

# Interfaith Statement on HOMELESSNESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT - EDMONTON INTERFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE - NOVEMBER 13, 2014

**We, leaders of different religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton and area, come together to express our shared commitment to eliminate homelessness in our community. We support the challenging goals of *A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.***

Over the years, religious and spiritual communities have done much to meet the needs of men, women and children living in poverty in our community, and have often been leaders in helping to create affordable housing opportunities for those in need. This historical engagement provides a solid foundation for us to do even more both now and in the future.

The successful launch of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness provides an historic opportunity for us to move beyond previous short-term strategies of managing homelessness, and to commit to a long term goal of actually eliminating homelessness in our community. Leaders from government, business, community, faith, and social service sectors have come together in common cause to develop and launch Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. This shared commitment has been a major factor in the successes achieved so far in the first year of the Plan's implementation.

## ► Call to Action

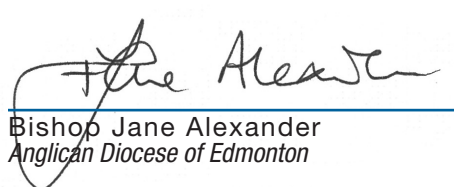
**We call** for our religious and spiritual communities to work together more closely and make a major contribution to the success of this Plan. Our religious and spiritual communities share important values: respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals and families can thrive.

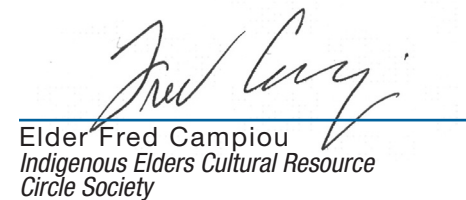
**We recognize** that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a key part of this human thriving. Everyone needs a place that can truly be called home. Religious and spiritual communities and individual community members are present in every part of the city, and we commit to continue and expand our presence in neighbourhood and city wide homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.


**We commit** our own religious and spiritual communities to continue to support present initiatives, to find new and creative ways to take action in support of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our communities. We have prepared a Congregational Housing Action Guide to support and encourage our congregations in addressing these issues in an effective manner.

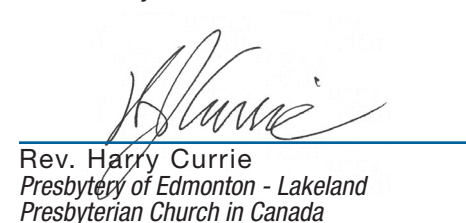
**We invite** everyone from all sectors of society in Edmonton to become part of this important initiative to eliminate homelessness by committing to learn more about the causes of homelessness in our city, and to participate in specific actions in support of our homeless brothers and sisters in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.

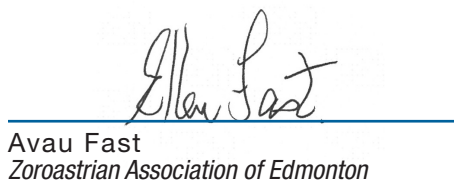
**We call** upon leaders of all orders of government to continue their public leadership for Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and to provide the necessary program funding in the years ahead so that the ambitious goal of eliminating homelessness can be truly realized.

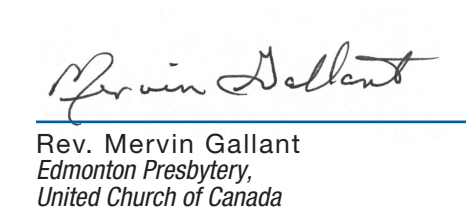
  
Bishop Jane Alexander  
Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

  
Elder Fred Campiou  
Indigenous Elders Cultural Resource  
Circle Society


  
Major Ron Cartmell  
The Salvation Army, Alberta & Northern  
Territories Division

  
Rev. Harry Currie  
Presbytery of Edmonton - Lakeland  
Presbyterian Church in Canada

  
Avau Fast  
Zoroastrian Association of Edmonton

  
Rev. Mervin Gallant  
Edmonton Presbytery,  
United Church of Canada

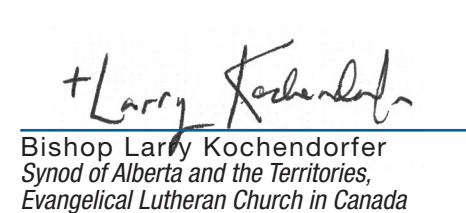
  
Balvant Gandhi  
Hindu Society of Alberta

  
Patti Hartnagel  
Edmonton Monthly Meeting, Religious Society  
of Friends

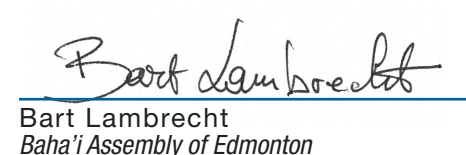
  
Pastor Bonnie Hodge  
Beulah Alliance Church

  
Prem Kalia  
International Buddhist Friends Association

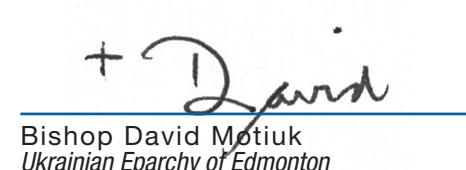
  
Rev. Brian Kiely  
Unitarian Church of Edmonton

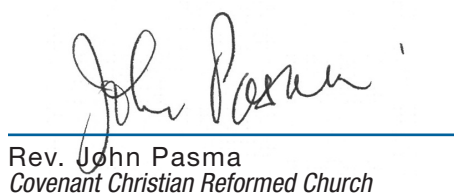
  
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

  
Rev. Kevin Kraglund  
Edmonton & District Council of Churches

  
Bart Lambrecht  
Baha'i Assembly of Edmonton

  
Pastor Wayne McNeilly  
Evangel Pentecostal Assembly

  
Bishop David Motiuk  
Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

  
Rev. John Pasma  
Covenant Christian Reformed Church

  
Bryan Peacock  
Moravian Church in Canada

  
Masood Peracha & Sofia Yaqub  
The Edmonton Council of Muslim  
Communities

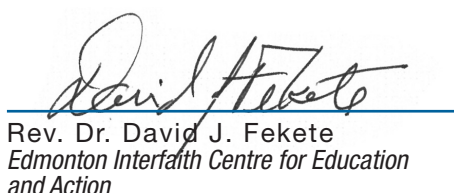
  
Dr. Randy Randhawa  
Sikh Society of Alberta

  
Pam Reichenbach  
Strathcona Baptist Church

  
Rabbi Klief Rose  
Beth Shalom Synagogue

  
Archbishop Richard Smith  
The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

  
Rev. Rick VanDewark  
Edmonton Evangelical Ministerial Association

  
Rev. Dr. David J. Fekete  
Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education  
and Action