Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Once again we are in the middle of an election season, and Canadians will soon be going to the polls with the privilege of voting and selecting the leaders who will serve us in government.

Christians especially will want to give serious consideration of this since we know that the government is instituted by God and He works through our leaders, who are His servants and representatives, to restrain evil in our sinful world, and provide order for our earthly good and blessing. This means that state leaders have the duty to rule according to God's will for which He instituted government, and with the privilege of voting, we have a duty, calling and vocation from God to help choose them, encourage them, and hold them to such duties.

There will be many issues which will be under consideration as you look at the various candidates vying for office, and on many of these issues the Scriptures give no clear word one way or another, and so on such issues Christians of good will can have various differences of opinion and judgment. However, there are other issues of great importance in Canada today upon which the Scriptures are very clear on which Christians will want to be very faithful and so look very carefully at where parties and candidates stand on them, and shape their votes accordingly.

Some of these important issues are:

Sanctity of Life

All human beings from conception to natural death are living human beings created in the image of God and it is therefore the duty of the government to guard and protect the lives of all persons, especially the frail and vulnerable, without discrimination.

Abortion

The abortion of an innocent unborn child is murder, and with the present legalization of abortion and by the permitting of the taking of life of unborn children, the Canadian government advocates and puts into practice a worldview and philosophical perspective that desecrates life and strips it of its intrinsic sanctity and value. The undoubted fact that the life of a human being begins at the point of their conception necessarily leads to the conclusion that the principle of fundamental justice of the right to life, liberty, and the security of the person guaranteed by the Charter of Rights to "everyone" is also due to the unborn from the time of their conception, and that the act of abortion deprives them of such in contradiction to the plain words and meaning of the Charter. The government of Canada is therefore grossly negligent of their fundamental duties to protect all human life, including the unborn, and it is the duty of Canadian citizens to seek to place into office those leaders who will endeavour to oppose abortion and restore the protection of the life to unborn children.

MAID/Euthanasia

That all human life is intrinsically sacred regardless of its perceived quality and worth is fundamentally undermined through the legislation of MAID, which gives incentive and encouragement to persons to end their lives, and tempts devious relatives and impersonal health and government officials to find incentive to urge and pressure others to resort to ending their lives. In this way, the government is grossly negligent of its duties to set hedges of protection around the frail and vulnerable at life's end, and sets in motion an inevitable trivialization of such reverence for life in ever more expanding groups within society, already today in the elderly, sickly and frail through MAID, and potentially at the state's pleasure towards any and everyone. It is the duty of Canadian citizens to seek to place into office leaders who will seek to oppose and repeal MAID and restore a culture of life by the protection and value of the life of frail and vulnerable Canadians.

<u>Transgenderism</u>

It is a clear biological fact that human beings exist as only two sexes, male and female, each normally with clear distinguishing marks in bodily characteristics and DNA make-up, and one retains a healthy connection with reality when one allows such to determine one's personal identity and "preferred pronouns." Supposed "genders" at variance with such biological fact in transgender theory is complete nonsense with no scientific basis nor existence in the real world, and the appeal to such to shape one's personal identity results in an unhealthy disconnect from reality. The state has the duty to structure for its citizens a healthy and normal connection with the real world and the assumption of the realities of the two biological sexes, male and female in the public life of society, including use of pronouns appropriate with each sex. The present government of Canada is deeply negligent of such duties by its encouragement of the destructive and irrational ideology of transgenderism, and even the persecution of those who hold to the reality of the two sexes, and it is the duty of Canadian citizens to seek leaders which will oppose such practice of transgender ideology, and restore and engender the healthy, normal understanding of sex and gender that actually corresponds to the real world.

<u>Marriage</u>

Marriage by its inner essence and design is constituted by the joining together of a male husband and a female wife, and such design and purpose is clearly demonstrated in that only within such a context of marriage so understood is life able to be created. For the stability and flourishing of family and society it is the duty of the state to guard, retain, protect and defend marriage with such a true understanding of it. Marriage is fundamentally desecrated and distorted by the notion of same sex "marriage," and the present government of Canada has become grossly negligent of its duty and has undermined marriage by the legalization and promotion of such. It is the duty of each Canadian voter to seek leaders who will endeavour to restore the actual reality of marriage understood in its true sense as that between male husbands and female wives.

Religious Freedom and Church Tax Exempt Status

In addition to such issues, Canadian Christians will want to be aware of the increasing extent in our land that religious freedom is under attack and that basic Christian beliefs are being made illegal and are often expressed and labelled as "hate crimes."

Also of great concern is a proposal (Recommendation 430) in the last parliamentary budget which would strip "advancement of religion" (i.e. all churches) from the definition of a charity, thereby resulting in the church losing her charitable status. Not only would this severely deplete the resources of the church for mission, but there also would be levied against any institution losing charitable status a certain "revocation tax," which according to Canadian law, would require a congregation to pay the state a 100% tax on the full value of all its assets (including its building), with which almost any congregation would only be able to comply by selling off and losing their building.

Positions of Canadian political parties on these issues.

These are some of the paramount issues which should be seriously considered not just by Christians but also by all Canadians in the upcoming election. Although the positions stated above on abortion, MAID, transgenderism and marriage reflect cherished Christian beliefs, teachings and doctrine clearly found in Scripture, it is to be noted that they are also perfectly evident from reason, natural law and common sense which any person, even non-Christians, should be able to see are true.

It is therefore also important to study carefully the positions held by the main political parties and individual candidates of Canada on these issues, and here are some helpful charts which give this information:

For the policy positions of the Liberal, Conservative, People's, NDP, Christian Heritage and Green parties:

https://www.voteprolife.ca/party-policy-comparison

For individual candidate positions:

https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/voting-records/level/mp

May our Lord bless you and guide you as you fulfill the high calling and vocation which God has given to you as a voting citizen of Canada, that we may have godly and faithful leaders who will do His will, that as obedient, faithful and peaceful citizens we may encourage them to be so and do what is right, and that God may continue to bless Canada and its people, and by His grace, keep our home and native land glorious and free!