



Anglican Church of Canada

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

www.anglican.ca / Tel: (416) 924-9192 / Fax: (416)-968-7983

May 18, 2011

The Right Rev. Fraser Lawton
Bishop of Athabasca
PO Box 6868
Peace River AB T8S 1S6

I write on behalf of our beloved Church across the country to express our deep concern and care for all affected by the massive wildfires sweeping across northern Alberta. We are especially mindful of the residents of Slave Lake, where so many homes and businesses along with the town hall have been destroyed. So many have been forced to evacuate, leaving behind a lifetime of memories in the place they called home. We are moved to see how so many in other places have offered shelter and provided for their basic needs. We are glad to see Premier Ed Stelmach's initiatives in dealing with both immediate and long-term needs of the community

We are aware that a number of other communities are under forced evacuation notice as well and that several others are on high alert.

With this expression of our care and concern comes the assurance of our prayers - for those who continue to battle the blazes, for all who have been forced to leave their homes and for all who are helping them.

In the midst of all this I am reminded of a prayer from The Book of Occasional Offices (1964). It seems fitting that we offer it without ceasing.

"In Time of Forest Fires

O LORD Jesus Christ Who in Thy disciples' necessity didst rebuke the wind, and saidist unto the sea, 'Peace be still', hear our cry, we pray Thee, for our brothers and sisters in danger from forest fire; rebuke for them the wind that it may be calm; send for them a sufficient rain; and grant Thy succour to all who live or work in the forests of our land, that enjoying the beauty of Thy creation, we may ever give thanks to Thee our heavenly Father; to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen"

In Christ,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Fred J. Hiltz
Archbishop and Primate