



**SYNOD OF  
ALBERTA  
AND THE  
TERRITORIES**  
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8  
Ph: (780) 439-2636  
Fax (780) 433-6623  
Email: [info@albertasynod.ca](mailto:info@albertasynod.ca)  
[www.albertasynod.ca](http://www.albertasynod.ca)

*Spirit-Led  
Leadership*

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Tradition*

*Collaborative  
Partnerships*

February 19, 2021

Mayor Don Iveson and City Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson and Councillors:

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada represents 90 congregations in Alberta, 12 of which are within the Greater Edmonton Area. As bishop, it is my duty to safeguard the wellbeing, both physical and mental, of all members, including the over 2000 in Edmonton and area. But it is also our duty as a faith community, to support our neighbour. Therefore support of mental health is an important issue for all of our members and their families.

Support for mental health is an essential concern and The Synod of Alberta and the Territories joins the Greater Edmonton Alliance and others in advocating for the City of Edmonton to adopt the National Standard for Psychological Safety in the Workplace.

The Standard is an internationally recognized tool which serves to increase awareness of mental health, thus helping to reduce the stigmatization of mental health issues. Ending this stigmatization is critical and the adoption of the Standard for the City of Edmonton and its 13,000 employees would have a large impact not only on the welfare of the employees themselves, but also on the community at large, raising awareness of mental health issues and diminishing the stigmatization of such issues.

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories strongly endorses the adoption of the Canadian Standard for Psychological Safety in the Workplace as City of Edmonton policy.

Respectfully,

*+ Bishop Larry Kochendorfer*

+ Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada