



# The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft  
Bishop of Rupert's Land

Episcopal Directive July 8, 2019  
To the members of the Diocese of Rupert's Land

## Climate Crisis

Dear Rupert's Land, Clergy and People,

The Archbishop of Canterbury has recently said that "As Christians we're called to protect God's creation, and the billions of people whose lives are at risk". Speaking about climate-related migration he said "In the past...civilisations have...risen and fallen, as a result of movements of people. What we are seeing in climate change is something that will move people on a scale that we have never dreamt of in the history of human kind."

We do not all assess the scientific evidence concerning the climate crisis in the same way. But as a public leader and as your chief pastor I cannot in good conscience ask you to ignore that evidence. I am deeply troubled by the climate crisis, as a great many, perhaps as most, of you are. I know that you are gravely concerned for the suffering of millions of people already caused by climate crisis, especially in the Southern Hemisphere. Furthermore, I cannot stand by while our young people, trusting what they are being taught in their science classes but unable to vote and without the means to hire lobbyists, protest alone in the streets.

For those reasons I am taking two initiatives.

First, I am writing to the leaders of the major political parties in Manitoba to inform them that in this pastoral letter I am asking all Anglicans in the province of Rupert's Land to make climate crisis and the restriction of fossil fuel extraction a matter of conscience in the provincial election. I encourage each of you who share my concerns to contact the candidates in your riding by letter if possible to inform them of your concern.

Secondly, I am urging every parish to participate in the September 27 climate justice strike in Winnipeg, or in satellite locations. I would like at least all the city parishes to be present with a parish banner for the march. This is in response to a call from MBYouth4ClimateAction who will march on September 20 and are asking all Manitobans to join the general climate march on September 27. Join a global youth movement. Support the Anglican young people who hold leadership positions in the MBYouth organization.

The Rupert's Land Climate Crisis Conversation Team are David Widdicombe, Roy Jeal, Helen Kennedy, Simon Blaikie, Brynn Blaikie, John Brubacher, Jamie Howison, and Iona Taylor: who is on planning committee for MBYouth4ClimateAction

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**“We must strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”** as stated in the Five Marks of Mission and promised in the baptismal covenant.

Yours in ministry and mission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Newberry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

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