



Bishop Michael J. Pryse

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July 17, 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 Resource Extraction

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, gathered for its 2014 Convention in Toronto, ON, directed me as bishop to write to you, Prime Minister, to encourage your government to:

- 1) Establish a new and independent position of an extractive sector ombudsman with a specific mandate to negotiate national and international conflict resolution involving Canadian mining and resource extraction companies; and
- 2) Bring forward legislation to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system.

This action by delegates representing more than 200 congregations from Nova Scotia to Sault Ste Marie, ON, grew out of the following resolution:

The Eastern Synod of the ELCIC resolves: over the next biennium, within our congregations and area ministries, to learn more about the contemporary economic, environmental, and social issues related to:

1. Fracking as a technique for oil and gas extraction;
2. Resource extraction on the territory of Canada's indigenous peoples and the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for our First Nations people in Canada;

3. The need for an independent extractive sector ombudsman to help negotiate national and international conflict resolution involving Canadian mining and resource extraction companies; and
4. The need for Canada to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system.

Prime Minister, this call to address resource extraction, to establish a new and independent position of an extractive sector ombudsman and to bring forward legislation to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes recognizes that Canada headquarters over 70% of the world's mining companies. As a result all Canadians, through the investment of our Canada Pension Plan, are joint investors in these mining and resource extraction companies. As Canadian citizens and people of faith we have a moral and ethical mandate to ask that these issues be addressed.

With all of God's blessings,

Sincerely,

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

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

- cc. The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Official Opposition
The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party
The Honourable Mario Beaulieu, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
The Honourable David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick
The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Philippe Couillard, Premier of Quebec