

**OCT 19 2012**

The Venerable Dr. Michael Thompson  
General Secretary  
The Anglican Church of Canada  
80 Hayden Street  
Toronto ON M4Y 3G2

Dear Dr. Thompson:

The Office of the Prime Minister has sent me a copy of your letter of August 13, 2012, concerning Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

Our government has always maintained that climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution. That is why Canada continues to engage actively with our international partners to establish a new global climate change treaty that is fair, effective, and covers all the world's biggest emitters. The Durban Platform, which was adopted at the December 2011 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in South Africa, represents a significant step in that direction.

From an environmental perspective, the Kyoto Protocol has not served the international community well in meeting the real challenges of global climate change or effectively engaging all major economies. The rules and procedures set out in the Protocol in 1997 have, over the intervening years, proved to be neither fair nor effective. In particular, the Protocol has disadvantaged Canada by not taking into account our unique national circumstances. For example, under the Protocol, Canada would have been held responsible for the significant natural greenhouse gas emissions resulting from forest fires and mountain pine beetle infestations, events that are largely out of our control.

Moreover, global circumstances have changed dramatically in the past decade and a half since the Kyoto Protocol was created. As the Protocol applies only to emissions from developed countries, the recent unprecedented economic growth of major developing countries, such as India and China, means that the Kyoto Protocol now applies to less than one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. This share will continue to decline in the future. The United States, Canada's biggest economic trading partner, is also not covered by the Kyoto Protocol,

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despite being responsible for nearly 20 percent of global emissions. It is imperative that the world adopt a climate change regime that addresses the vast majority of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is now widely recognized that the Kyoto Protocol is not the right vehicle to achieve this crucial goal.

Internationally, Canada continues to pursue the establishment of a single, new international climate change agreement that is more fair and effective. Through the negotiations under the UNFCCC, Canada will continue to work constructively with our international partners to build on the Durban Platform, a new negotiating process working toward achieving a single, comprehensive agreement by 2015 that would include binding commitments for all major emitters. The Durban Platform is a positive step forward and builds upon the success of the 2010 Cancun Agreements and the 2009 Copenhagen Accord.

Canada is also working with international partners outside the formal United Nations negotiations in order to make progress on climate change. These processes bring together smaller groups of countries and address more manageable issues in an informal setting. Therefore, they have the potential to deliver more immediate, concrete results. These efforts include initiatives under the G8, the G20, and the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change.

In addition, there are new global efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as soot, methane, and ozone. Addressing SLCPs is increasingly seen as a key element of a comprehensive approach on climate change. Due to their short life span, reducing SLCPs can have more immediate climate benefits—particularly in the North—as well as important health benefits.

To this end, Canada is working with international partners to promote concrete actions to reduce SLCPs, including through the Arctic Council; the Gothenburg Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution; the International Maritime Organization; the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone; and the Global Methane Initiative. Canada is also part of a new global initiative, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce SLCPs, announced February 16, 2012, in Washington, D.C., to enhance existing actions to reduce SLCPs.

In addition, through the Clean Energy Dialogue, Canada is engaging with the United States to collaborate on clean energy research and development, the development and deployment of clean energy technologies, and building a more efficient electricity grid. These initiatives are helping our respective countries make progress on domestic greenhouse gas reduction goals, as well as expand

clean energy deployment. We are also continuing to work with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization on a global policy framework to address greenhouse gas emissions from the international aviation and maritime transport sectors.

Beyond these initiatives, the Government continues to demonstrate its commitment to climate change by providing our fair share of international climate change financing to help vulnerable developing countries address and respond to the challenge of climate change. On December 5, 2011, I announced that Canada will fully deliver on its commitment of \$1.2 billion in fast-start financing by the end of fiscal year 2012/13. This is Canada's largest-ever contribution to support international efforts to address climate change. It will aim to assist developing countries to adapt to the effects of a changing climate, to invest in clean energy, and to promote sustainable forests and agriculture.

Canada also stands firm on the commitment it made when it signed the Copenhagen Accord in 2009. As you may know, at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009, the Government of Canada adopted an ambitious but realistic target to reduce national greenhouse emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. This target is aligned with the target set by the United States under the same agreement. Since 2009, Canada has been making decisive progress toward its goal through targeted measures at both the federal and provincial levels of jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada started by addressing emissions in the transportation and electricity sectors—two of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in this country, and is now looking at ways to effectively address emissions from other major-emitting sectors, including oil and gas.

These important efforts have not gone unnoticed. A report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, which was released on November 7, 2011, highlights the significant progress being made in Canada on greenhouse gas emissions, and confirms that the Government's regulatory approach is delivering results and contributing to a national effort to reduce emissions toward Canada's 2020 target. It states that "Canada is finally establishing the policy architecture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

As you may be aware, on April 11, 2012, I released the *National Inventory Report*, along with two other reports, to provide Canadians with a coherent picture of emission levels across the country. The reports indicated that between 2009 and 2010, our emissions remained steady despite economic growth of 3.2 percent; since 2005, annual greenhouse gas emissions have dropped by 48 megatonnes;

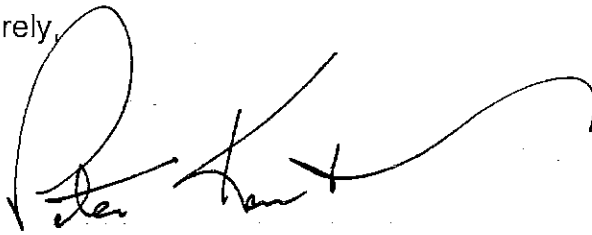
emissions have declined in almost all sectors, including oil and gas, and electricity generation, since 2005; per capita emissions remain at an historic low of 20.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per person, their lowest level since tracking began in 1990; and, while emissions have grown 17.5 percent since 1990, our economy has grown 60.5 percent. This demonstrates that we can grow our economy without increasing emissions levels.

Taken together, the measures of the federal and provincial governments, combined with the efforts of consumers and businesses, are projected to have a significant impact on emissions over the coming years. On August 8, 2012, I released *Canada's Emissions Trends 2012*. This report shows that Canada is projected to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 130 megatonnes by 2020 when compared to the initial projected business-as-usual emissions. This is about one half of the way to meeting Canada's target. Upcoming federal policies, in particular oil and gas regulations, along with further provincial measures, will contribute even more to the additional emissions reductions required for Canada to meet its commitments under the Copenhagen Accord.

In conclusion, the Government's comprehensive climate change approach, both domestically and internationally, will result in real emission reductions in the short, medium, and long term, while maintaining Canada's economic competitiveness and our ability to create jobs for Canadians.

For more information on federal actions to address climate change and on how you can make an important difference, please visit [www.climatechange.gc.ca](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca), or call 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232, TTY 1-800-926-9105).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

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

August 13, 2012

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing at the request of the Council of General Synod, the governing body of the Anglican Church of Canada, to express our church's disappointment and dismay with your government's decision to withdraw from the Kyoto Accord, as well as the failure to replace it with a plan that establishes a clear direction. The scientific evidence that human activity is causing climate change, and the prospect of such change having catastrophic consequences around the world creates a solemn obligation for governments and nations to develop an international plan that is legally binding and that has clear and measurable results, and the Council of General Synod calls on your government to propose such a plan, having dismissed the Kyoto Accord.

I write to you out of our church's commitment to stewardship of the earth, which our scriptures identify as the heart of the human vocation in the creation stories of Genesis. And I write as a Canadian, who shares with all who inhabit this land a sacred trust to care for it, not simply as a resource to be exploited, but as a gift to be cherished and preserved for the generations who follow us in this place.

At its 2010 General Synod, our church identified the human role in climate change as a profoundly destructive reality, and churches from coast to coast are engaged in monitoring our own behaviour in the use of energy and water, and making changes that will reduce our negative impact on God's world. We recognize that our beginnings are just that, and would welcome a sense that our government takes this issue seriously enough to develop protocols that will challenge all Canadians to join in this effort, as well as ensure that the costs of such change are shared justly across all sectors of our society, including energy producers, manufacturers, utilities, and other organizations, as well as individual citizens and civil society.

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Finally, we are, as a church, committed to pray for you and for others who govern federally, provincially, and in municipalities. Such prayers are a regular part of our common life, because we are all too aware of the challenges you face as you seek to lead this country more and more deeply into the ways of justice and compassion.

Yours sincerely,

The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson  
General Secretary,  
Anglican Church of Canada

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