

# Let Us Care for Our Common Home



Assemblée des  
évêques catholiques  
du Québec

September 2019

Statement on  
the occasion of Global  
Climate Action Day  
(September 27, 2019)  
and the Canadian  
federal elections  
(October 21, 2019)

This fall, along with their fellow-citizens from other provinces, Québécois will head to the ballot boxes to choose those who will represent them in the House of Commons for the coming years. This is a powerful and vital moment in our collective democratic life. This is all the more true because we are living at a turning point in human history: our Common Home is in greater danger than ever, while cynicism, populism, and intolerance contribute to undermining the hope of many as to the possibility of saving the Earth's future.

In the face of such disenchantment, we wish to draw attention to the striking commitments of vast swaths of civil society, and especially of young people. Many among them advocate with determination for concrete actions to be carried out without delay for the sake of preserving the ecosystems that have been entrusted to our care and that allow us to live on this planet for which we share the responsibility. We also wish to reiterate our respect for those who get involved in public life through our political institutions, often at significant personal cost.

In the name of the Québec Assembly of Catholic Bishops, we the Conseil Église et Société ("Council on Church and Society") invite all Christians to pay careful attention to things said to them by the candidates, and to assess programs in light of the ideals of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church. It is each person's duty to discern through prayer and reflection how best he or she can live out the desire to better live together in this, our Common Home.

Caring for our Common Home requires, for example, that we welcome generously those who are fleeing wars, oppression, exploitation, and natural disasters. As Pope Francis remarks so often, migrants and refugees are our brothers and sisters. Hospitality is not just an individual duty but a collective and common responsibility. Indeed, our shared humanity demands that we care for our relationships with all our fellow-citizens, and especially with those who bear the worst of the burden of the uneven distribution of wealth. Here in Canada, this means in particular to develop genuinely respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples.

No political program can respond fully to all the important issues we face. Hence the necessity of establishing our priorities and acting accordingly. In this vein, we invite you to consider the hopeful image of a reconciled Common Home, in which we can live together in a peaceful and brotherly way.

## Council on Church and Society

Bishop Marc Pelchat, chair; Archbishop Denis Grondin; Bishop Claude Hamelin;  
Bishop Christian Rodembourg; Frédéric Barriault; Sabrina Di Matteo; Émilie Frémont-Cloutier;  
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