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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update January 2019

### NEWS FOR JANUARY 2019

1. **Vestry Motion Campaign: Standing in Solidarity**
2. **Have Your Say: Public Consultations on Provincial Budget and Environment Plan**
3. **Save the Date: Energy Benchmarking Webinar, January 30**
4. **Refugee Sponsors' Workshop: Pathways to Employment, February 2**
5. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

#### 1. Vestry Motion Campaign: Standing in Solidarity

This year's Social Justice Vestry Motion calls on parishes throughout our Diocese to stand in solidarity with those living in poverty within our communities. The format of the motion is a little different from those in previous years. Instead of asking parishes to adopt a resolution on a specific policy, we're inviting parishes to take the opportunity at their upcoming Vestry meetings to commit to at least one new or enhanced direct outreach activity and one new or enhanced advocacy action to address poverty in our province. The backgrounder, available for download at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac), provides information on the realities of poverty in Ontario as well as suggestions for both advocacy and outreach. Additional resources for carrying out the motion will be added to the website throughout January. The flexibility of the motion allows parishes to consider what actions would have the most impact in their local context and to develop their capacity to respond. Because of this, each parish's response will likely take shape over the course of the weeks and months to follow the Vestry meeting.

We'd love to hear what each parish decides to take on, and to offer support as needed - please contact me at [egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca)

#### 2. Have Your Say - Province of Ontario Public Consultations

- The Ontario government released its Environment Plan on November 29. It outlines the government's proposals to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets without a carbon tax. You can read more [here](#) and [submit your comments](#) on the plan by January 29, 2019.
- The consultation process leading to the 2019 Provincial Budget is also underway. Our Diocesan pre-budget submission is in preparation and will be posted online by January 15th. You can also have your say by participating in an online survey or by

sending your submission of 500 words or less by mail or e-mail, by February 8, 2019. Please see the government [website](#) for details.

### **3. Save the Date - Energy Benchmarking Webinar, January 30, 11:00-12:00**

Faith & the Common Good - Greening Sacred Spaces is hosting a webinar on its Energy Benchmarking Project, with a focus on "Building Automation Systems - Controlling Your Building Efficiently Using Technology." Details on signing up for the webinar will be available next week at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac). For more information on the (**free!**) Energy Benchmarking Project, and how your parish can participate, visit Faith & the Common Good [here](#).

### **4. Workshop for Refugee Sponsors: Pathways to Employment, Sat. February 2**

ECULINKS, a gathering of Etobicoke area churches, is holding a workshop for church and community refugee sponsors on how to help newcomers find employment. This free half-day workshop takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 2 at Islington United Church, 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Toronto. Please register [here](#) to assist in planning.

### **5. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for January 2019:**

**January 6, Epiphany** - *Pray for* Christ Church, Deer Park, its support of the Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank, its refugee sponsorships, Saturday morning breakfast program, Let Your Lights Shine outreach donation program, and the Deer Park Skills Institute in Uganda; *and for* Christ Church, Holland Landing, its community lunch, Christmas meal at the local seniors' centre, support of the Helping Hand food bank, Inn From the Cold, meal and snack programs at local schools, Crosslinks, Women's Shelter of York Region, and other local agencies.

**January 13, Epiphany 1 (Baptism of the Lord)** - *Pray for* Christ Church, Roches Point, its provision of meals at Cedarvale Lodge, support of the local food bank, and raising awareness of local Indigenous justice and water protection issues; *for* Christ Church, St. James, its refugee sponsorship, food pantry, and support of Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry; *and for* Christ Church Scarborough Village, its weekly Deacon's Cupboard emergency food bank, monthly community lunches, participation in Operation Backpack, Woolly Tree for winter accessories, and the neighbourhood Caring Alliance.

**January 20, Epiphany 2** - *Pray for* Christ Church, Stouffville, its Deacon Al Fund, providing assistance to people in need, support of the Yellow Brick House, Porter Place, Stouffville Food Bank, York Region Children's Aid, and Community Care Access Centre; *for* Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa, its support of the Gate 3:16 drop-in centre, Luke's Place, Simcoe Hall Settlement House food bank, Cornerstone men's hostel, St. Vincent's Kitchen, Mary Street School snack program, and the Pikangikum Water Project; *and for* the Parish of Churchill and Cookstown, its monthly community and seniors' lunches, refugee support, and "Christmas for Kids Year-Round" program of practical and spiritual support for vulnerable families.

**January 27, Epiphany 3** - *Pray for* Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, and the Jeremiah Community, their work in the Hope Community Garden, partnership with the Dale Ministries, involvement with the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust, and social justice, advocacy, and environmental initiatives; *for* the Church of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth, its Family Market second hand shop and its Good News Café Saturday drop-in; *and for* the Parish of Fenelon Falls and Coboconk, its community gardens, community kitchen, cooking classes, and support of the Good Food Box.

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 our [Facebook page](#).

In faithful witness,

Elin Goulden

Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant

[egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca)

Tele: 416-363-6021 x240

Toll-free: 1-800-668-8932 x240

Social Justice and Advocacy Website: [www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac)

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