

27 November, 2015

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are writing on behalf of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada to congratulate you on your party's victory in the recent federal election. We want to assure you of our prayers and extend our best wishes as you begin your responsibilities as Canada's 23<sup>rd</sup> Prime Minister.

MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC Canada currently supports programs in 60 countries through the efforts of over 1,000 workers, 14,000 volunteers, and 122,000 members of supporting churches.

While much of our work is focused on international relief, development, and peacebuilding, MCC—together with our provincial counterparts—also works with local partners across Canada on a wide range of programming related to helping refugees resettle, walking with Indigenous Peoples, engaging with victims and offenders in the criminal justice system, and working with people living in poverty.

MCC is encouraged by many of the commitments you made during the election campaign with respect to a number of critically important issues. In particular, we sincerely welcome your party's promise to further reconciliation and healing with Canada's Indigenous Peoples by forging a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship based on "rights, respect, co-operation and partnership." We also affirm your pledge to help those seeking safety from violent conflict by rebuilding a strong, generous, and inclusive refugee resettlement program that not only takes in more—and the most vulnerable—refugees, but dedicates the financial resources necessary for efficient processing, sponsorship, and settlement services. Finally, given MCC's commitment to international peacebuilding and sustainable community development, we are pleased to hear your promise of a revitalized foreign affairs agenda that responds creatively to the full array of complex issues facing our world today, and a rebalanced development program that focuses on helping the poorest and most vulnerable.

As we have with all Canadian governments over the past five decades, MCC will continue to offer our perspective and expertise—guided by the voices of our partners and the people we serve in Canada and abroad—in order to contribute to policies and programs that are better able to address the profound challenges of our world.

Once again, we wish you well and assure you of our prayers as you provide leadership for our country.

We look forward to engaging with you in constructive discussions on important public policy issues in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,



Margaret Snyder  
Chair, Board of Directors  
MCC Canada



Donald G. Peters  
Executive Director  
MCC Canada

CC: Rona Ambrose, Interim Leader, Conservative Party of Canada  
Thomas Mulcair, Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada  
Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada