



October 22, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Convention on Cluster Munitions

As President of the Canadian Unitarian Council, I urge the Government of Canada to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) that was adopted on May 30th, 2008 as soon as possible to ensure its quick entry into force.

As you are aware, this treaty prohibits the use, production and transfer of cluster munitions, and requires the destruction of stockpiled weapons within eight years and clearance of contaminated land within ten years. A total of 100 governments have now signed the CCM - including Canada - and 21 have ratified.

Our Unitarian Universalist principles call for us to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all peoples and to work for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Specifically, our peace resolution 2.2 calls for us to urge the Government of Canada to support the universal ratification of international treaties such as this one.

We are gratified that under your watch Canada signed the CCM the day it opened for signature - December 3, 2008 in Oslo, Norway. We strongly encourage Canada to ratify the Convention without delay and be among the 30 ratifications needed to ensure that this treaty becomes international, binding law so that any further needless suffering of civilians is prevented.

We also urge the Government of Canada to use whatever diplomatic channels are available to encourage other countries to ratify the treaty. Canada's leadership in diplomacy will be maintained with our swift ratification of this important humanitarian treaty.

Yours sincerely,

Kalvin Drake, President
Canadian Unitarian Council

cc: Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2
Jack Layton, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2
Gilles Duceppe, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2
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