



MODERATOR OF THE 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, B.A., M.Div., M.Th., Ph.D.

August 25, 2022

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources
jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ministers,

Greetings from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. At its online meeting June 5–8, 2022, the General Assembly considered and adopted reports on ecological justice and the climate crisis.

This past year has seen a substantial number of climate change-related events both in Canada and across the world. The increasing intensity of storms and other weather phenomena has made apparent the insufficient capacity of many infrastructure and agricultural practices to withstand such intense phenomena. The devastation in British Columbia from fires, floods and mudslides, for example, continues to impact many people with regard to damaged or destroyed homes, and livelihoods, as well as vulnerable ecosystems wherein the plants and animals dependent on them have also been harmed. There is a clear need for more and improved regional data collection, analysis and publication to better understand how our changing climate is affecting people, agriculture, infrastructure and broader ecological systems. How will the Government of Canada prioritize, support and coordinate this much needed area of research?

Another important part of what is needed to help Canada adapt to the changing climate and mitigate the impact and cost of future disasters is increased federal funding to help at-risk areas put adapted infrastructure, policy and practices in place that will help communities and ecosystems be better prepared. How will the Government of Canada support communities in becoming better prepared in the face of severe climate-related events?

Adaptation is one important aspect of the needed response to our changing climate, but just as important is working to slow and stop actions that are driving climate change. The government's target to keep global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, reduce carbon emissions by 40%–50% below 2005 levels, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 are important. Canada will only meet these targets, however, through a drastic reduction in emissions from the oil and gas sector. Will the Government of Canada commit to this action?

In 2021 the church communicated its support for a broad just transition and just recovery plan that lowers carbon emissions and works to counter climate change. Such a plan must take

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim and The Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

significant steps to support workers and families in the industries affected while, at the same time, supporting communities—especially Indigenous communities and communities in the global south—who are already disproportionately affected by a changing climate and have been even further disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to seeing the government's plan for a just transition and recovery.

The Government of Canada is only one of many parties that needs to come together to address the climate crisis, but your leadership is crucial. Thank you for the efforts you have already made. Please rest assured of our prayers as you conduct this critical work. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Faris", followed by a period.

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris
Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly