



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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January 4th, 2013

The Hon. Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Hon. Prime Minister Harper:

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 negotiated an acceptable deal with First Nations and provincial leaders.

In addition, recent legislation enacted by the Federal Government reducing environmental protection favours mining activities and fails to ensure First Nations rights to live off the land. How can such legislation be put through without any consultation with first peoples?! We must give First Nations the respect of full consultation regarding activities in their territory.

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. Make a significant gesture to show our first peoples your sincerity in honouring the treaties. Go to the table and negotiate a fair deal for all Canadians. Canada will prosper when First Nations prosper. We want our First Nations to be a full partner with us in this country.

In faith,

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

CC The Hon. John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
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