



May 30, 2025

To the Right Honourable Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulations on your election as Prime Minister of Canada.

We are writing to you as the highest-ranking public representatives of The United Church of Canada to introduce ourselves, share our denomination's priorities for the 45th Parliament and to request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

About The United Church of Canada

For 100 years, The United Church of Canada has played an important role in Canada as the largest Protestant denomination in the country. [Formed by an Act of Parliament](#) on June 10, 1925, through a union of Methodist, many Presbyterian, Congregational, and other Christian churches, we are a united and uniting church whose history is closely entwined with the history of Canada. Today, we represent 2,451 congregations and 325,315 members in 243,689 households from coast to coast to coast. Our reach is far beyond our membership: we hold deep and reciprocal partnerships throughout Canada and around the world, play an integral role in national networks and coalitions, both faith-based and civil society, and have become a highly respected voice in those spaces. Your government will regularly be contacted both by our senior administration and by individual congregants.

The United Church has been active in the public arena since its earliest days. As people of faith, we are called to challenge injustice and oppression so everyone can live life abundantly. We have a responsibility to advocate for policies and practices to ensure that individual and collective rights are valued and upheld and that Earth itself is cherished and respected. At the same time, as a church that was and continues to be involved in nation-building, we have been complicit in injustice. We are committed to faithful work on justice, reconciliation, repair, building systems of equity and fairness and right relations with all peoples and the planet. We recognize this requires us to work both towards transforming the church to address the ways we are still complicit in injustice and to advocating with the Government of Canada for law and policy reform. We expect that you will find us to be collaborative, well-informed, respectful, helpful, tenacious and persistent.

Our justice priorities for Canada's 45th Parliament

Electors gave you and the government a clear mandate to stand up to U.S. President Donald Trump. This clearly means action on tariffs and trade. The election results should also be read as an unequivocal repudiation of the U.S. administration's:

- attacks on beloved members of trans and queer communities
- anti-immigrant rhetoric and mistreatment of undocumented people
- vilification of measures that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and principles of anti-oppression
- failure to take action to address the climate emergency and
- erosion of international rule of law.

We look forward to meeting with you and your cabinet to explore collective opportunities to help justice flourish. The United Church of Canada's priorities for Canada's 45th Parliament are:

- **Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ peoples' rights.** Given increasing international attacks on these rights, Canada's global leadership role in protecting and promoting trans and gender diverse people is needed now more than ever. We are asking the Canadian government to increase *Canadian international assistance* to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ organizations, appoint a *Special Envoy for LGBTQIA+ human rights*, use all diplomatic channels to *secure the repeal of draconian anti-Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ laws* worldwide, including in Canadian provinces and *improve pathways to Canada* for Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ activists and community members fleeing for safety.
- **Advancing Racial Equity** must be a government priority. As a church, we believe that racism is a sin and violates God's desire for humanity. The United Nations has named that racism is a has global manifestations—it is present in systemic forms throughout our Canadian society and in the United Church. Racism has disproportionate and negative effects particularly on Indigenous and racialized peoples. We are therefore deeply concerned by racial discrimination in access to adequate housing, quality education, health outcomes, the impacts of environmental racism and rising anti-(im)migrant rhetoric, including by public officials. We are asking the Government of Canada to pay particular attention to *racial equity in access to housing, to the National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act*, to intersections of racism, classism, sexism, and other forms of oppression, and to *a fair and just immigration policy that welcomes migrants and refugees*.
- **Indigenous Peoples' Right to Truth, Justice and Reparations** must be prioritized by the federal government. The United Church of Canada is engaged in ongoing work towards right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and is seeking to take responsibility for our complicity in the residential school system. We also work with Indigenous leadership calling for the Government of Canada to comprehensively implement the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action*, the recommendations from the Final Report of the *National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and*

Girls, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders regarding *Jordan's Principle* and the recommendations of the [Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools](#).

- **Acting for Climate Justice** is an emergency that remains a priority for Canadians: a March 2025 Leger poll shows that 67% of Canadians agreed that this government should make climate action and protecting nature a high priority. We are asking Canada to *increase our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets to 60%; fund targeted climate adaption and mitigation measures* to help ease the heavy burden on those most impacted and least responsible for climate change; and *uphold the rights, knowledge, sovereignty and leadership of Indigenous Peoples* and prioritize Indigenous approaches to climate action. The climate emergency showcases how quickly things can change. An essential part of resilience planning is instituting a *Guaranteed Liveable Income Framework* in Canada.
- **Standing for Global Solidarity, Peace and Respect for International Rule of Law.** We have a sacred responsibility to love our neighbours, near and far. This means fairly contributing to international assistance, debt cancellation and upholding a just international system. As President to the G7 this year, Canada has a particular role to play. We highlight Canada's moral and legal obligations to denounce occupation, prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing and to protect human rights defenders. We await your unwavering and clear action and language in support of full adherence to international human rights and humanitarian law by the State of Israel and Hamas. Canada must stand for a just peace and humanity.

Our connections to communities across the country and around the globe, our justice-rooted and faith-filled discernment practices, our subject matter expertise and policy analysis, our tradition of working collaboratively with others and our commitments to right relations, decolonization and commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination help make The United Church of Canada an important stakeholder. We welcome the opportunity to work with your administration and cabinet in support of a kind, just and welcoming society.

Signed by



Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne,
44th Moderator of The United Church of
Canada

The Moderator is the elected, presiding officer and spiritual leader of the church and serves as the primary spokesperson and representative for The United Church of Canada.



Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of
The United Church of Canada

The General Secretary is the senior staff and administrative officer of the General Council and is responsible for holding the church to its stated values and purpose while encouraging and equipping the church for the future.

Cc: All members of Cabinet and Secretaries of State

Ministers

- **Shafqat Ali**, President of the Treasury Board
- **Rebecca Alty**, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
- **Anita Anand**, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Gary Anandasangaree**, Minister of Public Safety
- **François-Philippe Champagne**, Minister of Finance and National Revenue
- **Rebecca Chartrand**, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
- **Julie Dabrusin**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- **Sean Fraser**, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- **Chrystia Freeland**, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade
- **Steven Guilbeault**, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages
- **Mandy Gull-Masty**, Minister of Indigenous Services
- **Patty Hajdu**, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario
- **Tim Hodgson**, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- **Mélanie Joly**, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
- **Dominic LeBlanc**, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy
- **Joël Lightbound**, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement
- **Heath MacDonald**, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
- **Steven MacKinnon**, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
- **David J. McGuinty**, Minister of National Defence
- **Jill McKnight**, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence
- **Lena Metlege Diab**, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
- **Marjorie Michel**, Minister of Health
- **Eleanor Olszewski**, Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada
- **Gregor Robertson**, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada
- **Maninder Sidhu**, Minister of International Trade
- **Evan Solomon**, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
- **Joanne Thompson**, Minister of Fisheries
- **Rechie Valdez**, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism)

Secretaries of State

- **Buckley Belanger**, Secretary of State (Rural Development)
- **Stephen Fuhr**, Secretary of State (Defence Procurement)
- **Anna Gainey**, Secretary of State (Children and Youth)
- **Wayne Long**, Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions)
- **Stephanie McLean**, Secretary of State (Seniors)
- **Nathalie Provost**, Secretary of State (Nature)
- **Ruby Sahota**, Secretary of State (Combatting Crime)
- **Randeep Sarai**, Secretary of State (International Development)
- **Adam van Koeverden**, Secretary of State (Sport)
- **John Zerucelli**, Secretary of State (Labour)