



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

December 1, 2016

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building # 1 N. Standing Rock Avenue
P. O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Dear Friends at Standing Rock,

I write as President of the British Columbia Conference of The United Church of Canada to express my personal solidarity with the people of Standing Rock. Your courageous defense of the sacred elements of creation has inspired many in our Conference, gives us great hope, and is a standard by which many will measure their own actions in similar struggles. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed; thousands and hundreds of thousands have heard and respond to your call for support and will do what can be done to encourage folk in our part of the world (the west coast of Canada) to assist you and to take inspiration from you.

We have seen the images of the forces arrayed against you and the actions taken to overcome you. We are stricken by the casual cruelty meted out by those in authority and are in awe of your determination in the face of it. We understand the need to protect the waters from spills, the air from further contamination, and the earth from slow, insidious seepage. Thank you for all you are doing, putting the good of creation foremost in your hearts and giving body and soul to her protection.

Taking direction from our partner denomination, the United Church of Christ, whose statements of support and suggestions for action are found at: www.ucc.org/standing_rock_a_call_to_action, I am also encouraging everyone I know to act in similar ways.

Recent news of our own government's willingness to support similar proposals increases the relevance of your struggle to our province and our people. I know many will be even more inspired by your courageous, peaceful and implacable defense of the sacred land we hold in trust for all generations. May we all stand to account to the Creator and the generations that follow, as you do.

May all live one day in a world of peace and blessing.

Shalom,

Reverend Keith Simmonds
President