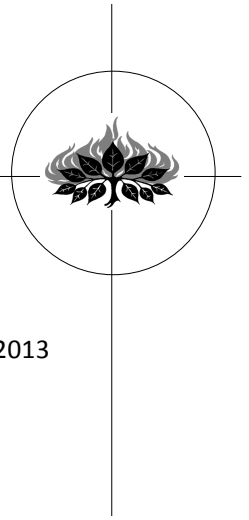


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 138TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. John A. Vissers, B.A., M.Div., Th.M., Th.D., D.D.

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 941-6900

Dear Prime Minister,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the 138th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

We pray for fruitful discussions in the meeting you will have with leaders of First Nations later this week. May the outcome of this meeting build on the Apology you offered on behalf of all Canadians in the House of Commons on June 11, 2008. This is a moment for bold initiatives to resolve long-standing issues such as treaty rights, land claims and the deep levels of poverty among so many Aboriginal people.

As a member of the All-Party Agreement on Indian Residential Schools, The Presbyterian Church in Canada supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We encourage Presbyterians to attend events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Through our Healing and Reconciliation program, we seek opportunities to develop connections with Aboriginal peoples at the local community level. We strive to fulfill the commitment The Presbyterian Church in Canada made in its Confession of 1994.

The 120th General Assembly (1994) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted the Confession to God and to Aboriginal peoples. The concluding paragraph reads as follows:

"We ask, also, for forgiveness from Aboriginal peoples. What we have heard, we acknowledge. It is our hope that those whom we have wronged with a hurt too deep for telling will accept what we have to say. With God's guidance, our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God's people."

Our prayers are with you, members of your Cabinet and First Nations' leaders for your meeting this week.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. John Vissers,
Moderator, 138th General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp