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December 29, 2012

**Attawapiskat First Nation**  
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P.O. Box 248

**A Message for Chief Theresa Spence from The Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse,  
Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
Canada**

Dear Chief Theresa Spence,

I write to assure you of my support as you continue to call for an urgent meeting to bring together the Prime Minister, Governor General, Provincial leaders and First Nations to work toward further collaboration with Indigenous leadership. May you be blessed with health and strength as you engage in your non-violent resistance.

I join my voice to a worldwide call for funding, justice, and equity for the First Nation of Attawapiskat and for the hundreds of communities facing similar crises of health, housing and education brought on by funding that is far too little and is deeply inequitable. At its root, this crisis lies with Canada's on-going failure to uphold the Treaties our ancestors signed with your Indigenous ancestors. Canadians must again hold these agreements sacred.

These Treaties should be understood as an essential part of what the churches' and Canada's apologies to the survivors of residential schools represent. Without respect for the Treaties, and without a commitment to live according to the original spirit and intent of those Treaties, reconciliation cannot be achieved.

Again, Chief Spence, as Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, I fully support your call for a meeting that would bring together the Prime

Minister, Governor General, Provincial leaders and First Nations to work toward further collaboration with Indigenous leadership.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a plus sign to the left of the name.

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop  
Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

- c. His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada  
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada  
Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations  
The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs  
The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Official Opposition  
The Honourable Bob Rae, Acting Leader of the Liberal Party  
Daniel Paillé, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Maria Mourani, Députée, Bloc Québécois  
The Rev. David Martin, Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC  
Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada