

**The Anglican Church of Canada ▪ Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Christian Reformed Church in North America ▪ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Mennonite Church Canada ▪ The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ▪ The United Church of Canada**

April 27, 2018

The Honourable Andrew Scheer, MP
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Scheer:

In June 2015, the church parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement responded to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada by stating that “Above all, we welcome the Commissioners’ Calls to Action as providing the basis for a wide and transformative conversation among Canadians about the better future we intend to foster, not just for Indigenous peoples, but for all of us who long to live in a society grounded in right relationships and equity.”

We agree with this sentiment, and as leaders of Christian denominations, we write to you to re-affirm our commitment to a just relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, and to seek your support in that effort.

We acknowledge the initiatives taken to date in this journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

We agree with the TRC Commissioners’ conclusion that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation, and we are in the process of implementing it within our own institutions.

We hope that your party will support Bill C-262, an act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at third reading.

We believe that building a new relationship and passing Bill C-262 into law are non-partisan issues that warrant the support of all Parliamentarians. Reconciliation calls us not just to address the wrongs of the past, but to address, in an urgent manner, current injustices rooted in colonial structures and institutions. It is time to recognize, in law, Indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination. The passage of Bill C-262 into law is an essential step in the journey of reconciliation.

Rest assured of our continuing prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Fred J. Hiltz
Archbishop and Primate
The Anglican Church of Canada



Willard Metzger
Executive Director
Mennonite Church Canada



+ Lionel Gendron, P.S.S.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil and President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



The Rev. Peter G. Bush
Moderator, 143rd General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Rev. Darren Roorda
Canadian Ministries Director
Christian Reformed Church in North America



Beverly Shepard,
Clerk, Canadian Yearly Meeting
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The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell
Moderator
The United Church of Canada