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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update May 2019

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1. Petition: Ensure low-income Ontarians have access to justice

The 2019 provincial budget, released on April 11, contained a number of significant cuts which will affect Ontarians, especially those on low incomes. These include cutting funding to Legal Aid Ontario by 30% in this year alone, and completely eradicating provincial legal aid funding for immigration and refugee cases. This will also severely cut back community legal aid clinics, which help low income people access benefits, support them against wrongful evictions, ensure their rights at work are being upheld, and more. The Romero House refugee welcome centre has prepared a petition urging the Ontario Legislature to reverse these cuts. Download the petition [here](#) to print and share it in your parish.

For more on the Diocesan response to provincial budget cuts, see our [webpage](#).

2. CPJ Advocacy Toolkits available. Citizens for Public Justice, an ecumenical advocacy organization based in Ottawa, has produced an excellent advocacy toolkit with helpful information and examples of various kinds of advocacy actions. While the kit is accessible [online](#), you or your parish may wish to have a hard copy. Our diocese has obtained 50 copies of the Advocacy Toolkit at a significant discount for distribution. To get your copy, contact [Elin Goulden](#).

3. Plant a Tree with LEAF. Planting a tree on parish property can be a powerful statement of your commitment to creation care. LEAF is an organization which works in

Toronto, Ajax and York Region to help grow the urban tree canopy by planting native trees on private property. LEAF will provide guidance on the right tree species, site, and care required as well as delivering and planting the tree at a subsidized cost. Both homeowners and churches can take advantage of LEAF's services; churches fall within their "Multi-Unit and Businesses" program. Learn more [here](#)!

4. Niigaani-Gichigami Water Festival events, St. James Cathedral, May 15, 29

The third annual Niigaani-Gichigami Water Festival, co-hosted with Toronto Urban Native Ministry and St. James Cathedral, begins with two events this month:

- **Weds. May 15, Reconciliation in Our Watershed.** We won't save a place we don't love; we can't love a place we don't know; and we can't know a place we haven't learned. What are the traditional Indigenous names of the places where you live? What shapes the geology and history of this region? Join us for an interactive workshop on understanding more deeply the physical spaces in which we live, that we might grow in love of the places we call home. Led by Amelia Berot-Burns of KAIROS. You are invited to a service in the Cathedral at 6 p.m. followed by a meal at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Centre.
- **Weds. May 29, Listening to the Silenced Streams: Honouring the Buried Rivers of Toronto.** Join us as Dr. Debby Danard, Anishnaabe-kwe traditional knowledge keeper, leads us in ceremony for the river buried under the Cathedral park. After the ceremony please join us for a meal, followed by traditional teachings on the sacred life of water, and the special message that the covered waters have in bringing to surface what has been hidden within us all. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. on the West Lawn of the Cathedral, with meal at 6:30 and lecture at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Centre
- June events will be listed in the June Update

5. Electronic Waste and Clothes Recycling, Scarborough, May 24-June 3

From Friday May 24 at 4 p.m. through Monday June 3 at noon, the **Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildwood** (85 Livingston Ave. Toronto) is partnering with Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate and Ontario Electronic Stewardship to collect electronic waste and clothing for recycling. Drop bins will be available in the parking lot.

6. Junia's Daughters: A Conference for Every Woman in Ministry, May 25

This conference for women involved or interested in ministry (ordained or lay!) will be held Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wycliffe College (5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto.) Come and be inspired by women who are living out ministry lives of passion and insight. Share with and learn from other women on topics like wage justice, healthy sexuality, and the challenges of maintaining a vibrant personal, professional, and spiritual life as a woman in ministry or considering ministry. This is a conference by question-filled women for question-filled women. Expect a day full of personal stories, faith reflections, and interesting questions. The cost is \$70; bursaries are available. Visit [here](#) for more details and registration.

7. York-Credit Valley Advocacy Workshop, Mississauga, Saturday, June 1

On Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to noon, join Anglicans from across the York-Credit Valley Area at St. John the Baptist, Dixie (719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga) in an engaging and interactive workshop about social justice advocacy. Learn practical ways for how you and your parish can strive for justice and peace, and advocate for the dignity of all human persons. Facilitated by Elin Goulden, Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant, and the Rev. Don Beyers, YCV Social Justice & Advocacy Officer, the workshop will include presentations and discussions to help you learn about advocacy work. All are welcome. Please register [here](#) for this free event. For more information, contact [Elin Goulden](#) or the [Rev. Don Beyers](#).

8. Lunch & Learn: "Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts", Oshawa, June 2

Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa (81 Hillcroft St., Oshawa) is holding a Lunch & Learn on

Sunday, June 2, featuring the Anglican Video documentary "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts." This film, produced by the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice, provides insight into the colonial foundation of our legal system and how it continues to affect Indigenous peoples to the current day. Lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. with the film and discussion at 1:15 p.m. All are welcome to this free event. Please RSVP by May 27 to Irené at 905-432-1230 or by [e-mail](#).

9. Respect Justice Camp, August 13-19: registration is open!

The Diocese of Huron is hosting Respect Justice Camp from August 13-19, 2019 in Windsor ON. Justice Camp is a week of immersive learning and theological reflection on social justice issues for Anglicans aged 18 and older. Hands-on involvement, worship, and building relationships with Anglicans from across Canada makes Justice Camp an incredible experience! See www.justicecamp.ca for more details and to register. The cost of \$450 includes all meals and accommodation as well as programming. Bursaries may be available from Justice Camp and/or from the Diocese to assist with the cost; contact [Elin Goulden](#) for more information.

10. Save the Date: Diocesan Outreach Conference, Saturday October 19

Our annual Diocesan Outreach Conference will be held on Saturday October 19 at Havergal College (1451 Avenue Rd., Toronto) This year's theme is "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope." With keynote speaker Thea Prescod of Sanctuary, and a wide variety of engaging workshops, including a youth focus, you won't want to miss this event! We are holding the cost at \$30 general/\$15 students. Registration opens in June 2019.

11. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for May

May 5, Easter 3 - *Pray for* St. Dunstan of Canterbury, Scarborough, its donations of knitted goods to Scarborough Centenary Hospital, its twinning relationship with a First Nations community in northern Saskatchewan, and fundraising program to support local and global outreach;
for St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale, its Christmas hampers, support of local food security programs and the Pikangikum water project;
and for St. George, Fairvalley, its support of Mariposa House Hospice, Faithworks and area foodbanks.

May 12, Easter 4 - *Pray for* St. George Memorial, Oshawa, its community lunch, participation in the Mary Street School breakfast program and St. Vincent's Kitchen, its support of Cornerstone Men's Hostel, Denise House, Gate 3.16, Simcoe Hall Settlement House, Durham Outlook for the Needy, Lakeridge Chaplaincy, and other community ministries; its involvement in refugee sponsorship, and education on social justice issues;
for St. George, Pickering Village, and its support of the breakfast program at the local high school and the Herizon House women's shelter;
and for St. George-on-the-Hill, its Etobicoke Learning Cooperative, prayer shawl ministry, and involvement in the Out of the Cold program.

May 19, Easter 5 - *Pray for* St. George on Yonge, Toronto, its work as a pick-up centre for Out of the Cold programs, its monthly distribution of gift cards and TTC tokens, refugee resettlement,
ESL classes, its support of the local food bank and local community housing;
for St. Hilary, Cooksville, its food cupboard, annual outreach fundraising walk to support local and global outreach, community vegetable garden, involvement in making bed mats for Haiti and knitting garments for hospital patients, and its Amnesty International circle;
and for St. Hugh and St. Edmund, and its community youth ministry.

May 26, Easter 6 - *Pray for* St. James the Apostle, Brampton, and its support of the Bridge Prison Ministry, Interim Place shelter services, the Knight's Table community meals,

The Dam youth ministry, the Regeneration Outreach Community, and San Lorenzo's Caravan of Hope;
for St. James the Apostle, Sharon, its Second Chance clothing depot, weekly food closet, and participation in Inn from the Cold;
and for St. James, Orillia, the James' Place Emergency Help Centre, weekly "Loonie Lunch" program, thrift shop, and its support of Couchiching Jubilee House and the Pikangikum water project.

June 2, Easter 7/Sunday after Ascension - *Pray for* St. James Cathedral, its weekly drop-in for homeless and street-involved people, Amnesty International Action Circle, Christmas food drive, its Seeds of Sanctuary initiative, refugee sponsorship, Indigenous reconciliation education program, and support of Streets-to-Trail;
for St. John's Bowmanville, its community garden, Christmas hamper program, and support of Durham Region Migrant Worker ministry;
and for St. John, Ida, its involvement with the One Roof Community Diner in downtown Peterborough, monthly seniors lunch, refugee support, support of the Pikangikum Water Project and education for reconciliation.

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,
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