



The Maritime Conference
The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

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Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
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Vic.toews@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Toews,

The Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada is dismayed at the decision to cut part time contracts for chaplaincy services delivered within the Correctional Service of Canada. In particular we are concerned with the fact that this decision has eliminated chaplaincy services for faiths other than Christian.

The prison population reflects the diversity of Canada's ethnic and spiritual backgrounds. The offering of chaplaincy services appropriate to each person is vital to life within prison as well as movement towards rehabilitation and possible release. This action by the government betrays an attitude that those persons of other faith groups are less deserving of chaplaincy services than are Christians.

The Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada encourages you to reconsider your decision, reinstate the part time positions that have been cut and ensure that sufficient funding is in place to continue these essential Chaplaincy programs. The Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy within the Correctional Services of Canada has proven itself to be an effective organizational team with contacts with all those involved in the Chaplaincy program. Future decisions would be better informed by consultation with the IFC.

In Peace,

David Hewitt
Executive Secretary

- cc. Prime Minister Stephen Harper
MPs within the region of Maritime Conference
- MPs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI
 - MP Philip Toone, Gaspésie--Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec