

THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Anglican Church of Canada

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Dear Friends

I write to you regarding the very serious refugee situation which has developed in Europe. It is very sad for us all to see the suffering that is taking place. I am encouraged by the response from the world community and hope that our Government will revise its Refugee Program to accept more families. As we move into a general election I am pleased to see this being raised by the political parties.

Working with refugees is not new to us in the Diocese. Our Diocese is a Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holder. In the past 30 years this has been a diocesan ministry and we as a Diocese have a long and very successful history regarding the support and resettling of refugees in our country. For the past 4 years we have been working in particular at resettling refugees from Syria. The parishes of our Diocese have over the years supported many newcomers to Canada through prayer, money, gifts of household appliances, transportation, and time.

It is a history we can be proud to speak about. We as a Diocese have supported newcomers from Vietnam, Bosnia, Mozambique, El Salvador, Sudan, Syria and many other countries. As you know my own family has been involved in this work. I came to Canada as an economic migrant. Our daughter Emawaysh is originally from Ethiopia and came as a refugee to Canada.

We will continue to be committed to this work and speak about its importance in our Diocese and in Canada as a whole. We are a nation of immigrants and we should never forget the welcome we received in this country. If your parish wishes to learn more about the diocesan refugee program and become involved please contact The Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott at refugeecommittee@bc.anglican.ca, Incumbent of the Parish of St. Matthias, in Victoria.

Please raise the questions of how we as Canadians are responding and will respond to the ongoing crisis and plight of refugees with the candidates in your ridings.

Yours in Christ's Love,



The Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie
Bishop, Diocese of British Columbia