



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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### **MODERATOR'S PRAYER ON NATIONAL HOUSING DAY**

Today, Nov. 22, is National Housing Day, a day to reflect on homelessness, inadequate housing, and the need for affordable housing.

#### **PRAYER:**

God of the homeless, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, was born in a stable, and as an adult, said he had no place to lay his head. We pray for those who have no home and those whose housing is inadequate.

We confess our sin, that in a country as rich in resources as Canada is, we have not shared that abundance with Indigenous people on reserves who often live in houses that are overcrowded, have inadequate utilities, and are improperly constructed. God of the homeless, have mercy on us.

We confess our sin that when new developments are proposed to house those without housing our thoughts frequently turn to the impact these developments will have on our property values, rather than rejoicing that people will have a place to call their own. God of the homeless, have mercy on us.

We confess our sin that as housing prices have risen we have rejoiced in our capital gains while giving little thought to the financial burden being placed on those seeking to buy houses in the current market. God of the homeless, have mercy on us.

We thank you, O God who provides even the sparrow a home, for stirring many congregations across this land to redevelop their properties and build new housing, often affordable housing. We rejoice in their creativity and courage.

By your Spirit work in our hearts and wills that as we walk the path of reconciliation we would join our voices with Indigenous people's voices pleading for proper housing on reserves. Give us the courage to call politicians at all levels to make this a priority, as we commit ourselves to speaking to friends and neighbours about this need.

We pray for immigrants and refugees coming to our country who often find it difficult to obtain adequate housing. We pray for international students who being new to Canada, at times, are taken advantage of by landlords. We thank you for these new arrivals to our country, and pray that we, both corporately and individually, will be good hosts.

God of the homeless, in our cities, towns, villages, and rural areas stand disused housing stock. Stir us up to take steps to bring these homes on the market, for sale or rent. When we own such property, or know people who do, call us to take steps towards rehabilitating these properties. When we as congregations and groups have opportunities to purchase such property, stir us to action.

Use us that all people might find a place to lay their head. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly*