



MODERATOR OF THE 146TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Daniel D. Scott, B.A., M.C.S, M.Div., D. Min.

December 1, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Greetings from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. At its online meeting June 6–9, 2021, the General Assembly considered and adopted a report on Racism, Xenophobia and Hate in Canada.

Racism and xenophobia are realities within Canada. All too often, our news recounts acts of hostility and hatred against people who are Black, Indigenous, people of colour, or who belong to identifiable faith communities. Moreover, there is growing awareness of systemic racism – racism that functions in the ways that Canadian institutions and structures operate because their policies and practices have been shaped by the colonial notion of European cultural supremacy.

Systemic Racism within Canadian Policing Systems

The General Assembly report discussed the existence of systemic racism within Canadian policing systems. Levels of violence in encounters between police and Black and Indigenous people are disproportionately high when compared with encounters between police and other segments of the population, particularly white people. This pattern has been attested by various reports available in the media:

- *Reclaiming Power and Place*, the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People at mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report
- “Deadly Force,” a CBC archive of deadly police encounters over twenty years
- “A Disparate Impact: second interim report on the inquiry into racial profiling and racial discrimination of Black persons by the Toronto Police Service,” Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2020

One serious problem highlighted by these studies is the lack of racially disaggregated police data in Canada. The Ontario Human Rights Commission described its painstaking work to piece together and verify its research because aggregate police data, compiled and summarized from across the Toronto Police Service, had not been broken down according to race. As you may know, the commission recommended that the collection of racially disaggregated police data should be mandated.

Race-based Police Data

The church encourages the Government of Canada to create a nationally-run centralized data collection system that records and analyzes race-based data within policing, including data on use of force. Addressing systemic racism within policing begins with identifying evidence of it, and identifying such evidence requires data that is accurate and comprehensive: decisions can never be better than the integrity of the data on which they are based.

The complex structure of policing structures in Canada means that race-based police data should be collected and analyzed nationally – a task that sits well within the purview of the Government of Canada. While some provincial

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

and territorial governments have begun requiring their police service organizations to keep disaggregated, race-based police data, it will be essential for all to follow suit. Furthermore, all police service organizations must be required to forward the requested data to the national collection centre.

The well-being of Canadians and Canadian society depends on the elimination of systemic racism in all our institutions, including policing systems. The church believes that national collection of race-based police data will help to guide Canada's steps towards this goal. Will you commit to implement this system?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott
Moderator
The Presbyterian Church in Canada