

The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Peter Bush

October 25, 2017

The Hon. Catherine McKenna,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Minister,

I bring you greetings from the 2017 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The General Assembly considered a report on climate change and Canada's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Our church believes that the world is beloved by God and is a gift from God. The world does not belong to human beings. Rather, we have a responsibility to care for it. Therefore The Presbyterian Church in Canada supports Canada's leadership in multilateral cooperation to reduce the devastating impacts of climate change and agree with your assessment that we must work to cap global warming at 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius.

The Government of Canada reports annually on Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. The Government's reduction target for emissions is 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. Targets are necessary, but successive governments have set and failed to reach target emissions reductions. What is the government's plan for reaching its emissions reduction target?

The Government of Canada has announced a plan for carbon pricing. This is a positive step. But to be effective in limiting climate change carbon pricing must occur in tandem with efforts to slow and cap greenhouse gas emissions.

Canada's energy sector is the single largest source of emissions, and these emissions continue to rise. According to Environment and Climate Change Canada's 2017 *Greenhouse Gas Emissions* report, emissions growth in this sector is being driven by increased production of crude oil and expansion of the oil sands industry. What is the Government of Canada's plan to incentivize and assist emission intensive industries to reduce their overall emissions? Will this include assistance for Canada's energy industry to move toward non fossil fuel energy sources?

The Government has pledged \$270 million to the Green Climate Fund, a further positive step. Our pledge, however, lags behind many of our European partners. With the United States' announcement that it will withdraw from the Paris Agreement, sisters and brothers in the Global South have good reason to be concerned about whether there will be sufficient funding to assist their countries to adapt to some of the harshest impacts of climate change. Canada must maintain its commitment to global climate change leadership. I have written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning these matters.

All sectors of Canada have a role to play in mitigating the devastating impacts of climate change. It is encouraging that Canada is asserting global leadership. Our national plan must continue in this vein.

Rest assured of our continuing prayers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir