



Bishop

The Rev. Michael J. Pryse
mpryse@elcic.ca

Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Riitta U.T. Hepomaki
rhepomaki@elcic.ca

September 20, 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 for Enlightened National Environmental
Leadership and Action**

This past July, delegates representing more than 200 congregations from Nova Scotia to Sault Ste Marie, ON, gathered at the 2012 Convention of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Their call for enlightened national environmental leadership and action declared that:

Out of respect for all of creation and accepting our responsibility as stewards of creation, this convention calls for a vision and policies for the future of our country and our planet that

- acknowledge that Canada's Environmental Footprint — industrial, institutional, and individual — exceeds the planet's capability to sustain it,
- acknowledge that, according to the vast majority of climate scientists, global warming is caused by humans and is having an increasingly devastating effect on the planet's ecosystem, its flora and fauna, and on vulnerable human populations,
- move us from dependence on oil, gas, and coal to clean, sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal, and, in the process creates jobs,
- eliminate the current federal tax subsidies of over \$1 billion annually to oil and gas companies allocating those funds for environmentally responsible policies and through public education campaigns and financial incentives to encourage conservation of energy by industry, government, public and private institutions, and individuals.

Finally, Prime Minister, the motion direct me to write to you conveying these declarations and calls for action. Clearly we believe that our federal and provincial governments must take action. As people of faith it is our responsibility to remind our political leaders how important the issue

is. Likewise, we must do all we can in our own lives. That is why our delegates also asked that I write to Eastern Synod congregations encouraging them to continue the greening of their homes, their buildings and their use of the planet's limited resources. We all need to be ever mindful of the care for the creation entrusted to us by the Creator.

Prime Minister Harper, may God bless you and your government as you endeavour to provide enlightened national environmental leadership and action.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a plus sign followed by the name "Michael" in a cursive script.

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

- c. 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
- Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta
- Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
- Gregory Selinger, Premier of Manitoba
- David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick
- Kathy Dunderdale, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Bob McLeod, Premier of Northwest Territories
- Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia
- Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut
- Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
- Robert W. J. Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island
- Pauline Marois, Premier of Quebec
- Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
- Darrell Pasloski, Premier of Yukon Territory