



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

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President, Rev. Frances Deverell

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December 20th, 2012

The Hon. John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. John Duncan:

I write to ask you to represent Canadians in their responsibilities to First Nations people to ensure they have the levels of education, health, quality of environment and economic opportunity promised to them through the treaty process. The Conservative Government dismantled the agreement between all parties known as the Kelowna Accord. It has never replaced this with a different policy agreed to by First Nations, provinces, and the Federal Government. An apology without significant agreements is simply not enough. It is time the Federal Government came to the table and negotiated an acceptable deal with First Nations Leaders.

Furthermore, Bill C-35 affects the basic rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. It not only violates international human rights standards, it falls far short of the legal requirements established in Canadian law. We have to do better than this. We must give First Nations the respect of full consultation regarding activities in their territory and respect their rights.

Please open your heart and respond to the appeal made by Chief Spence for these negotiations to begin in the New Year. Don't let this situation turn into a tragedy that will humiliate Canadians for generations to come. Step up to the plate and negotiate a fair deal for all Canadians. We want our First Nations to grow and prosper and be a full partner with us in this country.

In faith,

Rev. Frances Deverell
President,
Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice
613-747-7584

CC Prime Minister Harper
Cc The Hon. Thomas Mulcaire
Cc Bob Rae, Leader of the Liberal Party
CC Elizabeth May, Leader of Green Party
CC Chief Atleo, Assembly of First Nations
CC Chief Whiteduck, Algonquin First Nation
CC Clayton Thomas Mueller, Indigenous Environmental Network
CC Maude Barlow, Council of Canadians
CC various Media