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September 21, 2012

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 to Non-Violence

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada at its July 2012 Convention committed itself

- To use non-violent communication in our interactions with one another;
- To encourage our communities to pursue restorative practices in instances of violence in social life;
- To encourage governments and those who protest government actions and policies to engage one another honestly and non-violently;

Prime Minister Harper, the delegates also voted

- **To encourage the government of Canada to pursue, and to encourage other nations to pursue, non-violent solutions to international conflicts through the United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral organizations.**

The Eastern Synod continues to support the historic Lutheran position that violence is sometimes tragically necessary in pursuing justice in the world. However, it is always preferred that non-violent solutions be sought in situations of conflict.

In the same resolution delegates declared that “We also commit ourselves to encourage and support those whose vocation includes the pursuit of justice and peace, mediation, conflict resolution, restorative practices, diplomacy, peace-keeping and peace-making.”

I am writing this letter on September 21, the International Day of Peace. Our prayer is that the government of Canada will pursue, and encourage other nations to pursue, sustainable peace and a secure future for all through non-violent solutions to international conflicts.

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 large, stylized 'M'.

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

- C. Raj Sherman, Leader of Alberta's Official Opposition, Alberta Liberal Party
Adrian Dix, MLA, Leader of British Columbia's Official Opposition, New Democratic Party
Hugh McFadyen, MLA, Leader of Manitoba's Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party
Victor Boudreau, MLA, Leader of New Brunswick's Official Opposition, Liberal Party
Dwight Ball, MHA, Leader of Newfoundland and Labrador's Official Opposition, Liberal Party
Stephen McNeil, MLA, Leader of Nova Scotia's Official Opposition, Liberal Party
Tim Hudak, MPP, Leader of Ontario's Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party
Hon. Olive Crane, MLA, Leader of Prince Edward Island's Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party
Jean-Marc Fournier, MNA, Leader of Quebec's Official Opposition, Quebec Liberal Party
John Nilson, MLA, Leader of Saskatchewan's Official Opposition, New Democratic Party
Arthur Mitchell, MLA, Leader of Yukon's Official Opposition, Liberal Party