

**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 motion asking for immediate government action to create a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy.**

Delegates representing a wide cross-section of Canadian society and more than 200 congregations passed the following motion at the June 24-27, 2010 Convention of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

**MOTION 2.1: Resolution relating to Dementia in Canada**

Moved that this Assembly ask for immediate government action to create a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy;

And that the Bishop communicate this action to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premiers of the Provinces on the territory of the Eastern Synod, and the National and Synodical Bishops of the ELCIC;

And that synodical and congregational ministries of the Eastern Synod be encouraged to support persons with dementia and their caregivers.

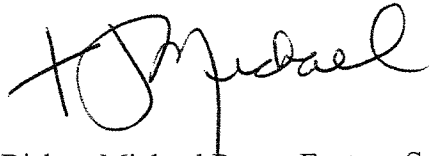
The members of the Eastern Synod are concerned that in the next 30 years, the number of people in Canada living with dementia is projected to more than double. The alarming prediction is that by 2038, 1,125,200 people (1.5% of Canada's population) will be diagnosed with dementia. (*Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*, Alzheimer Society, 2009) This does not take into account all who are not diagnosed but exhibit symptoms related to memory loss and declining abilities to think, reason, and understand. This is then multiplied the effect upon caregivers and families.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to ask the Government of Canada to create a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy.

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 Pryse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

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

- c. The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health
- 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
- Mr. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
- Mr. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec
- Mr. Shawn Graham, Premier of New Brunswick
- Mr. Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia
- The Rev. Dr. Gregory Mohr, Bishop, British Columbia Synod, ELCIC
- The Rev. Ronald B. Mayan, Alberta and the Territories Synod, ELCIC
- The Rev. Cindy Halmarson, Saskatchewan Synod, ELCIC
- The Rev. Elaine Sauer, Manitoba and Northern Ontario Synod, ELCIC
- The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC
- Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada