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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update June 2020

*Creator, there is so much on our hearts right now.
In this month during which we honour the lives and histories of Indigenous Peoples in
Canada, and celebrate the LGBTQ2S community, we are also full of lament: lament
for our elders suffering in long-term care homes,
for those on our streets struggling to survive,
for migrant workers who put food on our tables despite greater risk of COVID-19,
and for Black, Indigenous and other people of colour experiencing racism, violence,
and exclusion.*

*We confess the ways in which we, as individuals and as institutions, have and continue
to participate in systems that devalue and oppress others.*

*In this season of Pentecost, we ask your Holy Spirit to move in us,
convict us of sin, guide us into all truth, and knit us together in your love,
which holds each person as precious, a bearer of your divine Image.*

*In the name of the loving, liberating, and life-giving Lord Jesus Christ,
Amen*

NEWS FOR JUNE 2020

1. **Save the Date: "No One is Disposable" - Virtual Outreach & Advocacy Conference October 24, 2020**
2. **June is National Indigenous History Month: Resources**
3. **Event June 11: Shaping a Just Recovery in Davenport**
4. **Support our Outreach Ministries**
5. **Advocacy Campaigns: Long-Term Care Homes, Basic Income, and Tenants' Rights**
6. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

1. Save the Date: Our first **wholly-virtual** Outreach & Advocacy Conference will take place on **Saturday, October 24, 2020**. Our theme will be "No One is Disposable" and the sessions will be accessible via Zoom. We are currently confirming speakers and workshop leaders and hope to open registration by July. Look for more information coming soon!

2. June is National Indigenous History Month. While we may not be able to celebrate by attending in-person services, powwows and other gatherings this year, do

take the opportunity to check out some of these other resources to learn about Indigenous history and current justice issues:

- [CBC's list of 35 books to read for National Indigenous History Month](#)
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report 5 years ago this month. Learn more [here](#), and check out the resources in the Anglican Church of Canada [Reconciliation Toolkit](#).
- Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls was released 1 year ago. Learn more [here](#).
- Find resources for National Indigenous Day of Prayer (Sun. June 21) [here](#).
- Follow the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples on [Facebook](#).

3. Event Thursday, June 11: "[Shaping a Just Recovery in Davenport: A Community Conversation](#)" is a free, online event co-hosted by St. Anne's Anglican Church, Green Wave West and the Davenport Mutual Aid Network. It will take place on Zoom next Thursday, June 11, 2020, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. Registration is required through [Eventbrite](#).

4. Support Our Outreach Ministries: As the COVID-19 shutdown continues, our [FaithWorks](#) ministry partners and many of our parishes continue to deliver life-giving outreach programs to those in need. The pandemic has meant many of them face extra costs in terms of protective equipment, food supplies, additional cleaning, etc. If you are in a position to be able to help sustain these ministries, or to increase the donations you are already making, they would undoubtedly appreciate the financial support. **Note: Please do not make in-kind donations unless the parish or ministry has specifically requested them:** sorting, storing and disposing of in-kind donations takes staff time and energy and storage space that is in short supply. Contact your local parish to find out how you can help.

5. Advocacy Campaigns

- **Long-Term Care Homes Inquiry:** Many of us have been grieved at reports of the conditions in long-term care homes in Ontario. The Social Justice and Advocacy Committee has endorsed letters from the [Ontario Health Coalition](#) and from the [Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition](#) (ISARC) calling for independence, transparency and accountability in the provincial inquiry into long-term care, as well as measures to address immediate concerns. Please consider endorsing these letters or using them to write the Premier and your own MPP.
- **Call for a Guaranteed Basic Income:** On May 3, 2020, over 40 bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada sent a [letter](#) to the Prime Minister and federal cabinet ministers calling for a guaranteed basic income in Canada. You can find more background information as well as a template letter to your MP to add your support on our Diocesan [website](#).
- **Stand up for Tenants' Rights:** Although we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and many renters have lost income, the provincial government has passed second reading of Bill 184, the "Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Act," which has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. Despite the name, the Bill does not offer significant protection to tenants, as the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario ([ACTO](#)) has pointed out. The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee and Housing Advocacy

Subcommittee are working on a letter calling for substantial protections for Ontario tenants to be added to this Bill before it is passed. Please check our website by June 15 for more details.

6. Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle for June:

June 7, Trinity - *Pray for* St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges, and its Friday Soup's On community lunch;

for St. John the Divine, Scarborough, its support of St. Ninian's food bank, Juliette's Place women's shelter, and international initiatives;

and for St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough, its garden club, its management of the Warming Room Community Ministry, its One Roof dinner every Monday to Friday, its support of the St. John Centre housing for seniors, and advocacy for social justice.

June 14, Pentecost 2 - *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, Bowmanville, its community garden, Christmas hamper program, and support of Durham Region Migrant Worker ministry;

and for St. John, East Orangeville, its community suppers, men's breakfast, support of a school in Guatemala, Dufferin Child and Family Services, Family Transition House, and the local food bank.

June 21, Pentecost 3 - *Pray for* St. John, Ida (Parish of Ida & Omeme), its involvement with the One Roof Community Diner in downtown Peterborough, monthly seniors lunch, refugee support, and its support of the Pikangikum Water Project and education for reconciliation;

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 28, Pentecost 4 - *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 ministry to ex-inmates, its new food bank, and its Diaconal Committee for outreach.

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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