



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens
Bishop

October 22, 2024.

Dear Friends,

Canada has often prided itself on being a country of peace that has brought hope to many nations around the globe. This background of peacekeepers and peace-builders has been less evident in the world of today and it is important that we work to change that.

Christians are called to be peacemakers. We are called to turn our swords into ploughshares. We are called to be people of forgiveness and to love our enemies. These are difficult words to live into, but we take them very seriously. They shape who we are and how we live and walk in this world. They affect how we view other people and how we want to be viewed. It is important work that seems to have less traction in a time when moving to an escalation of war seems our only option. Canada has historically tried to find ways of diplomacy rather than violence and in 2024 it feels like the right time to re-ignite this important role for our country.

The Peace Train is headed to Ottawa to discuss these very things and to seek the re-establishment of an institute focused on bringing about an end to war and seeking peaceful means to settle disputes. With war raging in a number of parts of our globe, this is the right time to build up our capacity to seek new paths and new possibilities.

I am grateful to the group that will meet up with members of our government, those who will travel on the Peace Train, urging a better response to the threat of war. Our world needs this, our country needs this, we as individuals need this.

Go in peace.

Blessings,

The Right Revd John R. Stephens
Bishop
Diocese of New Westminster

