



# Anglican Church of Canada

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The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham  
Bishop of New Westminster

Dear Michael,

I am pleased to hear the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to deny Leave to Appeal to those who have launched law suits against the Diocese of New Westminster over its decision concerning the blessing of same sex unions.

I am relieved to know that this marks an end to what has been a long and arduous process. I am deeply conscious of the huge amounts of time and money this cost the diocese.

I am especially grateful for the great care you took in preparing for hearings in court over the last several years.

With integrity and insight, you represented the Anglican Church of Canada, its constitution, Canons and recognized decision making processes within the synods of our church – diocesan, provincial, and General. Our entire church owes you a great debt of gratitude. That expression of thanks is extended to your chancellor, solicitor, communications officer and others who supported you in your endeavours to represent our church with such resolve, grace and dignity.

I realize, Michael, this entire matter has not been without personal cost to you. You have been the brunt of a lot of slanderous attacks both professionally and personally, but, you stood your ground and upheld the decisions of your synod and the spirit in which they were made and acted upon. You consistently modeled every effort to be as pastorally accommodating of a variety of theological perspectives in these matters as possible.

I know this decision comes as a great relief. I know you view it not simply as victory, but as an opportunity to redirect time, energy and financial resources to the ministries to which the Diocese of New Westminster is so passionately committed in serving God's mission.

My respect for your leadership is deep and my gratitude for the witness of the diocese to our Lord Jesus Christ and his reign of love, justice and peace for all is profound.

With the assurance of my prayers as you go from strength in the service of the Gospel,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Fred J. Hiltz  
Archbishop and Primate