

10 December 2009

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

Re: Canada's Role in Afghanistan

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, we are pleased to commend to you the attached ecumenical brief on Canada's role in Afghanistan.

In the context of your announcement that Canada intends to end its current military engagement in 2011, we humbly offer these reflections, analyses and recommendations regarding Canada's possible contributions to a sustainable and just peace in Afghanistan.

We encourage Canada to focus on two priorities:

1. to encourage the international community to give significant new attention to diplomatic efforts to end the war, and
2. to support Afghans in implementing participatory reconciliation programs and responsive governance at district and local levels.

We acknowledge the important responsibility in leading Canada's contribution to peace in Afghanistan. We shall continue to hold you and your government in prayer, as we hold the people of Afghanistan and the region in prayer.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bruce Adema
President

The Canadian Council of Churches is the broadest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 22 churches of Anglican, Evangelical, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions; together the Canadian Council of Churches represents 85 per cent of the Christians in Canada.