The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,

Prime Minister of Canada

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

This time of crisis presents us with opportunities to create systems of governance that are just and inclusive of all Creation. A post-COVID world is only possible through a global just transition to a low-carbon economy where the burden of responsibility lies with economically rich countries who pollute the most.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a just transition can drive a nation’s “job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication.” As a G7 country, Canada has the capacity and moral fibre to lead by example in this collaborative effort to avert climate collapse.

The year 2020 marks the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home”. In light of this anniversary, as a community of faithful Catholics, we are taking a pledge to shape our individual and community choices with care for all Creation. We are urging the Canadian government to join this commitment and take immediate concrete actions to flatten the curve of global warming and move towards a just and sustainable future. We are echoing the demands already put forward to the government by other organizations.

These include among others:

* Do not commit public resources to the oil and gas industry which is already heavily subsidized.
* Take steps to implement the commitment to table and then pass in Parliament the Just Transition Act. This should include strengthening measures to provide oil and gas workers with direct immediate relief and opportunities for training, education and employment in existing low-carbon sectors.
* Expand government support onto low-carbon sectors and programs critical in addressing the climate emergency: building retrofits, energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean public transportation.• Invest in a circular economy that achieves significant reduction of plastic waste.
* Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and develop climate emergency policies in line with Indigenous knowledge and teachings.
* Foster global collaboration by demanding that the IMF take immediate steps to cancel the debt of the poorest nations so they can meet the challenges of the current pandemic as well as climate change.

The window for action to mitigate and minimize the damage to life on Earth is closing rapidly. We are placing our hopes and prayers on the government to show leadership and collective wisdom to protect Creation from destruction. The time to act is now. The COVID-19 recession combined with the climate emergency demands us to be creative in imagining new ways of running our economy.

Let’s make the most of this opportunity!

Yours for a sustainable and just future for all People,