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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update June 2019

### NEWS FOR JUNE 2019

June is a busy month!  
The SJAC Summer Update will go out in mid-July.

1. **Register Now: Respect Justice Camp, Diocesan Outreach Conference**
2. **Events this Month**
3. **In Brief: News on Advocacy Campaigns**
4. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle for June/July**

#### 1. Register Now!

- **Respect Justice Camp**, August 13-19, 2019, Windsor ON. The Diocese of Huron is hosting Respect Justice Camp this August in Windsor. Justice Camp is a week of intensive experiential learning and theological reflection on justice issues. It is open to Anglicans over 18 from across Canada. Visit [www.justicecamp.ca](http://www.justicecamp.ca) for details and to register. The cost of \$450.00 covers all meals, accommodation and programming for the week. If this is a barrier, financial assistance is available from Justice Camp, as well as from our Diocese: contact [Elin Goulden](#) for more details.
- **"Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope."** Our Diocesan Outreach & Advocacy Conference, to be held on Sat. October 19, 2019 at Havergal College, Toronto, is now open for registration. With keynote speaker Thea Prescod of Sanctuary, and a full range of morning and afternoon workshops, we will explore how the church can counter the oppressive (and depressing!) injustices we see in the world with alternative strategies of resilience and hope. Diocesan **youth** aged 11 and up are especially invited to attend; this year's conference features a youth-focused workshop in the morning and youth-friendly workshop options in the afternoon. The cost of \$30 (\$15 for students) includes a delicious lunch. Learn more and register at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference)

#### 2. Events this Month

- **Faith for Creation, Yonge/Dundas, Toronto, Mon. June 10 at 5:45 p.m.** Faith leaders from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions, together with Extinction Rebellion Toronto will gather at Yonge and Dundas Streets to call for the action on

the climate crisis. At 6 p.m. participants will occupy the intersection for 15 minutes. All are welcome.

- **Our First Water: Traditional Indigenous Teachings on Birth, Weds. June 12.** Toronto Urban Native Ministry and the Niigaani-gichigami Water Festival host this year's final lecture at St. James Cathedral. Indigenous leaders Denise Booth and Vivian Recollet speak on traditional knowledge and ceremonies around birth and our connection to creation. Come for a service of prayer in St. James Cathedral at 6 p.m., followed by a light supper in the Cathedral Centre at 6:30 and the lecture at 7:00 p.m. All welcome!
- **Inspiring Ideas for Toronto: An International Public Panel Discussion on Housing, Weds. June 12, from 7-9 p.m.** at the Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Hall, 789 Yonge St., Toronto. Panelists from across North America will present ideas and lessons learned on eliminating homelessness, creating mixed-income communities and boosting the supply of affordable housing. This event is free and open to all residents of Toronto, but space is limited: please register [here](#).
- **Peterborough: Screening of "Stolen Land, Strong Hearts", Fri. June 14, from 7-9 p.m.** at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 99 Brock Street, Peterborough. This documentary examining the Doctrine of Discovery and its implications for Indigenous-settler relations in Canada was produced by the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice. This event will also include a welcome from the film's executive producer, the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, a presentation on Indigenous spirituality from Lynn Gehl, and time for discussion. Light refreshments will be served. To learn more about the film and study resources, visit the national website [here](#).
- **Legal Aid Cuts Hurt Refugees: Calls to Action for Faith Communities, Weds. June 19, 7-9 p.m.,** Bloor St. United Church. This event features a panel discussion on the impact of provincial cuts to legal aid, and how your faith community can act to support refugees that have been affected. Hosted by Romero House and the Ontario Sanctuary Coalition. Contact [Romero House](#) for more information. (See below for how you can advocate.)
- **World Refugee Day Brunch, Sunday June 23, 12:30 p.m., Scarborough** AURA (the Anglican United Refugee Alliance) invites you to join them for their first World Refugee Day Brunch. Come to celebrate the strength and courage of refugees, meet other sponsors, listen to live music, and be inspired by keynote speaker Dr. Brian Goldman, who will share insights on the importance of empathy for refugee sponsorship. The event will be held at the Olde Stone Cottage Pub, 3750 Kingston Road, Scarborough. Tickets (\$25) are available [here](#).
- **More events:** In addition to being Pride Month, June is National Indigenous History Month. Many First Nations will be holding powwows and other events, especially around National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. Why not attend one in your community?

### 3. In Brief: Updates on Advocacy Campaigns

- **Bill C-262 - the final push!** The Private Member's bill to Adopt and Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples went to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples on May 16. That it has got this far (unusual for a Private Member's bill) is a testament to the wide support it has received from Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across Canada, including that of major church groups. Still, the bill's ultimate passage is not assured. Click [here](#) to learn more and send a message to Senators not to delay this important framework for reconciliation.
- **One step closer to a right to housing.** Housing advocates are welcoming amendments to the National Housing Strategy Act which were recently introduced in the House of Commons. If passed with these amendments, the Act would signal a clear federal commitment to the right to housing and strengthen the role of the federal Housing Advocate. Read more [here](#).
- **Province cancels retroactive funding cuts to municipalities.** In response to

widespread opposition, the provincial government has backed down on cutting funds to municipal governments for this year, after municipalities had already passed budgets relying on that funding. However, cuts to municipal funding are still expected for next year. Municipalities rely on these funds to deliver important programs such as housing, emergency shelter, social assistance, childcare, recreation programs, library services and transit. Keep up the advocacy with your MPP and municipal representatives - it works!

- **Speak out against cuts to Legal Aid.** The recent provincial budget cut to Legal Aid Ontario (30% of its funding for this year alone) will devastate the ability of community legal clinics to help ensure low-income workers, tenants, and social assistance recipients get the benefits to which they are entitled and have recourse against unfair treatment. Funding has been entirely cut for refugee claimants, who must present their claim within 28 days of arrival in Canada - in a foreign language and an unfamiliar system. Contact the Premier, the provincial Attorney General and your local MPP to call the government to reverse the cuts. Get more information [here](#).
- **New national hotline for victims of human trafficking** is now live in 200 languages, including several Indigenous Languages. An initiative of the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, the line is meant to serve as an access point for victims seeking help, those wishing to flag a potential case, and members of the general public seeking to learn more. Two thirds of human trafficking incidents reported between 2009 and 2016 took place in Ontario. The hotline can be accessed 24 hours a day at 1-833-900-1010.
- **Report on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.** This report, released June 3, 2019, includes a number of calls to justice directed not just to governments and law enforcement but also to healthcare providers, child welfare societies, educators, the resource-extraction, transportation and hospitality industries, media and all Canadians to combat stereotypes and promote the safety and welfare of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited/LGBTQ+ individuals. You can read the report [here](#).

#### 4. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for June-July 2019

**June 9, Pentecost** - *Pray for* St. John the Baptist, Lakefield, its food bank, its quilts for cancer and prayer shawl ministries, and refugee sponsorship;  
*for* St. John the Baptist, Norway, its participation in the East End Refugee Committee, and support of the Out of the Cold program;  
*and for* St. John the Divine, Scarborough, and its support of Ryan's Wells, Sleeping Children Around the World, the Juliette's Place shelter, and St. Ninian's food bank.

**June 16, Trinity Sunday** - *Pray for* St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope, its Treasure Trove second-hand shop, and its support of the Fairshare food bank, Green Wood Coalition, Community Care, and Neighbour Link;  
*for* St. John, West Toronto, its youth drop-in, weekly community meals, involvement in neighbourhood food security programs, and refugee sponsorship;  
*and for* St. John, Whitby, its community garden, support of local outreach organizations and the Pikangikum water project.

**June 23, Pentecost 2** - *Pray for* St. John, Willowdale, and its refugee sponsorship;  
*for* St. John, York Mills, its support of Flemingdon Park Ministry, New Circles Community Services, Robertson House, and the Downsview Youth Covenant, its monthly breakfast, participation in refugee resettlement, and its Friends of Dismas ministry to prisoners and ex-prisoners;  
*and for* St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea, its connection with the Bridge prison ministry, and its new Diaconal Committee for outreach.

**June 30, Pentecost 3** - *Pray for* St. Jude, Wexford, its Deacon's Pantry Food Bank, refugee sponsorship, ministry to the Wexford Seniors' Residence, and fundraising for local

and international outreach;  
for San Lorenzo, Toronto, its community centre and Voces Latinas radio programming, and its annual Caravan of Hope, bringing supplies to the needy in El Salvador;  
and for St. Luke, Creemore, its Toonie lunch, clothing exchange and Christmas hamper programs.

**July 7, Pentecost 4** - *Pray for* St. Luke, East York, and its support of the Kennedy House youth shelter, Kitchen Basics cooking program, and East York Strategy;  
for St. Luke, Peterborough, its Thrift Shop and Food Cupboard, financial and practical support of outreach in the local and wider community, and needs assessment survey;  
and for St. Margaret, Barrie, its Food Shelf and support of the Barrie Food Bank, and its support of Barrie Out of the Cold and the David Busby Street Centre.

**July 14, Pentecost 5** - *Pray for* St. Margaret, New Toronto, its monthly community dinners and Christmas "Among Friends" event, Deacon's Cupboard, participation in the Lakeshore Out of the Cold program, refugee sponsorship, and its support of local outreach initiatives;  
for St. Margaret-in-the-Pines, its Caring Hands and Back Pack ministries and support of community outreach organizations;  
and for St. Mark, Midland, its involvement in an Out of the Cold program, support of the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, support of the Next Door transitional home for teens, and refugee sponsorship.

**July 21, Pentecost 6** - *Pray for* St. Mark, Port Hope, its support of the Green Wood Coalition, Fare Share food bank, the Benevolent Society Fund, and its social justice education series;  
and for St. Martin, Bay Ridges, its support for many local initiatives including a food bank, Herizon House and Joanne's House youth shelter, Moorelands Community Services, and a newcomer settlement program, its Green Team, its mental health support initiative, and its involvement in advocacy for anti-poverty measures.

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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