

Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
Congregation of Notre Dame – Visitation Province
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September 12, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing on behalf of the office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of Visitation Province, which is the English Speaking Canadian group of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

On September 21st we will have members and staff in New York City participating peacefully in the People's Climate March. Our purpose is to join our voice to the many others who will be present, asking for significant action to be taken by the world's leaders on the issue of climate change. We are aware that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has invited country leaders to a Climate Summit at the United Nations scheduled for September 23rd. We are also aware that you have received a personal invitation to the Summit from the Secretary General when you met with him in Toronto on May 29. <http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3433>

Mr. Prime Minister, we would like to request that you accept this invitation from the Secretary General to attend the Climate Summit on September 23rd. At the very least, we request that you ask Minister of Environment Leona Aglukkaq to attend in your place.

Canada signed onto the Copenhagen Accord in December 2009, committing to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 17 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020. We support government actions taken already to lower emissions from passenger cars (by 2018) and reduce coal-fired electricity emissions (by 2015). Environment Canada notes that Canada is in need of further, urgent action if we hope to reach our stated GHG reduction targets. We urge you to consider further action now.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has asked leaders of governments, businesses and civil society to arrive at the Summit equipped with "bold pledges" needed to face the climate challenge. Our members from across the country would like to see Canada make a positive contribution to the work that the Secretary General has laid before the leaders of the world. We wish to be proud of our leadership in the care of the environment and for justice and mitigation for those who are most vulnerable to the negative effective of climate change and for those who are already suffering the effects.

The world will be watching and Canada's leadership could help set an active agenda for lowering greenhouse gas emissions at home and abroad. We ask you to not miss this important opportunity to bring a brighter future to all.

We hope that you will carefully consider these opportunities for action. Please be assured of our continued prayers as our government carries out its important responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc:

Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the New Democratic Party

Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party

Mario Beaulieu, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party

Peter Julian , NDP Energy & Natural Resources Critic

Geoff Regan, Liberal Natural Resources Critic

John McKay, Liberal Environment Critic

André Bellavance, BQ Natural Resources Critic