



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES**
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Ph: (780) 439-2636

Fax (780) 433-6623

Email: info@albertasynod.ca

www.albertasynod.ca

June 6, 2019

Premier Jason Kenney
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

RE: Acknowledgement of Treaty Land

*Spirit -led
Leadership*

Dear Premier Kenney,

*Hope-Filled
Discipleship*

As Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I write to express my dismay and disappointment at the discontinuation of the Acknowledgements of Treaty Lands as a routine practice at public meetings in Alberta.ⁱ

*Innovative
Tradition*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada recognizes treaties as "sacred covenants, involving respect, commitments, and responsibilities by all parties."ⁱⁱ The ELCIC is committed to the on-going work of Truth and Reconciliation as set forth in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. In the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples has been a ministry goal since 2014. With the Anglican Church of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Roman Catholic Entities Parties to the Settlement Agreement, The United Church of Canada, and the Jesuits of English Canada, our church welcomes the Calls to Action as a basis for a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples, rooted in equal and just relationshipsⁱⁱⁱ. The acknowledgement of our shared existence on Treaty Lands is a fundamental step in transforming historically tragic interactions to a future of reconciliation and respect.


*Collaborative
Partnerships*

The decision of the provincial government to discontinue the routine Acknowledgement of Treaty Lands at public gatherings is one of grave concern to me and to the Lutheran family in Alberta. The painful legacy of Alberta's twenty-five residential schools and their lingering impact upon Inuit, First Nations and Metis peoples in our province demands an open and forthright recognition that the land on which we live and work reflects the heritage and contributions of its first inhabitants. It is of

deep concern that such a recognition is no longer a routine practice in Alberta government.

I strongly urge you to reinstate the Acknowledgement of Treaty Lands as routine practice in public meetings in Alberta. So doing benefits not only Indigenous Peoples, but all who call Alberta their home. We are all treaty people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Larry Kochendorfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc. Rachel Notley, Leader Official Opposition
Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

ⁱ CBC News May 28, 2019

ⁱⁱ Testimony by ELCIC National Bishop, Susan Johnson, National Truth and Reconciliation Event, Edmonton. March 27, 2014

ⁱⁱⁱ Response of the Churches to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, June 2, 2015