

The Anglican Church of Canada



L'Église anglicane du Canada

Office of the Primate

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April 4, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, Canada marks the 40th anniversary of the “Singh decision.” On April 4, 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the right of refugee claimants in Canada to life, liberty and security of the person, and that claimants are therefore entitled to an oral hearing, in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice and international law. The ruling was named for Harbhajan Singh, Sadhu Singh Thandi, Paramjit Singh Mann, Kewal Singh, Charanjit Singh Gill, Indrani and Satnam Singh who brought their cases to the Court. The Canadian Council of Churches was one of the lead intervenors in the case.

For the second year, Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF) is inviting dioceses and parishes across the country to mark a Refugee Sunday at a time in the year of their choosing. You are invited to do so as the global numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) continues to both increase and be at historic highs. It also comes at a time when borders are closing and support is being withdrawn for those seeking “life, liberty and the security of the person.” I am therefore writing to commend this invitation to you and your dioceses.

As you are aware, 15 of our 30 dioceses are Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) with Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), enabling them to privately sponsor refugees to come to Canada. The proposal for a national Refugee Sunday emerged from a meeting of the Alongside Hope/PWRDF Refugee Network (Anglican SAHs) in the fall of 2023. A first national Refugee Sunday was promoted in 2024 with resources for marking the day made available on the Alongside Hope/PWRDF website.

The Refugee Network is currently revising and further developing a modest set of information and prayer/worship resources for this year. These resources will offer information on the current state of refugees globally and lift up the work of refugee sponsorship here in Canada. They will also highlight the support offered to refugees

overseas that has been a central part of Alongside Hope's mandate since its inception in 1959, the year the United Nations declared to be World Refugee Year. Those resources can be found at: alongsidehope.org/refugee-sunday/

Should you have any questions about this invitation, please be welcome to contact Suzanne Rumsey, Public Engagement Program Coordinator at Alongside Hope: srumsey@alongsidehope.org

In gratitude for all the ways in which our church welcomes the stranger,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Germond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross-like mark above the first letter 'A'.

The Most. Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop and Acting Primate