



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

December 1, 2021

The Hon. Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion
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The Hon. Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
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Hon. David Lametti
Minister of Justice
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Dear Ministers:

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

The roots of gun violence are complex. That complexity often leads people to pursue gun control and regulation as a means to reduce gun violence. Over the years, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has adopted several statements on gun control and arms trading.

While affirming the value of gun control and regulation, there is increasing evidence that significant changes to society are needed. The pathway to safer streets – including less gun violence – requires addressing social issues: racism, misogyny, economic and social marginalization, isolation and poverty.

The deleterious effects of gun violence on communities far exceed the suffering of the victims. Often observed is an ongoing cycle: violence causes trauma, which causes more violence. As attested by the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, the roots of a crisis of violence are legion and manifest through targeted racism and colonialism as well as targeted social and economic marginalization.

Safety, health and wellness within communities are inextricably linked. Canada has a critical need to understand and address the risk factors for gun violence.

The church encourages that your departments seek to improve safety, health and wellness in communities through the following actions:

- examining ways in which misogyny, racism and economic insecurity contribute to gun violence,
- prioritizing funding for social programs aimed at ending racism, misogyny and economic marginalization and poverty.

I commend the Government of Canada's existing actions in:

- creating a separate government Ministry for Diversity, Inclusion and Youth (now Housing and Diversity and Inclusion) so that this lens can be applied to all federal government actions, policies and programs,

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

- establishing the Anti-Racism Secretariat to engage collaboratively with the provinces and territories, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and stakeholders from diverse communities in addressing discrimination in various forms,
- incorporating a strong focus on community-based projects in Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022, establishing an Official Poverty Line and setting specific overall targets for poverty reduction using 2015 as a baseline year (Opportunity for All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy),
- working with Statistics Canada, Public Safety Canada and Justice Canada to use data to understand and combat systemic racism by improving the consistency of collection, measurement, reporting and analysis of disaggregated race-based data.

Canada needs its federal government to give leadership in cultivating justice, ending all forms of oppression, and attending to the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable to foster their full inclusion. The importance of this work simply cannot be overstated: this pathway alone will bring Canadian communities the safety, health and wellness that all Canadians desire.

Sincerely,



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