



Bishop Michael J. Pryse

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September 15, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Subject: A Call to Address Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategies

At the June 2014 Convention of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in Toronto, ON, delegates representing more than 200 congregations from Nova Scotia to Sault Ste. Marie, ON, passed the following motion to address homelessness and affordable housing strategies:

That this synod in Assembly call on all provincial, territorial, federal and municipal governments to develop and/or expand strategies to prevent and alleviate homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing in communities including First Nations and that delegates to this Assembly commit to working with their congregations, ministry areas and communities:

- To learn about the issues that contribute to poverty, homelessness and substandard housing and to raise awareness within their communities of the challenges and the potential engagement in supporting initiatives to address these challenges.
- To act by nurturing and supporting their own networks of agencies and programs with and for the homeless, the under housed and refugees.
- To act by exploring new models and working with partners, on innovative approaches to address poverty and homelessness.
- To advocate for renewed Federal funding, an integrated national collaborative strategy, and greater accountability on the part of provinces and municipalities in addressing underlying causes of homelessness and in providing opportunities for affordable housing.
- To pray for safe, affordable and adequate housing for all.

Prime Minister Harper, we hold your federal government together with all provincial, territorial, and municipal governments in our prayers and we expect that each level of our government will take bold new actions to develop and/or expand affordable supportive housing strategies for the most vulnerable among us.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a plus sign followed by the name "Michael" in a cursive script.

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop,
Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
MP/sc

cc Municipal Governments in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec