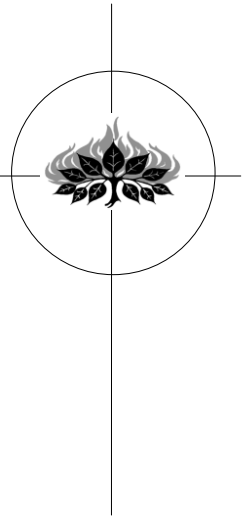


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 134TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Cheol Soon Park, B.A., M. Div.

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Mr. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I bring you greetings from the 134th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, which met in Ottawa, June 1-6, 2008.

In the course of its deliberations, the Assembly approved a recommendation addressing the negative effects climate change has on people and on the environment. Believing that “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it” (Psalm 24:1), the General Assembly encourages the Government of Canada to recommit to meeting Canada’s obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to take a leadership role in post-Kyoto negotiations. This recommendation reflects our understanding and acceptance of the scientific conclusions drawn by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and our own belief that God calls us to be responsible stewards of creation.

The Kyoto Protocol was designed as a first step to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We recognize that the Protocol is an imperfect tool. It is, however, a globally negotiated protocol that is a first step towards a much needed response from the international community to human-induced global climate change. According to Environment Canada’s 2006 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Canada’s GHG levels were 29.1% above Canada’s Kyoto target. We note from the 2008 Response of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy to its Obligations Under the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act:

Statements and information contained in the government’s Plan and elsewhere indicate that the Government of Canada is not pursuing a policy objective of meeting the Kyoto Protocol emissions reductions targets. ...The projected emissions profile described in the 2008 Plan would leave Canada in non-compliance with the Kyoto Protocol. Based on this year’s Plan, Canadian emissions would exceed our allowable units by 31.4%.

Acknowledging the challenges of this task, The Presbyterian Church in Canada encourages your government to recommit to meeting Canada’s obligations under the Kyoto Protocol as an important first step to mitigating global climate change.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp

We acknowledge the disquieting statement of the IPCC that, “There is high agreement and much evidence that with current climate change mitigation policies and related sustainable development practices, global GHG emissions will continue to grow over the next few decades.” The world’s poorest countries, the lowest GHG emitting countries, are ill-equipped to adapt, and face the most severe impacts of climate change. We acknowledge the Government of Canada’s *Turning the Corner* plan announced April 26, 2007, and its subsequent 2008 plan released March 10 and note its focus on goals internal to Canada. We encourage you to identify climate change as a central focus for international policies and programs. Future generations will inherit and continue to struggle with the effects of climate change. Inadequate responses today increase the challenges tomorrow. Strong, far-seeing leadership is needed to mitigate climate change. We are hopeful that you will be this leader.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada encourages its congregations to improve the energy efficiency of their churches. The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s Lending Fund grants interest-free loans (up to \$60,000 and if repaid by the end of the 12th year of the loan) to congregations requesting assistance assessing and improving the energy efficiency of their churches. The 134th General Assembly adopted a recommendation that The Presbyterian Church in Canada become a signatory to the Carbon Disclosure Project. The Carbon Disclosure Project is the largest climate change investor coalition in the world, and in Canada is housed at the Conference Board of Canada. We work ecumenically with colleagues in KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives to educate and promote just and responsible environmental stewardship, and human rights.

I look forward to learning how the Government of Canada envisions the legacy of its climate change plan. May God’s peace and wisdom guide your consideration of these important issues.

I offer you God’s continued blessings.

In grace and peace,



The Rev. Cheol Soon Park,
Moderator of the 134th General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

CC: Hon. Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Opposition, Liberal Party Leader
Hon. Jack Layton, NDP Party Leader
Hon. Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Québécois Party Leader
Minister of the Environment
Minister of Natural Resources