

EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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August 14, 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 “Inspired Leadership and Action” and support for the
“UN Millennium Development Goals”**

At our June 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 a motion calling on the world’s political leaders to put the needs and values of the majority of the world’s population first and to take courageous and concrete actions to:

- address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable while simultaneously making structural changes to close the growing gap between rich and poor;
- prioritize long-term environmental sustainability and reduce climate change, while addressing its impacts on the poor;
- invest in peace and remove factors that feed cycles of violent conflict and costly militarism.

The delegates also expressed their support for the 2010 Religious Leaders’ Interfaith Partnership Statement, “A Time for Inspired Leadership and Action” and asked me to address the world leaders through you

- calling them to implement, without delay, the Millennium Development Goals;
- stating our intent to monitor the decisions our government leaders take, including decisions made at these G8 / G20 meetings;
- stating our expectation that our leaders will follow-through on past promises and take bold new actions.

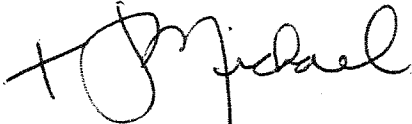
Obviously the actions taken by the G20 leaders failed to give consideration to most of these concerns. We regret that, and call on you, our Prime Minister, to provide the necessary inspired leadership to move forward and promote these concerns in the coming months and years. While

it was very important that the G20 act to secure a strong and sustained global fiscal recovery, it is equally important that the needs of the most vulnerable be addressed.

Prime Minister Harper, we hold you and all world leaders and governments in our prayers and we expect that your government will follow-through on past promises and take bold new actions for the most vulnerable.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fryse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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

- c. 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
The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC
Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada