The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

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

December 1, 2021

The Honourable Marco Mendicino Minister of Public Safety marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Mendicino:

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

The report noted that human trafficking was listed under the Criminal Code of Canada in 2005, and reviewed aspects of the approach being taken by the Government of Canada, including the following:

- In September 2019, the Canadian government announced a five-year National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking with a budget of \$58.22 million and thereafter \$10.25 million annually in federal funding (<u>https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2019-ntnl-strtgy-hmnn-trffc/index-en.aspx</u>)
- The National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024 has these pillars:
 - Supporting victims and survivors, including the establishment of an advisory committee comprised of survivors of human trafficking to guide federal polices and initiatives
 - Steps to increase prevention
 - Addressing gaps in existing supports and providing culturally-informed services
 - Prosecution of human traffickers
 - Building appropriate partnerships to better address human trafficking
- Each of the five pillars empowerment, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships identified several key activities through which the program goals would be met.
- Public Safety Canada has primary responsibility for implementing the National Strategy on Human Trafficking in partnership and coordination with other federal partners.

The General Assembly instructed me to write to you inquiring about the timelines and progress of Public Safety Canada in implementing key activities of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking.

The church recognizes that, as designed, the National Strategy holds the potential to help protect individuals from all forms of human trafficking. We are interested in a progress report: What key activities have been attempted, and with what outcomes? What has been learned? What further action is planned in key program areas and what timelines have been set?

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

The safety, health and well-being of a society depend on how its most vulnerable members are protected and cared for. We look forward to hearing from you about this important work.

Sincerely,

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

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