



SEASON OF CREATION

EDUCATION



Green Churches
Network

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION

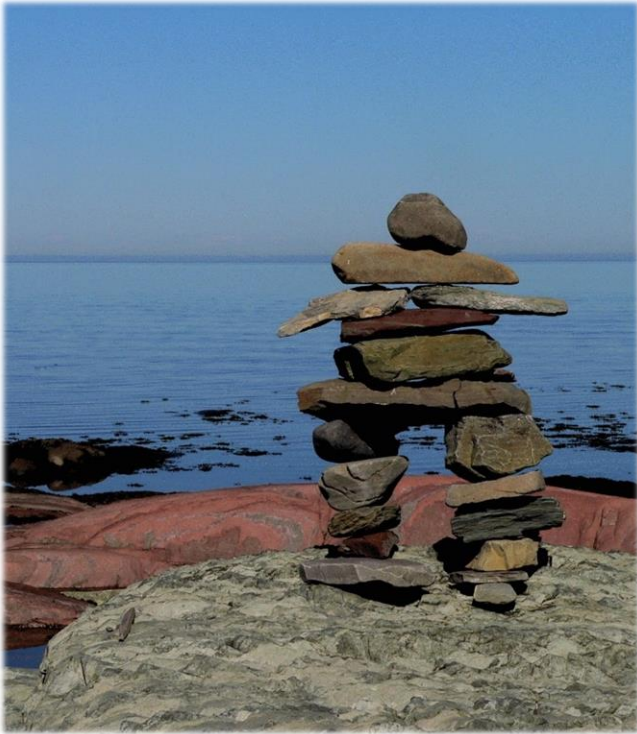


This guide is divided into 4 sections;

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE:

- Oceans pg. 1
- Nourishing Earth pg. 8
- Right for a Healthy Environment pg. 15
- North pg. 22





Listen to the Voice of the... Oceans!

Awareness

Build awareness in your community about the oceans by recognizing that:

- Oceans are one of God's most vital contributions to Creation;
- 680 million people worldwide live on coastal waterfront; (1)
- Canada borders three oceans: the Atlantic, the Arctic, and the Pacific;
- Oceans play a central role in regulating the Earth's climate; (2)
- Oceans have absorbed more than 90% of the heat trapped by humanity's greenhouse gas emissions; (3)
- Oceans are becoming more acidic due to increased atmospheric CO2 emissions; (4)
- Rising sea levels have significant climate change impacts. (5)



(1) [One Waterfront 2019](#)

(2) [Ocean and climate change IUCN](#)

(3) [climate change relates to oceans | WWF](#)


(4) [Ocean acidification | IUCN](#)

(5) [Ocean and climate change | IUCN](#)

Listen

On World Oceans Day 2016, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued a message that states that we are called upon to serve as stewards of one of God's most precious gifts: the Oceans! He emphasizes how crucial it is to respect and protect "this unique source of nurture and biodiversity" as he pulls inspiration from Revelation 7:3 "Hurt not the earth, neither the seas nor the trees." ([Bartholomew for World Oceans Day 2016](#))

When we don't live near an ocean, we feel distant and think our actions are insignificant. However, our actions and our lifestyles influence ocean health, including factors such as sewage and wastewater, chemical discharges, waste production, and shopping habits. Caring for Creation can be reflected in all our activities and habits.



Saving the planet begins with acting in the watershed where everything is connected, humans and creation.

Faith communities and individuals have sought to deepen connections to creation, ecological justice, and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. The United Church presented a document in 2017 titled: "Reconciliation in the Watershed: Reflections for Creation Time", which presents a very inspiring perspective of the notion of watershed discipleship as well as reconciliation within the watershed. ([The United Church of Canada](#))

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area that drains all precipitation received as a runoff or base flow (groundwater sources) into a particular river or set of rivers.(1)

- Government of Canada

There are five major watersheds identified in North America. Every person in North America lives in one of these main watersheds which drain into the Atlantic Ocean, Hudson Bay, the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea. We are called upon as Christians to care for Creation from wherever we are, wherever we live. All our actions and our inactions have an impact on our local and global watershed as all of Creation is connected in an intricate balanced system.

Plastic products by the billions have found their way into the oceans, forming giant plastic continents like the one discovered in 1997 in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California, also known as ‘the Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ ([Ocean Cleanup](#)). This environmental concern has been documented by several organizations who are raising awareness on how marine animals and birds are dying from ingesting plastic products. When plastic breaks down into smaller pieces called microplastics, they become more easily ingested by fish and thus, microplastics have successfully entered the food chain.

Unfortunately, out of the three tonnes of plastic thrown away by Canadians each year, only 9 % of it is actually recycled ([Canada.ca](#)). As consumers, we must reduce at the source and avoid single use plastics as much as possible. Many organizations have taken the initiative to educate the public by raising awareness and pressuring governments.



(1) <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/dc639a40-8893-11e0-96ca-6cf049291510>

Get Inspired

Be inspired by these biblical passages:



God called the dry land “earth,” and the basin of water he called “sea.” God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:10

Now I, like a stream from a river,
and like water channeling into a
garden— I said, “I will water my plants,
I will drench my flower beds.”
Then suddenly this stream of mine became a
river, and this river of mine became a sea.

Sirach 24:30-31

How varied are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, great and wide!
It teems with countless beings,
living things both large and small.

Psalms 104:24-25

**Hurt not the earth,
neither the seas nor the
trees**

Revelation 7:3

Take Action

Faith community's can locate their watershed basin on this map provided by the Government of Canada Map: [Canada's Watersheds - Open Government Portal](#)

The World Wildlife Federation (WWF) has a very user-friendly interactive watershed map of Canada available on their website here: [Watershed Reports | WWF Canada](#)

Identify the flora and fauna in your watershed, learn about the different forest types, the rare plants, the animals, and the different communities that all live in the same watershed as you. Find ways to take positive action towards supporting them. Every action we take has an impact on our watershed from what plants we plant, which trees we harvest, the garbage we dispose of, and the wastewater that we dump.

Your faith community can become closer to the ocean by collaborating with a coastal faith community. Sharing and supporting each other to learn more and improve awareness about ocean health. Your community can also partner with organizations that work to preserve the oceans.

Recognize and bring awareness to September 21st as International Coastal Clean Up Day and September 30th as World Maritime Day.

Initiative

Recycled plastic bags are used to help the homeless:

Faith Baptist Church members in Sydney Nova Scotia are recycling plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats to help the homeless, CBC reported in February 2018. This initiative keeps both these bags out of the landfill while helping the less fortunate. Each mat takes about 250 bags and 10 hours of work! ([Congregation recycles plastic bags - CBC](#))

Communicate

Here are some ideas you can use to help communicate your concerns about the oceans to your faith community:

- Set up a kiosk at the entrance to the hall or church where your community gathers. Display the important role oceans have on the health of the planet, how the ocean affects the human population who live and work on the coast, and how the ocean is a unique habitat for the biodiversity of species. Invite youth groups to help create artwork and special messages about the importance of oceans.
- Use social media and your church bulletin to communicate your concerns about the health of the oceans and their unique role in the health of the planet.
- Use the poster included in this Season of Creation toolkit in your newsletter, on social media, and throughout your church where your community gathers, like the kitchen, the hall, the bathroom etc.
- Invite a guest speaker to share their experiences or messages about the importance of God's gift of the ocean, and to share initiatives that combat its deterioration due to human activity and the upset of the balance of Creation. This can be someone from an indigenous community, a member of a faith community living near the ocean, or an oceanographer specialist.
- Host an online or in-person conference to explore reconciliation in the watershed with someone involved in this movement. See also our resources page on this topic.



Resources

New Hope for the Oceans: Engaging Faith-Based Communities in Marine Conservation

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00062/full>

Kairos: Watershed Discipleship Workshop

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/product/watershed-discipleship-workshop>

Watershed Discipleship, the creation waits...

<https://watersheddiscipleship.org/author/chedmyers/>

Watch videos on the Green Churches Network YouTube channel:

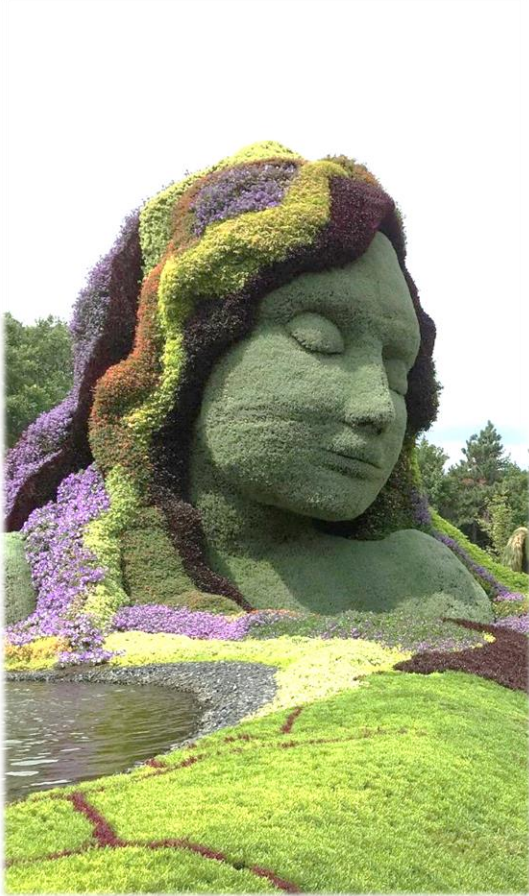
[Églises Vertes - YouTube](#)

Video My watershed / Mon bassin versant



From a water source
to Atlantic Ocean





Listen to the
Voice
of the...

**Nourishing
Earth!**

Awareness

Build awareness about the nourishing ability of the Earth:

- Our food supply comes from the Earth. Our soils and water need to be healthy to feed the global population.
- Small farms are suffering from the devastating impacts of climate change.
- Canadians threw away three million tons of food in 2019, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Food prices continue to rise and food banks struggle to meet demand.
- Food security and food waste issues are being addressed by churches and community groups.

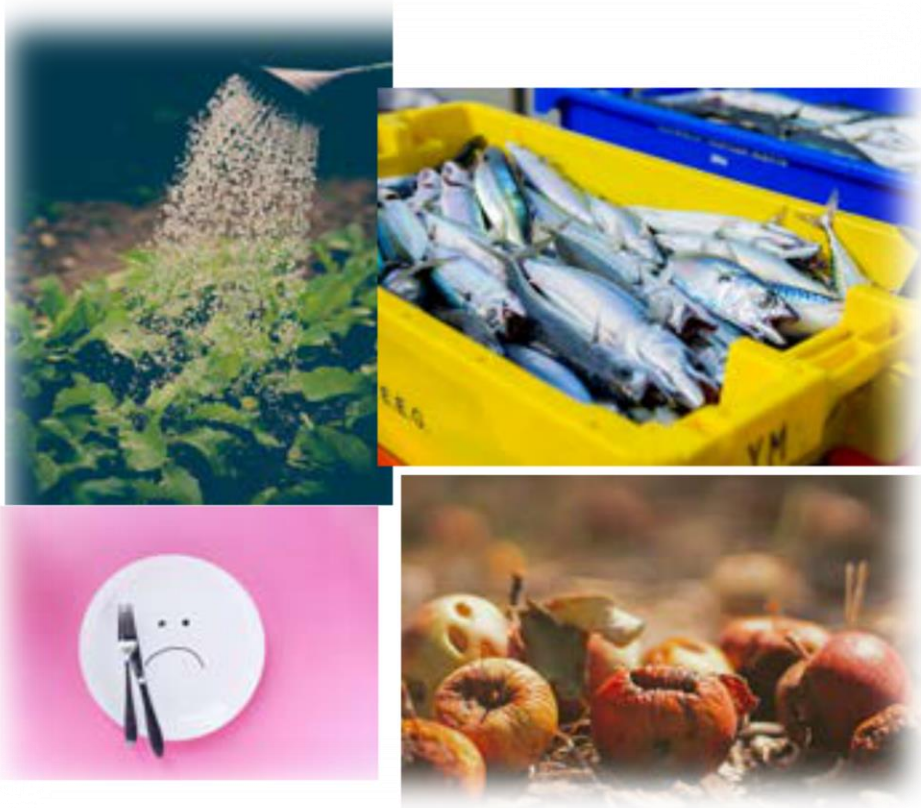
Listen

The United Church of Canada encourages us to reconnect and rethink our perception towards food:

“Food sovereignty centres on the idea that broken relationships must be rebuilt, including relationships between people and the land, as well as those between producers and consumers. At the same time, it calls us to transform our perspective on food—from food as a commodity to food as a right for all.” ([Food Security | The United Church of Canada](#))


Four areas of action are proposed by Pope Francis in his message for World Food Day 2021:

“I would like to indicate four areas where action is urgently needed: in the fields, at sea, at the table and in reducing food losses and waste. Our lifestyles and daily consumption practices influence global and environmental dynamics, but if we are to make a real difference, we must encourage producers and consumers to make ethical and sustainable choices and raise awareness among the younger generations of the important role they play in making a world without hunger a reality.” ([World Food Day 2021 | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#))



Get Inspired

Here are some inspiring biblical texts:



Give them some
food yourselves.

Mark 6:37


The land will never lack for needy persons; that is why I command you: “Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land.”

Deuteronomy 15:11

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table.

Luke 16:20-21

Agabus went to the community in Antioch to announce that a great famine would affect the whole world. (Acts 11: 27-30). Indeed, this happened between the years 46 and 48 in various parts of the Roman Empire. A contribution was sent to Judea to the disciples of the Lord by the hands of Barnabas and Paul.



Life’s prime needs are water,
bread, and clothing, and also
a house for decent privacy.

Sirach 29:21

Take Action

(2) Raise awareness in your faith community about the issue surrounding food waste, and brainstorm ways you can address it. September 29th is the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, perfect opportunity to increase awareness about food related issues.

(3) Share examples of what other faith communities have done to address hunger related issues in their communities.

(4) Create a team or group, who advocate to ensure that everyone has access to healthy and nutritious food while also respecting the Earth's natural balance. Partnering with other organizations in the community will foster positive relationships and increase productivity towards a common goal.

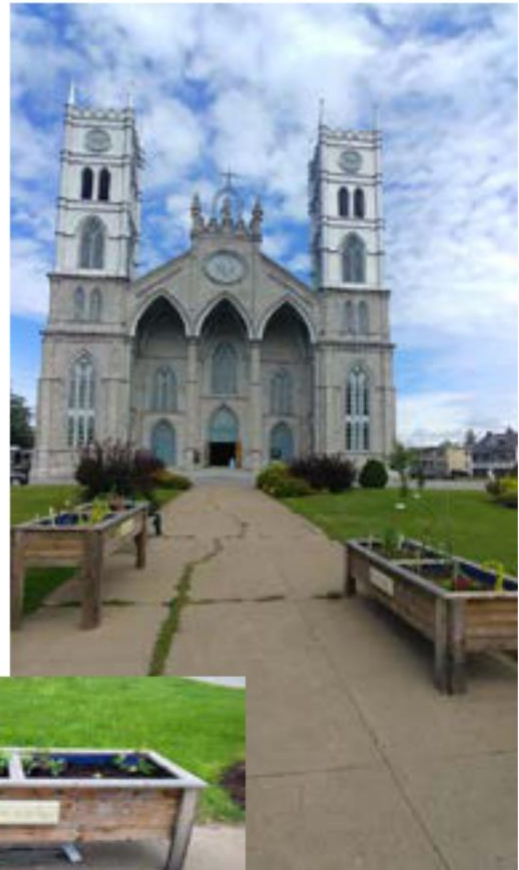


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Initiatives

In 2008, The Rainbow Community Garden Project was started in Manitoba. This project was initiated by newcomers while supported and nurtured by the Knox United Church community and other partner organizations. In 2019, this initiative supported immigrants from 34 different countries to plant, grow, and harvest their own produce from various locations, producing 70,000 kg of food! ([Rainbow Community Garden – Knox United Church](#))

Fruits and vegetables in front of the church! On the church grounds in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade in Quebec, we see fruit trees and vegetable gardens. This community is hosting their 7th annual Eco Fair (started in June 2016), the week surrounding World Environment Day. They open the festivities with an ecological Eucharistic celebration and organize a whole week full of ecological related kiosks, workshops, conferences, and coffee talk gatherings. In February, they host a Seed Festival where gardening enthusiasts can exchange seeds, share growing tips, and attend conferences. ([Salon Écolo – Initiatives écoresponsables à Sainte-Anne](#))



Free food pantries in front of churches:

July 2021, The First Lutheran Church in Toronto opened a food pantry, offering free non-perishable food for the community. Their slogan “Take what you need; give what you can” encourages their goal to improve food security and increase community spirit. ([Little Free Pantry – First Lutheran Toronto](#))

Throughout Canada, many Christian communities responded to the issue of food security during the pandemic. Setting up free food pantries as a means to support the most vulnerable members of their communities. Some churches also have self serve outdoor library boxes as well.

Community fridges to increase access to food! Installing fridges on or near church property!

The Dartmouth Community Fridge in Christ Church Nova Scotia is open 24/7 and allows those struggling with rising food costs to take what they need, and for community members to leave what they can. ([Fridge in Dartmouth ‘welcoming to anybody’](#))

The Cathedral Community Fridge in Regina Alberta has installed a community fridge in the parking lot of Holy Rosary Cathedral and 3 other locations throughout Regina. This initiative also reduces food waste. ([Cathedral Community Fridge Regina](#))

Vegetable production in a church! The church of Saint-Pacôme in Quebec is home to a vertical growing technology: vegetables are grown indoors without pesticides! The organization ‘Les Jardins du Clocher’ spearheaded this initiative which provides the community with greater food autonomy ([Jardins du Clocher](#)). Learn more about their project with this YouTube video (in French only): [Culture maraîchère dans l’église de Saint-Pacôme - YouTube](#)

Communicate

- Initiate, support, and participate in small scale food production projects. Start a small herb garden, or a tomato patch that are accessible for the elderly, as well as those with physical limitations.
- Support local family farms, local organic farms, and local farms that have social insertion programs whose mandate is to improve the lives of the disadvantaged.





Listen to the Voice of the...

Right for a Healthy Environment!

Awareness

- “The right to a healthy environment is grounded in the underlying principle that all humans have basic, non-negotiable needs, including clean air, clean water, clean soil, and a liveable climate”. (1)
- The concept of the right to a healthy environment as a human right has been growing ever since the establishment of the UN Stockholm Declaration in 1972 which states under Principle 1: “(hu)man have the fundamental right to freedom, equality, and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being”. (2)
- In October 2021, for the first time, the UN passed a resolution recognizing that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a universal human right. A huge victory, decades in the making. (3)

(1) [Environmental Rights](#)

(2) [UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm 1972](#)

(3) [The right to a healthy environment | UN News](#)

- “Environmental degradation disproportionately affects the poor, women and girls, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and children, among others. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has recognized that for people in vulnerable situations, a rights-based and inclusive approach to environmental action can make a real difference in their lives while also supporting better environmental outcomes.” (4)
- “In Canada, Indigenous people and other marginalized communities are far more likely to be the site of high-risk industry activity or a waste dump than a non-racialized one, and certainly not one that is affluent.” (5)
- “Polluting factories near a neighborhood populated by racialized minorities. Lack of clean water in Aboriginal communities. High levels of air pollution in a First Nations community. This is not random. It’s environmental racism, say experts”. (6)

What is environmental racism?

It refers to racial discrimination through the disproportionate location of environmentally hazardous projects in Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities Broadbent Institute (7) // ... a form of systematic discrimination that links race and socio-economic status with increased environmental risk ”. (8)

There are many Canadian neighbourhoods with higher visible minorities and lower socio-economic status that have less green space, less tree canopy, more concrete, and higher polluting industries than their neighbouring demographics. These scenarios favour a higher heat island effect as well as position some of the most vulnerable communities in Canada to be hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change. (9)



(4) [Right to healthy environment | OHCHR](#)

(5) [Environmental racism KAIROS Canada](#)

(6) [July 2021| La Presse](#)

(7) [Broadbent Institute](#)

(8) [KAIROS Canada](#)

(9) [Canadian Climate Institute](#)

Listen

Watch videos on the Green Churches Network YouTube channel: [Églises Vertes - YouTube](#)

“This world is indeed our home. Yet it is also the home of everyone, just as it is the home of every animal creature and of every form of life created by God.” [Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew](#)

“The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, indeed, our health, wellbeing and survival all depend on a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.” [healthy environment | OHCHR](#)

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. (...)Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor.(...)Industrial waste and chemical products can lead to bioaccumulation in the organisms of the local population.” Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, para 23/20/21 [enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf](#)



Get Inspired

Here are some inspiring biblical texts:



The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain,
their tongues are parched with thirst.
I, the LORD, will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

I will open up rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the broad valleys;
I will turn the wilderness into a marshland,
and the dry ground into springs of water.

In the wilderness I will plant the cedar,
acacia, myrtle, and olive;
In the wasteland I will set the cypress,
together with the plane tree and the pine,

Isaiah 41:17-19

So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed
with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet
shod in readiness for the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:14-15





Africville, Halifax

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africville_with_the_Bedford_Basin_in_the_background_\(32862740864\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africville_with_the_Bedford_Basin_in_the_background_(32862740864).jpg)

Take Action

- Recognize the call of Laudato Si' to protect Creation and promote a healthy environment.
- Organize a study group and research communities who have experienced environmental racism, one place to start is the “ENRICH” Project [The ENRICH Project - Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities & Community Health Project](#).
- Raise awareness in your faith community by watching documentaries about communities who are victims of environmental racism. Here are some examples: [There's Something In The Water](#) | [Netflix Documentary and Remember Africville - NFB](#)

■ Read and share with your faith community the Canadian Commission for UNESCO July 2020 publication titled ‘Environmental Racism in Canada’, this 21 page pdf file is available to download with this link: ccunesco.ca/EnvironmentalRacismCanada.pdf.

■ Join one of the many organizations in Canada that work to address environmental rights. Invite a guest speaker who has valuable experience addressing the issues of environmental rights and environmental racism.

■ Brainstorm actions your community can take to help preserve a healthy environment as well as actions your community can take to support those who are victims of environmental racism.



The Kurgan, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aajimwnaang_Resource_Centre_right_next_to_Dow_Chemical_in_Chemical_Valley.jpg

Initiatives

[KAIROS Canada](#) works with people of faith for ecological justice and human rights. They have formed a national faith-based initiative ‘[For the Love of Creation](#)’ that invites faith communities to come together to mobilize for climate justice.

[Green Faith](#) is building an international multi-faith movement working for climate and environmental justice. Local communities are encouraged to form [Green Faith Circles](#), which receive support and guidance, while connecting to a larger global network.



The Anglican Communion Environmental Network released a statement in June 2020, titled ‘Environmental Racism- when #BlackLives Don’t Matter’. This document calls attention to environmental racism and its impacts on black and indigenous communities, many global examples are cited. [environmental-racism-statement .pdf \(anglicancommunion.org\)](#)



Communicate

Here are some ideas you can use to help communicate your concerns about rights to a healthy environment to your faith community:

- Set up a kiosk at the entrance to the hall or church where your community gathers.
- Display information about what the right to a healthy environment means and the consequences of living in an unhealthy environment. This can educate your community about the effects of degraded environments, and the impact on the most vulnerable populations.
- Use social media and your church bulletin to communicate your concerns about healthy environments and their importance on racialized communities.
- Use the poster included in this Season of Creation toolkit in your newsletter, on social media, and throughout your church where your community gathers, like the kitchen, the hall, the bathroom etc.
- Voice your concern to your elected officials at all levels of government about the importance of the right to a healthy environment. September 15th is International Democracy Day, a timely reminder to communicate with decision makers either through written letters, emails, or phone calls.





Listen to the Voice of the... North!

Awareness

- The Canadian Arctic represents over 40% of Canada's landmass and 25% of the global Arctic (1) and is home to a population of approximately 150 000 people, half of whom are Indigenous peoples (2).
- "The relationship between people and the land in all its biodiversity has existed for millennia. A warming environment has already caused significant changes to migration patterns, habitats, animal health, and thus to human health and wellbeing". (3)
- "In less than half a century, the Arctic's average annual temperature rose by 3.1C, compared to 1C for the planet as a whole" (4).
- The village of Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories has the unfortunate reality of facing a double threat: rising sea levels and melting permafrost, both of which are caused by rising temperatures. The village's 962 residents are now facing one of the fastest and most devastating coastal erosions ever observed on Earth. (5)
- What happens in the Arctic will influence the rest of our planet. Changes in the Arctic can be locally devastating, but because of how the Earth's climate systems work, they also affect the rest of the world. (6)

(1)[Arctic Institute](#)

(2)[Arctic Council](#)

(3)[Arctic Policy - KAIROS](#)

(4)[May 2021 phys.org](#)

(5)[La Presse 2019](#)

(6)[WWF Arctic](#)

Listen

"The Arctic as it is a 'barometer' for the global health of the planet. Marine species dependent on sea ice, including polar bears, ice-living seals, walrus, and some marine birds, are very likely to decline, with some species facing extinction.

For Inuit, warming is likely to disrupt or even destroy their hunting and food sharing culture as reduced sea ice causes the animals on which they depend to decline, become less accessible, and possibly become extinct. What is happening affects virtually every facet of Inuit life—we are a people of the land, ice, snow, and animals. Our hunting culture thrives on the cold. We need it to be cold to maintain our culture and way of life. Climate change has become the ultimate threat to Inuit culture. Climate change is not about scoring political points. It is about families, parents, children, and the lives we lead in our communities and in the broader environment."

(9) [Sheila Watt-Cloutier, 2006](#)



"When a sparrow sings, it says, 'This is my church.' He's talking about everything around him, the landscape, the environment—that's his church. He reminds us to appreciate what God prepares for us. In springtime when birds start coming back to our part of the Arctic to nest, the kids say, 'Did you hear that one yet? Did you hear?' It's the church bird. When we hear him, it reminds us of how important the environment is around us." ([This is My Church?: Reflections on the Arctic Refuge from Sarah James](#))

"The greatest burden of climate change is falling on people in the Far North and global South—those who have contributed least to the problem. Indigenous voices in the church remind us that we are called upon to look after Creator's gifts and to pass along these gifts to our children." ([Climate Change | The United Church of Canada](#))



"For over 30 years, Inuit have witnessed an Arctic environment eroded by climate change. Living with climate change has been our reality for many years. Our home is becoming unrecognizable. Inuit have devoted much time, energy, and resources to alerting the world to the reality of climate change. The global community MUST act now to work with us in responding to this threat and do all that it can to curb climate change. We cannot wait any longer." ([Arctic | Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada](#))

"Indigenous peoples throughout the world are the stewards and guardians not only of the forests and the seas, as well as of a vast store of knowledge about the natural world, which they regard as the "library of life." ([The Green Patriarch» - Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew](#))



"The Arctic is disproportionately affected by climate change due to its greater sensitivity to global temperature changes, causing sea ice and snow in the region to melt at an unprecedented rate. In turn, thawing permafrost has the potential to release billions of metric tonnes of carbon dioxide, which again fuels global warming. This is having grave repercussions on Arctic populations, biodiversity, and ecosystems, but also on the world as a whole, leading to more frequent extreme weather events globally – droughts, rainstorms and floods." [Catholic church-EU-Arctic-policy.pdf](#)

Get Inspired

Here are some inspiring biblical texts:



Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker,
for majestic indeed is its splendor.
It spans the heavens with its glory,
the hand of God has stretched it out in power.
His rebuke marks out the path for the hail,
and makes the flashes of his judgment shine forth.
For his own purposes he opens the storehouse
and makes the rain clouds fly like vultures.
His might gives the clouds their
strength, and breaks off the hailstones.
The thunder of his voice makes the earth
writhe; by his power he shakes the mountains.
A word from him drives on the south
wind, whirlwind, hurricane, and stormwind.
He makes the snow fly like birds;
it settles down like swarms of
locusts. Its shining whiteness blinds
the eyes, the mind marvels at its
steady fall. He scatters frost like salt;
it shines like blossoms on the thornbush.
He sends cold northern blasts
that harden the ponds like solid ground,
Spreads a crust over every body of water,
and clothes each pool with a coat of armor.

Sirach 43:11-20

With his breath God brings the frost,
and the broad waters congeal.

Job 37:10

Out of whose womb comes the ice, and
who gives the hoarfrost its birth in the
skies, When the waters lie covered as
though with stone that holds captive
the surface of the deep?

Job 38:29-30

Praise the LORD from the earth...
you sea monsters and all the deeps of the sea;
Lightning and hail, snow and thick clouds,
storm wind that fulfills his command.

Psalms 148:7-8

Take Action

- Raise awareness in your faith community about the issues surrounding the Canadian Arctic and how they relate to the rest of the world.
- Research groups and organizations that are working in the North and find ways your community can support them.



Initiatives

Sheila Watt-Cloutier: One Woman's Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet! [Human Trauma and Climate Trauma As One | Sheila Watt-Cloutier | TEDxYYC - YouTube](#)

[The right to be cold: The challenge facing the Inuit \(w/ Sheila Watt-Cloutier\) - YouTube](#)

[The Right to Be Cold | CBC Books](#)

ECOLOGY NORTH: "Ecology North was founded in 1971 by a group of dedicated volunteers in response to arsenic pollution in Yellowknife. Since then our mandate has expanded considerably with projects tackling issues like climate change, waste reduction, water quality and food sovereignty." ([Ecology North](#))

[INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL](#) (ICC): "ICC is the body that represents all Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka on matters of international importance."



Ansgar Walk, CC BY-SA 2.5 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>>, via Wikimedia Commons https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/87/Qamutik_1_1999-04-01.jpg

Communicate

- Set up a kiosk at the entrance to the hall or church where your community gathers. Display information about the Arctic, with emphasis on the Canadian Arctic. This can educate your community about the effects of climate change and its consequences on northern ecosystems.
- Use social media and your church bulletin to communicate your concerns about the importance of permafrost, sea levels, ice caps and northern communities.
- Use the poster included in this Season of Creation toolkit in your newsletter, on social media, and throughout your church where your community gathers, like the kitchen, the hall, the bathroom etc.
- Invite a guest speaker to share their experiences or messages about the importance of the North and northern communities.
- Voice your concern to your elected officials at all levels of government about the importance of Arctic Canada. September 15th is International Democracy Day, a timely reminder to communicate with relevant decision makers either through written letters, emails, or phone calls.

