Dear Prime Minister Harper and President Obama:

As leaders of religious communities and indigenous people of the Columbia River Basin, we are providing you with the Declaration on Ethics & Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty.

The Columbia River Pastoral Letter by the Roman Catholic Bishops of the international watershed sets forth a moral framework for decision-making for the river and the human communities that depend on the river. Using this framework, Gonzaga University in Spokane hosted a conference on May 13, Ethics & the Columbia River Treaty: Righting Historic Wrongs. From this conference issued the enclosed Declaration. The Columbia Basin tribes believe that this Declaration is consistent with the spirit and intent of the U.S. Entity Regional Recommendation on the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024.

We ask that you support and actively implement this Declaration to modernize the Columbia River Treaty so as to promote the common good through stewardship and justice, while advancing respectful dialogue and an international water ethic.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of religious leaders and indigenous leaders]

September 23, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

[Signatures of religious leaders and indigenous leaders]