with November 24th, 2009 marking the 20th anniversary of the 1989 unanimous resolution of this House to eliminate poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000, and not having achieved that goal, be it resolved that the Government of Canada, taking into consideration the Committee's work in this regard, and respecting provincial and territorial jurisdiction, develop an immediate plan to eliminate poverty in Canada for all."

The Eastern Synod supports organizations, led by *Canada Without Poverty* and *Citizens for Public Justice*, that have launched the pan-Canadian *Dignity for All Campaign* [<http://www.dignityforall.ca>] that calls for vigorous and sustained action by the federal

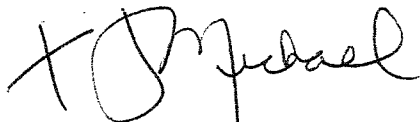
government to combat the structural causes of poverty in Canada through a federal plan for poverty elimination that complements provincial and territorial plans and a federal anti-poverty Act that ensures enduring federal commitment and accountability for results.

Canada's continuing high rate of poverty makes federal anti-poverty legislation imperative. Please work in concert with other levels of government as suggested in the Canadian Senate December, 2009, Subcommittee Report on Cities, *IN FROM THE MARGINS: A Call To Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness*.

In closing, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to write to you regarding this important matter. I also wish to express my appreciation for your consideration of the same.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Rryse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Michael Rryse, Eastern Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
MP/sc

- cc. The Honourable Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
The Honourable Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party
HUMA Committee Members, c/o Georges Etoke, Clerk of HUMA (Standing Committee on
Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with
Disabilities)
The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC
Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada