

EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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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 Government in Canada to establish a royal commission to provide an independent review of all aspects of offshore hydrocarbon exploration and development.

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

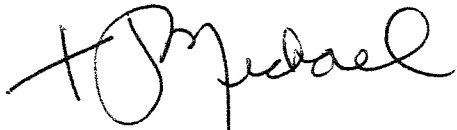
- urging the Government of Canada to view the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico as an opportunity for an independent review of Canadian regulations and policies governing all aspects of Canadian offshore hydrocarbon exploration and development;
- calling for the establishment of a royal commission to carry out this independent review;
- requesting that this royal commission be mandated to review Canadian safety rules, regulations and policies governing the leasing, permits, exploration, development and decommissioning of facilities used in offshore hydrocarbon resource utilization, so as to provide a revised framework for all existing and future offshore hydrocarbon development which safeguards the natural and human environments as is currently and technically feasible.

The members of the Eastern Synod, as people of faith, recognize that we must do what we can to protect the gift of God's bounteous creation even as we call upon our elected representatives to take actions necessary to do the same. Deep water drilling is perilous, as is evident from the Gulf oil blowout. Drilling in the arctic is especially perilous given the fragile, hostile environment where ice and ice floes and the darkness which prevails much of the year render containment of a blowout or spill problematic at best and impossible at worst. Damage to this sensitive environment and the humans and other species inhabiting it would be far more disastrous and longer lasting than that occurring in the Gulf.

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 "M. Pryse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards.

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

- c. The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources
- The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment
- 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. Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia
- Mr. Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Mr. Shawn Graham, Premier of New Brunswick
- Mr. Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia
- Mr. Robert Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island
- Mr. Dennis Fentie, Premier of the Yukon Territory
- Ms. Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut
- Mr. Floyd Roland, Premier of the Northwest Territories
- The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC
- Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada