

Why just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in social justice & advocacy at the Diocese of Toronto. Don't forget to add egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update February 2018

NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

1. **Advocacy Campaigns: Vestry Motion and more**
2. **Events this Month**
3. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

1. Advocacy Campaigns

- **Social Justice Vestry Motion on Affordable Housing & Homelessness**

February is Vestry month! Archbishop Colin has asked all parishes in the Diocese to consider supporting this year's social justice vestry motion on affordable housing and homelessness. The motion and backgrounder, as well as many other resources for learning more about this issue, are available on the Diocesan website at www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac-vestrymotion. Thanks to all who attended the workshops this past month - you can find all the materials presented on the website as well.

After your parish's Vestry meeting, please report on the results of the motion to my office at egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

- **"Give it Up for the Earth" Lent postcard campaign from CPJ**

Citizens for Public Justice is launching its second annual "Give it Up for the Earth" Lent postcard campaign, calling on the federal government to end fossil fuel subsidies. You are invited to consider an action to take throughout Lent to reduce your own climate impact. Fill out the pledge form and the attached (postage pre-paid) postcard, detach the postcard, and send it to CPJ by April 12, 2018. Postcards and background information are available from [Elin Goulden](#).

- **Bill C-262 debate and vote Feb. 5 and 7**

Last year's Vestry Motion called on the federal government to adopt and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons, as recommended in Call to Action

of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Private Member's Bill C-262, which would compel the government to implement the UN Declaration over the next two decades, moved to Second Reading in the House of Commons in December 2017. It will be debated next week on Monday February 5 and voted on February 7 to decide whether the Bill should pass Second Reading and move to Committee. We urge you to send an e-mail to your MP asking them to support this Bill. For more information, visit the KAIROS site [here](#).

- **City of Toronto Budget Campaign and Homelessness Response**

Toronto's city budget and homelessness crisis have been in the news of late. Recent developments at the Budget Committee and City Council have led to some good news in the short term regarding both the city's poverty reduction efforts and its response to the worsening homelessness crisis. City Council will vote on the municipal budget on February 12. To learn more, and to send a letter to your councillor urging them to support and build on these efforts, visit our [website](#).

- **Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty Petition**

Jesus invites us to be peacemakers, and our baptismal vows call us to "strive for justice and peace among all people." In July 2017, 122 nations approved the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The driving force behind the treaty was the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which the Anglican Church of Canada is a member. ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts. However, the Canadian government has not yet signed the treaty. You can urge them to do so by signing this [petition](#) and sharing it with family and friends. For more information about the Treaty, and the work of ICAN, please read this excellent [article](#) by Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson in the Anglican.

2. Events this Month

- **Weds. Feb. 7, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** Citizens for Public Justice & Joint Ecological Ministry present Prof. Heather Eaton on "Flourishing of Life for All: How are we called to be a prophetic voice for action on climate change?" Materials for CPJ's "Give it Up for the Earth" campaign will also be available. **Location:** Mary Ward Centre, 70 St. Mary St., Toronto.
- **Weds. Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.,** St. James' Cathedral Centre presents Giidaakunadaad/Nancy Rowe on "Lessons from the Earth: Indigenous knowledge on Creation and the "Moccasin Project". The talk will be preceded by a 6:00 p.m. service in the Cathedral and a light supper in the Cathedral Centre at 6:30 p.m. **Location:** St. James' Cathedral Centre, 65 Church St., Toronto.
- **Sun. Feb. 11, 12:00-2:00 p.m.** St. Cuthbert's 2018 Environmental Film Festival presents "Water In All The Wrong Places." Join us for a light lunch, film and discussion with moderator Stefan Hostetter of Green Majority. Free. All welcome. **Location:** St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, 1399 Bayview St. (south of Davisville), Toronto.
- **Thurs. Feb. 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** St. Matthew, Oriole presents "Walking the Road: beginning to understand Indigenous Anglican self-determination" with the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop and Ms. Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator for the Anglican Church of Canada. A key step on the road to reconciliation is to facilitate Indigenous Anglicans' desire for self-determination. Bishop Mark will address what a self-determined Indigenous

Anglican church might look like and Melanie will speak on what it means to her as a non-Indigenous person that the Indigenous church is self-determined. Free, but please RSVP for planning purposes to Archdeacon Kyn Barker: barkerk@rogers.com. **Location:** St. Matthew, Oriole, 80 George Henry Blvd., Toronto (near Sheppard and Don Mills).

- **Sat. March 3, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Creation Care Fair at St. Cuthbert, Leaside. With more than 20 exhibitors in Lamb Hall, special speakers on environmental issues including MP Rob Oliphant and Councillor Jon Burnside, an opportunity to measure your carbon footprint, and a concurrent children's program, this is a great opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about how we can care for the earth. Entry free, with lunch available for purchase. **Location:** St. Cuthbert, Leaside, 1399 Bayview St., Toronto (south of Davisville).

3. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle

February 4, Epiphany 5- *Pray for* Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, Toronto, its work in the Hope Community Garden, and its social justice, advocacy, and environmental initiatives;

for the Church of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth, its Thursday community lunch, and its Family Market, helping families by recycling gently-used clothing;

and for the Parish of Fenelon Falls and Cobocok, its community gardens, cooking classes, and support of the Good Food Box and local food bank.

February 11, Last after Epiphany- *Pray for* the Flemingdon Park Ministry, Don Mills, and its support and advocacy for immigrants and refugees, women and children living in dangerous and stressful situations, and people in need of legal and food support;

and for the Parish of Georgina, its Summer Outreach Chaplaincy to Sibbald Point Provincial Park, its support of ecumenical community dinners, the Georgina Food Pantry, Sandgate Shelter for Women, Salvation Army Youth Shelter, and prayer shawl ministry.

February 18, Lent 1- *Pray for* Grace Church, Markham, its monthly lunch, its parish nurse and health promotion program, refugee sponsorship, and its supportive relationship with St. Paul's, Collins, in Northern Ontario;

and for Grace-Church-on-the-Hill, its support of the Churches-on-the-Hill food bank, provision of meals for Out of the Cold programs, refugee resettlement work, and support of Indigenous ministries, international emergency response and development, prison ministry, and food security organizations.

February 25, Lent 2- *Pray for* Grace Church Scarborough, its monthly community lunch and cooking club, and its support of the Good Food Box;

for Holy Family, Heart Lake, its food bank, caring and sharing program, and Lenten outreach initiatives;

and for Holy Trinity, Guildwood, its food drives, parish nurse ministry, pastoral care to local nursing homes, and work with community partners on housing and poverty issues.

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, [consider liking us on our Facebook page.](#)

In faithful witness,
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