



“Mission is service, a call to help people in need and to permeate all of life with the compassion of God.” Living Faith 9.1.3

Our voices and our pens can help protect vulnerable people and God’s Creation. Please respond to one (or all three!) of the urgent action requests **before November 30**. This is a summary; details are on page 2.

WORLD AIDS DAY (DECEMBER 1)

In 2004 Parliament unanimously passed “Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime” (CAMR). The legislation was designed to provide countries in the global South access to generic, less expensive, versions of patent-protected medicines to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS. CAMR is not working. The procedures that regulate CAMR are so cumbersome that medicines have only left Canada once, to one country, since the legislation was passed five years ago. There are now two bills before the Senate and the House of Commons that will streamline CAMR, and make essential medicines available to people who desperately need them.



POVERTY REDUCTION IN CANADA

November 24 will mark the twentieth year since parliamentarians unanimously voted to end child poverty in Canada by 2000. Currently, one in ten Canadian children live in poverty. There is growing momentum to change this: seven provincial governments have or are developing poverty reduction plans. More can be done. National leadership from the federal government is needed to tackle poverty in Canada.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Kyoto Protocol is the only internationally negotiated policy to mitigate climate change. The Protocol concludes in 2012. In December 2009 the international community meets in Copenhagen to negotiate a new agreement. The *Kyoto plus* petition encourages the Canadian government to support a strong new Protocol at the Copenhagen meeting. Signing the petition is voluntary. The petition is consistent with policies and statements approved by General Assembly. The *Kyoto plus* petition is available at presbyterian.ca/kairos.



TAKING ACTION

WORLD AIDS DAY (DECEMBER 1)

- Write to Senator Michael Meighen before December 1 stating your support for Bill S-232.
- Write to your MP before December 1 stating your support for Bill C-393.

POVERTY REDUCTION

- Write to your federal MPs before November 19 asking for a national poverty reduction plan. Sample letters are online at presbyterian.ca/justice
- Plan a prayer vigil for November 24.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Sign the *Kyoto plus* petition and return signed copies to Katharine Masterton, Justice Ministries, 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7 Fax: 416-441-2528.
- Write to your MP and to Mr. James Bezan stating your support for Bill C-311, the “Climate Change Accountability Act.”



THE DETAILS

WORLD AIDS DAY

In 2004, Parliament unanimously passed “Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime” (CAMR). This legislation was designed to grant countries in the global South access to generic, less expensive, versions of patent-protected medicines to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS. CAMR is not working. The procedures that regulate CAMR are so cumbersome that medicines have only left Canada once, to one country, since the legislation was passed five years ago.

There are two private members’ bills before Parliament that would streamline CAMR: Bills S-232 and C-393. Bill S-232 is before the Senate, and has passed second reading (in the legislative process, this is the first opportunity for parliamentarians to debate a bill) and is being reviewed by the Senate Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee is Senator Michael A. Meighen. Bill C-393 is before the House of Commons and has not yet received second reading.

Actions:

- Write to Senator Michael Meighen before December 1 (World AIDS Day) stating your support of Bill S-232. Send your letter to The Senate of Canada, Ottawa ON K1A 0A4. Postage to the Senate is free.
- Write to your MP before December 1 (World AIDS Day) communicating your support for Bill C-393. Send your letter to your MP at the House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6. Postage to the House of Commons is free.
- Mark December 1 World AIDS Day in prayer; download a bulletin insert from Presbyterian World Service & Development (presbyterian.ca/pwsd).

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network has details on the procedural barriers limiting the effectiveness of CAMR. See “Fixing Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR): 20 questions and answers” online at aidslaw.ca.

POVERTY REDUCTION IN CANADA

November 24 will mark the twentieth year since parliamentarians unanimously voted to end child poverty by 2000. Currently, one in ten Canadian children live in poverty. There is growing momentum to change this. Seven provincial governments have or are developing poverty reduction plans. More can be done. National leadership from the federal government is needed to tackle poverty in Canada.

Actions:

- Write to your federal MP before November 19 asking for a national poverty reduction plan. Sample letters may be obtained from presbyterian.ca/ministry/justice/letters. Send your letter to your MP at the House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6. Postage to the House of Commons is free.
- Plan a prayer vigil for November 24. Visit campaign2000.ca for details.



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Kyoto Protocol is the only internationally negotiated policy to mitigate climate change. The Protocol concludes in 2012. In December 2009 the international community meets in Copenhagen to negotiate a new agreement. The *Kyotoplus* petition is a civil society initiative supported organizations such as KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. The *Kyotoplus* petition encourages the Canadian government to support a strong new Protocol at the Copenhagen meeting. Signing the petition is voluntary. The petition is consistent with policies and statements approved by General Assembly. The *Kyotoplus* petition may be downloaded from presbyterian.ca/kairos.

Bill C-311 “Climate Change Accountability Act,” would oblige the Canadian government to create and implement a plan to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. Bill C-311 is being reviewed by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The Chair of the Committee is Mr. James Bezan.

Actions:

- The deadline to collect signatures has been extended to November 30. Please send signed petitions to Katharine Masterton, Program Coordinator for Justice Ministries (50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7).
- Please write to Mr. James Bezan stating your support for Bill C-311. Send your letter to the House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6. Postage to the House of Commons is free.

Dignity For All

I wake to morning light
And whether I am wondering or wandering,
Dreading, preparing, aching, paining
You know my name.

I enter the evening rest
And whether I am thankful or cursing,
Burdened, freed, exhausted, embraced
You know my name.

I mark the noon of day
And whether I am busily calculating
Or listlessly waiting,
Caring, harming, losing, planting
You know my name.

Name above all names, Giver of Life
Tend to me.
And as I am tended, teach me to honour and
Hold all You know and name.
Use me to remember, restore, renew
Until Your reign comes and Your will is done.

Amen.

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Please copy your letters to Katharine Masterton, Justice Ministries, 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7
Thank you for your involvement.