

# Mission Bytes

North Bay Presbytery Mission Committee

10/3/2015

Vol. 2, No. 2

## Justice for Aboriginal People

### **THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

Planning for the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's landmark report is well underway. It is our hope that congregations across Manitou will engage with this moment in a way that is meaningful for each community of faith. Some folks are hoping to attend the various events that will take place in Ottawa from May 29-June 3.

For those able to give leadership locally, I invite you to take a look at materials that are being developed by our partners at KAIROS. We are told there will soon be posted worship resources that you might consider for your service on Sunday, May 31. Significant in our own area will be the commencement of a walk from Cochrane, Ontario to Ottawa, led by elders Patrick Etherington and Frances Whiskeychan. Joining them will be 10 young men, who will depart on April 8 - expecting to reach Ottawa in time for the ceremonies, after 53 days of approx. 35 kms/day.

We invite you to think of ways that your congregation might support the walkers as they travel through the eastern corridor of our Conference. This might include providing a meal, offering overnight accommodation, providing fuel for their support vehicle, or joining their walk as they pass your way.

April 21-23 - Temagami      April 24-27 - North Bay  
April 28-29 - Powassan      April 30 - Burks Falls

"Journey Home" T-shirts in support of the walk are available from the Conference Office for \$25.00.

(Submitted by Will Kunder, Manitou Conference General Secretary)

**The Commission's Closing Event will be held in Ottawa, May 31-June 3, 2015.**

### *Mission Priorities*

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As set forward by North Bay Presbytery, September 2011 and re-affirmed in 2014

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- To strongly encourage **green action** by individuals and in congregations by providing support, resources and guidance.
- To continue to work in advocating for **justice for Aboriginal peoples**.
- To support **youth** through programming that engages youth in their faith formation, and in their post-secondary lives.

# Green Action

## GC 42 FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT PROPOSAL

The Mission Committee has encouraged North Bay Presbytery to consider making a proposal to this summer's General Council to divest all investments in fossil fuel companies and to re-invest in companies who produce clean, renewable energy. The proposed motion and background, prepared by Elizabeth Frazer are included below.

*North Bay Presbytery in Manitou Conference proposes that:*

**The 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015) direct the United Church of Canada Foundation and the United Church of Canada Treasury to sell their holdings in fossil fuel companies and reinvest funds in companies producing clean, renewable energy.**

### Background:

As the Conference of the Great Spirit – Gitchi Manitou – we affirm the following:

All life is sacred and as people of faith we are called to protect and preserve the land, the water, the creatures for future generations. We will live with respect in creation.

As Keepers of the Cairn – site of the UCC Apology in Sudbury to First Peoples in 1986, we uphold and commit to live the words of our apology that Right Relations with First Peoples and this Holy Land inform and guide our actions.

As people of the boreal forest we share this vast territory with First Nations peoples bound by the covenant of the Treaties (Treaty #9, Robinson Huron Treaty, Williams Treaty) that resources will be shared and preserved for future generations.

We acknowledge our past failures to protect the land through resource extraction practices that have in some places left the land scarred, the water polluted and the air fouled. We take to heart the call for repentance and our desire to live in a way that

protects and preserves the earth which cries out for justice.

We acknowledge the time is now for earth and climate justice. We hear the warning of the UN IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) calling for immediate action to move to a low carbon economy and zero emissions of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in order to

mitigate “the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.” (UNIPCC *Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report*)

We hear ( 80) brothers and sisters in Christ who urge us to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in clean renewable energy. (*Divest and Reinvest Now – A Statement from Theologians, Ethicists and Religious Leaders in support of fossil fuel divestment and clean energy reinvestment by faith communities*) We affirm the climate crisis is a spiritual and moral issue calling for a spiritual and moral response.

*We remember who and whose we are in our call to divest from fossil fuels...and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

We take encouragement from the World Council of Churches and the United Church of Christ who have made decisions to divest from fossil fuels.

We acknowledge the hardship on workers in the fossil fuel industry as we plan for a transition to a zero-carbon economy. We agree...now is the time to plan for a "just transition" for oil and gas workers that includes income supports and skills training. (*Just Transition – Creating a green social contract for BC's resource workers. - CCPA Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives - January 2015*)

We lament that our government has promoted fossil fuel extraction through legislation and tax subsidies and has failed to address the crisis of climate change, failing Canadian citizens from coast to coast to coast. Enough!

We have spoken out against the expansion of the Alberta oil sands enabled by the Trans Canada Energy East pipeline proposal. We note that the expanded oil production will lead to an increase in GHG emissions (*Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline –Pembina Institute- February 2014*) and the pipeline proposal will pose a threat to water, land and communities along the 4000km route. (*OEB - Ontario Energy Board Community Consultation April 2014. Submission from North Bay Presbytery available on OEB website.*)

We remember who and whose we are in our call to divest from fossil fuels...*and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

## Youth and Young Adults



The I-DYG (Inter-denominational Youth Group) and North Bay Presbytery Youth Group will be holding a Prayer Vigil (April 2nd and 3rd ) beginning at 6 pm with a community potluck at St. Andrew's United Church, followed by an all-night prayer vigil at Trinity United Church, and concluding following the City-Wide Good Friday service at Omond United Church. Those who can't join us for the potluck are welcome to join us at Trinity any time after 7:30 pm (McIntyre Street Entrance)

All youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome to join us while we take a deeply spiritual and reflective journey through Good Friday.

The inspiration for the vigil is from the gospels of Mark and Matthew, when, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks the sleeping disciples, 'Could you not watch one hour?' (Mk 14:38)

Throughout the night we will be holding hourly prayer sessions and meditations, participating in prayer stations, quiet games, etc. For more information please contact Lisa Blais at 474-3310 or [blais.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:blais.trinity@gmail.com) or Marcel MacDonald at [nbpyouth@yahoo.ca](mailto:nbpyouth@yahoo.ca)

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The North Bay Presbytery Youth Program will be holding an all night Camp Fire-a-thon from Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> at Chisholm United Church. This event is to raise money in support of Camp Lorrain. More information to come! To find out more about the program and stay in touch with upcoming events ask to join the North Bay Presbytery Youth Group page on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/northbaypresbyteryouth/>

## ***Camp Lorrain is Alive and Well!***

Please note that Camp Lorrain will be offering two children's camps in 2015, a Junior Camp (ages 7 – 10) from July 5-11 and an Intermediate Camp (ages 11-14) from July 12-18 as well as a CIT program beginning on July 1 to July 18. These important camp programs for our children still need whatever financial and promotional support our congregations and presbyteries can provide. The rest of July and August is available for Camp Rentals. These rentals will provide other services to our communities as well as much needed revenue for our Manitou Conference Camp Programs.



Visit <http://www.camplorrain.com> for more information

## **Other Events in our Presbytery**

- **World Water Day Activities sponsored by North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority and Greening Nipissing** - Sunday March 22, 2015 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Natural Classroom (15 Janey Avenue)
- **North Bay Presbytery Meeting** – Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> , 9:30 am at St. Andrew's United Church
- **Music Matter 2015 in North Bay, Ontario, April 17-19**  
The United Church of Canada Association of Musicians is excited to be holding our annual meeting and music education event this year at Emmanuel United Church in North Bay, Ontario, in Manitou Conference of The United Church. Join us for workshops and a hymn festival plus lots of time to gather with friends and colleagues and talk about music in congregational life! Full details and schedule of events at [www.musicunited.ca](http://www.musicunited.ca).
- Manitou Conference Presents: **2015 General Meeting "People Get Ready: There's A Train A Coming"** May 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> , St. Andrew's and Trinity United Churches, North Bay. We will be joined by the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, Gary Patterson as well as Reverend Bruce Gregerson, from the General Council Office.

*If you have announcements or items that you would like to submit to the Mission Bytes Newsletter please forward them to:*

**Lisa Blais at [blais.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:blais.trinity@gmail.com)**

**Deadline: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

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