

## Open Letter to the Leadership of Mennonite Church Canada

Climate change is a defining and undeniable reality of our time. It calls for spirited moral response.

Climate change threatens future generations and puts God's good green earth itself in peril. It also exacerbates hunger and poverty in vulnerable parts of the world.

Our sisters and brothers in these places—whether drought-prone areas of Africa, melting parts of the north, low-lying Pacific islands, or areas susceptible to cyclones—are asking us to help them by taking steps to reduce global warming.

[Mennonite Church Canada](#) has taken significant steps in response to this call. Executive Director [Willard Metzger's](#) participation in the 2011 United Nations climate conference in Durban, South Africa, and his work as a commissioner for the 2013 Saskatchewan Citizens' Hearing on Climate Change demonstrate that global warming is a church priority.

As a next step, we encourage Mennonite Church Canada to explore fossil fuel divestment, a path that numerous schools and religious bodies across the continent have taken. Refusing to invest in the companies at the core of the fossil fuel industry is an important way to address the climate crisis.

**We believe it is wrong to profit from wrecking the climate. There is something more important than maximum return on investment.**

We call on Mennonite Church Canada leaders to commission a study that would provide specific options—based in part on what others have done—for fossil fuel divestment. These options should be geared for MC Canada itself as well as other investing entities within the MC Canada family (schools, NGOs, etc.) and individual church members.

Results of the study would be presented at [Assembly 2014](#) in July.

In the words of a recent [World Council of Churches statement](#): “*The world cannot wait: climate change is happening. Justice and peace must prevail.*”

Signed:

*[To add your name to the list of signatories, email [fossilfreemenno@gmail.com](mailto:fossilfreemenno@gmail.com). Include your name, home church and, if you wish, a 140-character sentence about why you wish to sign.]*

