

PRESS RELEASE: UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING, SACKVILLE, NB

Written by Brett Anningson

Mardi Tindal, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, will be holding a Town Hall Meeting in Sackville on Thursday afternoon.

Tindal has been using her elected term of office as the leader of the United Church by doing her best to engage people on the environmental issues.

"During the Copenhagen climate change talks in December 2009, I saw shrivelled ears of maize, withered by unprecedented degrees of African drought," she says, "and bleached, dead Pacific coral, victim of the increasing acidity of the ocean: powerful symbols of the increasing environmental challenges we face."

As the spiritual leader of Canada's largest Protestant denomination, Tindal believes that she should be about finding hope. She is travelling across Canada by train on a trip called "The Spirit Express" and at each stop she is engaging the people in a Town Hall Meeting which she calls, "Responding in Hope"

There are a lot of signs and symbols of the destruction; but what about hope?

"The meetings almost become worship," says Barb Prowse, liaison between the Maritime Conference of the United Church and the Moderator, "It is about sharing hope and challenging the negativity. Each person who gathers is asked to bring a symbol of hope from their community, and those are shared in a ritualistic sort of way."

It is all about how coming together for the healing of soul, community, and creation.

"I will share my own stories and symbols," says Tindal, "and I invite you to do the same. Bring your stories and symbols—such as an object, a poem, or an image—to represent environmental distress and hope in your community or your personal life."

In doing so Tindal hopes to connect us on a more profound spiritual level to the issues facing our world.

"Mardi will be in the Maritimes for a few days, travelling and seeing our projects as well as being part of the Annual General Meeting being held on the weekend," says Prowse, "It is a good chance to come out and engage her on these issues."

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A Press Photo of the Moderator is available from the following link:

http://www.wondercafe.ca/sites/default/files/Mardi_Med%5B1%5D.jpg

Maritime Conference Visit: May 25-30, 2011

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

St. Andrew's United Church

6036 Coburg Rd.

Halifax, NS B3H 1Y9

www.standrewshfx.ca

Town Hall: 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Inter-faith Coalition for Climate Justice

[Google Map](#)

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Sackville United Church

112 Main St.

Sackville, NB E4L 1A1

www.marconf.ca

Town Hall: 3:00 p.m.

[Google Map](#)

As part of her commitment to lowering her carbon footprint, the Moderator suggests these easy lifestyle changes:

Tips for Reducing or Offsetting Carbon Consumption

These are general guidelines and rough calculations that help you make decisions about reducing carbon consumption:

- Travel: A medium-sized car burns approximately 0.03 tons per 100 km. So reducing car travel by 100 km a week would save 1.56 tons a year.

- A commuter train or bus burns approximately 0.01 tons per 100 km. So taking the train or bus to work (100 km round trip) would save at least a ton of carbon a year over car travel.
- Plane: Travelling on a plane burns 0.09 tons per 100 km, or approximately 1 ton for a trip to Vancouver from Toronto. Choosing to telecommute or vacation locally can save significant carbon.
- Home: Having a set-back thermostat on your furnace, using compact fluorescent lights, caulking and insulating, and so on can make a significant difference in your house energy costs and save up to a ton of carbon a year.
- Food: By eating less meat, or eating lower on the food chain (grains, beans, vegetables), can save about a ton of carbon expenditure a year.