



For Immediate Release

OTTAWA ANGLICANS PUSH NATIONAL CHURCH TO DROP FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS

OTTAWA, ON (June 14, 2016) — If Ottawa-area Anglicans succeed, the Anglican Church of Canada will drop its fossil fuel investments, and re-invest in renewable energy; a commitment that the Diocese of Ottawa has already agreed to do. Over 95% of delegates to Ottawa's regional convention, held in October 2015, supported a motion to ask their national church to divest from fossil fuels. That request is now being brought to the national convention, July 7-12 in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

The Venerable David Selzer, Executive Archdeacon for the Diocese of Ottawa, will move the divestment resolution at the national convention this July. "The climate is changing before our eyes, permanently damaging God's creation," says Selzer. "Millions around the world will face water shortages and homelessness as droughts and storms continue to worsen. We need to stop burning fossil fuels; there is no more time for debate."

Seconding the resolution will be the Reverend Monique Stone, of the Parish of Huntley in Carp. Stone acknowledges that some delegates will oppose the resolution citing job losses in the oil and gas sector. She argues, however, "The sooner the energy sector shifts to clean energy, the sooner new jobs will open up in that area." Stone believes that fossil fuel divestment is fundamentally about ethics. "It's just the right thing to do," she says. "In our baptismal covenant, we promise to 'respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth'. The Church cannot claim to uphold that promise while continuing to invest in fossil fuels. We need to show leadership on this; the time is now."

About 350 delegates from across the country will vote on the fossil fuel divestment resolution at General Synod, to be held July 7-12 in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

For more information, please visit: <http://fossilfreefaith.ca/synod2016/>

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