



Archbishop and Mayor to speak at Oct. 21 environment symposium

Panel discussion to feature representatives of First Nations, environmental groups, faith communities

VANCOUVER (October 16, 2015) – Catholic Archbishop J. Michael Miller and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will join representatives of First Nations, environmental groups, charitable organizations, and faith communities Wednesday, Oct. 21, for a symposium and dialogue on Pope Francis’s new environment document *Laudato Si’*.

[Laudato Si’](#) is the papal encyclical released in June addressing the world's ecological crisis. In July Mayor Robertson was invited to a Vatican conference on the role of cities in dealing with climate change, sustainability and poverty. At the Oct. 21 symposium, Mayor Robertson will give his thoughts on the meeting and how *Laudato Si’* can apply in Vancouver. Archbishop Miller will discuss the theology of the document and its relevance today.

They will be joined in a panel discussion with Armenian Orthodox priest Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Jay Ritchlin of the David Suzuki Foundation, and Rev. Mary Fontaine, founder of Hummingbird Ministries, a Presbyterian ministry of healing for the Aboriginal people of British Columbia's West Coast. Audience members will have an opportunity to submit questions to the moderator.

Exhibitors representing four groups with calls to action will be present:

- [Metro Vancouver Alliance](#), a broad based alliance of community groups, labour, faith and educational institutions working together for the common good.
- [Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace](#), official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada supporting the Global South.
- [Instruments Beyond Borders](#), a Vancouver charity that delivers musical instruments to youth orchestras in disadvantaged communities at home and abroad.
- [A Rocha](#), an international Christian environmental stewardship organization.

The goal is to give new energy to cooperation between governments, faith communities, environmental interests, businesses and individuals in caring for our common home and each other, setting the stage for Vancouver’s future as a responsible and compassionate leader in caring for environment and community. The event will be recorded for viewing at a later date.

Registration for the event is full. Please visit rcav.org/laudato-si-symposium for more information.

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