Working Ecumenically and Collaboratively with Aboriginal Peoples

Statement Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of A New Covenant

In the spirit of the recent A New Covenant interfaith statement of the Church leaders of Canada, and in commemoration of the 20th anniversary, we invite all our Christian communities to continue working ecumenically and collaboratively with Aboriginal Peoples and Canadian society in holistic ways to nurture relationships that protect and support Aboriginal ways and lifestyles, including the right to self-determination.

This call for a new, nation-to-nation relationship draws from the history of Canada, going back to the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, which affirmed the Charter in education and advocacy among all of the non-governmental actors in Canadian society. "Religious inclusion here perhaps the greatest potential for common understanding and understanding between non-Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples.”

Recent reports of destruction and relationship building include the DNA program gathered for the Land Rights pension in 2013, the concrete and major church action in the Fairchild (Aboriginals) for the ceremonial program, 45 years ago, the church act of the forgiveness of the Our Lady of Lourdes community in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This call for a new nation-to-nation relationship reflects the history of Canada, reflecting the struggle for the recognition and protection of Aboriginal rights.

A New Covenant, ten years after the Church's recognition of the Aboriginal Peoples, is the work that was done in a Benedictine project, including the Maclean/British Yankees, three former governments, which are now part of CARP, Canadian Ecumenical Family, and an understanding among the Churches that profound change is necessary in the ongoing relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.

While the Churches show deep and unchanging love for these and other issues, there is still much more for us to do. The rights of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada continue to be endangered and excluded. While 30 years later, the Church has remained in its aboriginal Peoples care, and expanded in its understanding of the need for a new relationship based on sharing, mutual respect and recognition of rights and responsibilities.
A New Covenant

Toward the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada

A Pastoral Statement by the Leaders of the Christian Churches on Aboriginal Rights and the Canadian Constitution

February 5, 1987

A New Covenant

Towards the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada

A Pastoral Statement by the Leaders of the Christian Churches on Aboriginal Rights and the Canadian Constitution

March 9, 2007

Aboriginal Rights

Aboriginal Rights are defined in the Constitution of Canada as the rights of the First Peoples of Canada to have their culture, language, and traditions respected and protected, as well as the right to self-government. These rights are recognized and protected by the Canadian Constitution, which states that the Crown has a duty to consult and accommodate the concerns of Aboriginal peoples.

Call to Action

The following is a call to action for all Canadians to support the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada.

1. Support the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada
2. Advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples
3. Educate yourself and others about the history and ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples
4. Support Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations
5. Vote for candidates who support the Constitutional Recognition and Protection of Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada

Self-Government

Self-Government is the process by which Indigenous peoples can exercise their inherent right to self-government. This involves negotiating agreements with the federal and provincial governments to establish a framework for self-governance, including the development of laws, policies, and programs that are tailored to the needs and circumstances of Indigenous communities.

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