



MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div.

January 14, 2020

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada,
Langevin Block,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, whose 2019 General Assembly met recently in Waterloo, Ontario.

This year, a report on plastics in the water system and on climate change was brought before the General Assembly. Canadian carbon emissions were a topic of discussion, with commissioners urging a need for more action to reduce carbon emissions. According to the report *Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks: Executive Summary 2019*, “Canada represented approximately 1.6% of global GHG emissions in 2015 (CAIT 2017), although it is one of the highest per capita emitters. Canada’s per capita emissions have dropped substantially since 2005, when this indicator was 22.7 t CO₂ eq/capita, reaching a new low of 19.5 t CO₂ eq/capita in recent years.”¹

It is good to see our emissions decreasing but disheartening to hear that we are one of the highest per capita emitters. While we are aware this is in part due to our reality as a northern nation that requires heat in the winter, looking at the numbers from nations like Finland should urge us that we can do much better. Finland’s carbon emissions in 2015 were 55.7 million tonnes,² with a 2015 population of 5.472 million that puts the Finnish per capita emissions during the same period at 10.18 t CO₂ eq/capita—close to half our Canadian number.

Recognizing that Parliament itself recently declared that “Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emissions target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the Agreement’s objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius”³ we urge the Government of Canada to engage Canadians in meaningful action on climate change and encourage immediate action to reduce the Canadian contribution to carbon emissions.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/sources-sinks-executive-summary-2019.html> Accessed 12 December 2019.

² https://www.stat.fi/til/khki/2015/khki_2015_2016-05-25_tie_001_en.html Accessed 12 December 2019.

³ <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/votes/42/1/1366/> Accessed 12 December 2019.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. You and your colleagues in Parliament remain in the prayers of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Currie".

Rev. Amanda Currie
Moderator
The 2019 General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

CC: The Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; The Hon. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, PC Environment and Climate Change Critic; Laurel Collins, NDP Environment and Climate Change Critic