



The Most Rev. John E. Privett
Metropolitan

**The Anglican Provincial Synod
of British Columbia and Yukon**

1876 Richter Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 2M9

250-762-3306 fax 250-762-4150

diocese_of_kootenay@telus.net

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To the Bishops and People of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon:

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

Today the Supreme Court of Canada has denied Leave to Appeal to those who have brought law suits against the Diocese of New Westminster in the disputes over property arising from the decision to proceed with the blessing of same-sex unions. This marks an end to the litigation that has consumed a great deal of time and money and spiritual resources and has affected the whole Canadian Church. Although our court systems by the decisions asked of them create winners and losers, I encourage us to resist framing the decision today in that way. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ who seek to respond faithfully to the call of the Gospel. When we take our disputes or are taken to the secular courts we are, in many ways, all diminished.

Although matters of law have been clarified, there will still exist deeply held and yet differing convictions in our church with respect to the blessing of same-sex unions. We will continue as a Church to seek the most generous pastoral responses possible in our differing contexts as we continue, in good faith, to respond to God's call to love and justice. It is my prayer that in God's time and with God's grace there will be a healing of the divisions amongst us and a renewed commitment to the Mission of God that we share with all Christians throughout the world.

Faithfully,

+John

John E. Privett

cc. Website of the Ecclesiastical Province
Provincial Executive Committee
The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz
Mr. Percy Tinker
Mr. Geord Holland