# CAMPAIGN GUIDE

**Fall 2019**

## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get involved</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key dates</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Talk</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

In October 2017, Pope Francis announced a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region. What is a synod? The word comes from the Greek roots, “syn,” meaning “together” and “hodos,” meaning “path,” suggesting journeying together. A synod is thus about walking in community in one direction to respond to issues important to the Church. The special synod, to be held from October 6 to 27, 2019, is distinct in having been convened on a question that pertains to a specific region of the world. Its theme will be, Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology. This is an opportunity to better understand the Amazon biome, rich in life and biodiversity and vital to the balance of the Earth, our common home. It is also a time to “walk” with Indigenous and local communities in the Amazon, to listen to what they say about their needs and to support them in their quest for a dignified life.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has therefore chosen to call its campaign for the next two years, For our Common Home, inspired by the papal encyclical, Laudato Si’ – On care for our common home.

The first year of the campaign will be dedicated to the Amazon in recognition that a future for the Amazon is a future for all.

In a world where natural resources are ruthlessly exploited for commercial gain; where environmental degradation threatens the health and survival of the Amazon’s flora, fauna and people; and where “development” benefits the rich to the detriment of the poorest, we must act! The Amazon plays an essential role for all of humanity. By defending its people and their way of life, we are securing a future for the Earth and its people.

Join us in defending the defenders of the Amazon and committing to care For our Common Home!

Here is how you can take action:

1. **Sign or write Solidarity Letters addressed to two threatened Amazonian communities in Brazil.** In addition to reassuring the communities that their struggles are not solitary, these letters will be used to press the Canadian and Brazilian governments to assert their rights.

2. **Become an agent of change and sign the intergenerational pledge for our common home.** All generations must get on board if we are to preserve our common home for all, including future generations. Commit to changing at least one everyday life habit to a more Earth-friendly option and share a pledge selfie for our mosaic of committed citizens!

Let’s also reflect on integral ecology and how we can apply it in our everyday lives and in our communities, so that we begin the ecological conversion that Pope Francis calls for in Laudato Si’. Change begins with each and every one of us!

We hope you will join us in great numbers in taking action For our Common Home!

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“The native Amazonian peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are now.”

- Pope Francis in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, January 2018.
RESOURCES FOR THE EDUCATION AND MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

Printed tools available by order

**Poster:** This poster launches our new campaign, *For our Common Home*, which will run for two years. The first year will be dedicated to the Amazon, under the theme, *A future for the Amazon, a future for all.*

**Action Sheet:** This tool explains the importance of the Amazon for humanity, identifies the threats faced by this biome and its peoples and calls for mobilization in solidarity with the defenders of the Earth.

**Reflection on Integral Ecology:** This reflection is an invitation to explore the spiritual dimensions of integral ecology and to embark on an ecological conversion towards a love that calls us to care for our common home.

**Prayer Card:** It features the “prayer for our earth” from Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’.*

Resources available online at devp.org/campaign/resources

**Solidarity Letter:** Canadians are invited to sign or write a letter of solidarity to two communities in the Brazilian Amazon whose land, water and way of life are being threatened by mining and logging companies. We will use the signatures gathered to advocate for the recognition and protection of these peoples’ rights (see more on p. 4).

**Community Profiles:** This sheet is designed to accompany the Solidarity Letter and describes the dire threats to two Brazilian Amazon communities – the *seringueiros* of Machadinho d’Oeste and the Indigenous Mura people of Manaus.

**Backgrounder:** This tool provides a deeper understanding of the Amazon; its role in maintaining the health of the planet; and the threats faced by its forests, rivers and people. It also outlines the campaign’s advocacy strategy, including questions to ask Members of Parliament and much more.

**Short Talk:** Present the *For our Common Home* campaign in your school or parish using this talk (full text on p. 7). Adapt it to your audience and the amount of time you have to present.

**Parish Bulletin Announcements:** Ask your parish to publish these messages in its parish bulletin to promote the *For our Common Home* campaign. You can also adapt and use these messages in community newsletters, calendars, etc.

**Videos:** Discover our videos, share them on social media or download them to present in your community.

- An animated video urging Canadians to take action to safeguard our common home.
- A testimonial video featuring people from Indigenous and traditional communities in the Amazon.
- A vox pop video of people from diverse generations and backgrounds, from both the North and the South, speaking about our common home.

**Promotion tools:** Download banners, customizable poster templates and other publicity materials that you can use to promote the campaign in your community.

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**Other online resources and actions**

- **Intergenerational pledge for our common home:** This online pledge challenges people of all generations to take personal action to preserve our common home (see more on p. 5): [devp.org/pledge](http://devp.org/pledge).

- **Laudato Si’** Learn more about Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’ – On care for our common home:* [devp.org/en/laudatosi](http://devp.org/en/laudatosi).

- **Season of Creation** Use these resources to prepare for the synod on the Amazon during the Season of Creation, from September 1 to October 4: [devp.org/seasonofcreation](http://devp.org/seasonofcreation).
GET INVOLVED

Bring the For our Common Home campaign to life!

PLAN

Workshops and planning: Get in touch with your local animator who can help you organize a workshop or provide the information and material you need to hold your own event.

Organize a meeting with other Development and Peace members and supporters or other key people (priests, youth leaders, teachers, etc.) to discuss the campaign and establish an action plan for your parish or school.

TAKE ACTION

Defend the defenders by signing the Solidarity Letter. This letter is in support of two Brazilian communities that are defending their lands and waters against exploitation and struggling to preserve their way of life. You can also write your own letter and children are invited to express their solidarity with a drawing. Our objective is to collect at least 65,000 signatures (one for each species of tree and vertebrate in the Amazon) by April 30, 2020. We hope to hand over the Solidarity Letters and drawings to the affected communities to show them that we are by their side. The Solidarity Letter can also be signed online at devp.org/act.

Development and Peace will use the signatures and letters to press the Canadian government, Canadian embassies, the Brazilian government and implicated companies to ensure that these communities’ rights are respected.

Tips for getting signatures on the Solidarity Letter:

1. Distribute the Action Sheet a week before introducing the Solidarity Letter or organizing a letter-writing or drawing session in your parish or community. This will allow people to read it at home and get to know the issues. Inform people that they will be able to sign the Solidarity Letter the following week. On the day of the signing or a week in advance, you can also distribute the Community Profiles to inform people about the communities in question.

2. The next week, invite people to sign the Solidarity Letter or write or draw their own message. As you would do with a petition, place the Solidarity Letter (and/or blank sheets for those who want to write or draw) along with pens on a table at the entrance of the church or parish hall.

3. Have Development and Peace members and parish volunteers on hand to present the materials and answer questions.

Give the signed letters and drawings to your local animator or send them to us by mail or email, indicating:

- The time and place of collection
- Names and contact information (email addresses and phone numbers) of responsible persons
- The number of signatures, personal letters and drawings collected

Send your signed letters

By mail:
Development and Peace
For our Common Home
1425, boul. René-Lévesque W., 3rd fl.
Montreal (Quebec)
H3G 1T7

By email:
action@devp.org
Take care to scan the sheets clearly.
Live the Season of Creation

This year, we invite you to experience the Season of Creation, a period of prayer and action to protect creation from September 1 to October 4, 2019.

Take this moment to immerse yourself in the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region and Pope Francis’s call to respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

Visit our website to discover resources to guide you in your reflection.

devp.org/seasonofcreation

OTHER ACTIONS

Meet your Member of Parliament and ask for her or his support. To prepare for this meeting, consult the Backgrounder, where you will find tips on the questions and issues to raise. If your MP is new, we suggest also bringing some materials to introduce Development and Peace, such as our institutional brochure or the 50th Anniversary Timeline. We recommend that you meet your MP before the summer of 2020. MPs are likeliest to agree to meet when Parliament is in recess, during the following periods:

November 11 to 17, 2019 | January 3 to 24, 2020 | May 18 to 24, 2020

Tell us about your meeting. Fill in the MP report form at devp.org/campaign/report and don’t forget to attach a photo!

Tips to help you prepare for meeting your MP:

› Check in with your local animator, so she or he can support you. Find her or his contact information at devp.org/contact.

› Check out our advocacy resources at devp.org/campaign/advocacy.

Use our Reflection on Integral Ecology to contemplate this key concept and begin your path towards an ecological conversion. It is available at devp.org/campaign/resources.

Join the climate walks that will take place throughout the year. Mobilize Development and Peace members and bring some Development and Peace signs and banners to show our colours!

Green your surroundings. Can you make your common spaces more eco-friendly?

› Green your parish with the help of the Green Churches Network (greenchurches.ca) or the interfaith network, Faith and the Common Good (faithcommongood.org).

› Green your school by creating or joining a green committee. Look for resources that your province and school board offer to help make your school healthier and more sustainable.

› Green your city, your neighbourhood, your street and your alley using resources from your municipality and by mobilizing your neighbours.

Sign the intergenerational pledge for our common home.

Visit devp.org/pledge to learn about different lifestyle changes you can make to protect and preserve our common home. Choose one and complete the form to sign your pledge. You will be invited to attach a selfie holding a sign saying, “I care for our common home” inside a heart. Your photo will become part of our mosaic of committed citizens.

Join the For our Common Home Facebook group to stay mobilized throughout the year. We will share ideas for caring of our common home so that current and future generations can live in dignity on a healthy planet.
KEY DATES

Take inspiration from these key dates to organize any of the For our Common Home education and action campaign activities.

SEPTEMBER 2019

**September 1** – World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

**September 1 to October 4** – The Season of Creation is a good time to learn more about the special synod and the principles of integral ecology that Pope Francis addresses in *Laudato Si’*. Visit [devp.org/seasonofcreation](http://devp.org/seasonofcreation) for more information.

**September 10** – Join us as we launch the campaign with a special webinar on the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region featuring Most Rev. Don Bolen of the Archdiocese of Regina and Mauricio Lopez, Executive Secretary of REPAM. Mark your calendars!

**September 20** – Deadline for ordering campaign materials.

**Week of September 20** – Global Climate Strike, when students around the world walk out of schools to protest adults’ climate change inaction.

**September 23** – The UN Climate Action Summit, under the theme, *A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win*, will be an opportunity for action toward fulfilling the Paris Agreement on climate change. For more information, visit [un.org/en/climatechange](http://un.org/en/climatechange).

**September 27** – Worldwide march related to the global climate strike movement initiated by the Swedish teenage activist, Greta Thunberg.

OCTOBER 2019

**October 4** – Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. A moment to pray and act for our common home.

**October 6 to 27** – Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region under the theme, *Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*. Follow updates on the synod at [devp.org/seasonofcreation](http://devp.org/seasonofcreation).

**October 21** – Federal elections in Canada. An opportune time for bringing ecological concerns to the fore.

NOVEMBER 2019

**November 11 to 22** – The 25th session of the Conference of Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Santiago, Chile, will ask states to accelerate the implementation of their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

JANUARY 2020

**Early January** – Share Lent 2020 order kits are sent out.

**January 31** – Deadline for ordering Lenten campaign materials.

FEBRUARY 2020

**February 26** – Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and the launch of Share Lent 2020.

MARCH 2020

**March** – The Pan Amazon Social Forum (FOSPA) in Mocoa, Colombia, will be an open space for activists and organizations to exchange ideas and work together for the defense of the Amazon.

**March 29** – On Solidarity Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Lent, a collection is held in parishes across Canada. The money raised helps Development and Peace implement projects and programs for and in solidarity with the most vulnerable communities of our common home.

APRIL 2020

**April 12** – Easter.

MAY 2020

**May 24** – Fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si’*. Follow the campaign to learn about our activities to celebrate Pope Francis’s landmark encyclical.

JUNE 2020

The Development and Peace Orientation Assembly will bring together delegates, young people, National Council members, employees and volunteers from across Canada to reflect on and discuss the organization’s roadmap for the next five years.
For our Common Home
SHORT TALK FOR PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

Dear sisters and brothers,

I invite you to close your eyes and take a deep breath. (Pause)

Did you know that the Amazon rainforest produces 20% of the oxygen we breathe? It is called “the lungs of the planet.” This vast territory spans nine countries and is home to half of the Earth’s plants and animals, one-fifth of its freshwater and one-third of its forests. It is also home to more than 30 million children, women and men, of whom three million are Indigenous. Yet, the Amazon and its vital role for humanity are threatened by deforestation, industrial agriculture, mining and oil extraction, hydroelectric dams... The people who live there want to protect their lands, their waters, and their sustainable lifestyles against profiteers who come after their natural resources.

What can we do?

In 2015, Pope Francis alerted us to the importance of protecting our common home in his encyclical Laudato Si’, inviting us to greater responsibility and urgent action. At his request, a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region is being held this autumn at the Vatican. This is an opportunity for us to look at this biome, so rich in life, and to stand with the Amazon’s Indigenous and traditional peoples in their quest for a dignified life. This is why Development and Peace and Caritas Canada has chosen to name its campaign for the next two years For our Common Home. As we become increasingly concerned about environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change on our lives and those of future generations, we, Canadians, need to become involved and act in different ways.

This year, Development and Peace invites us to take two concrete actions. The first aims to:

Defend the defenders by signing a Solidarity Letter addressed to two communities threatened by the mining and logging industries in Brazil. You can also write your own letter and children can express their solidarity with a drawing. With these letters and drawings, Development and Peace will be able to act to ensure that the rights and dignity of these people are respected.

The second action is to:

Take the intergenerational pledge for our common home. All generations are invited to join this movement to safeguard our planet. Visit the Development and Peace website. Choose a personal commitment for taking better care of the Earth and, if you wish, send a selfie for the mosaic of committed citizens.

Don’t hesitate to consult the Action Sheet, the Campaign Guide and the Development and Peace website to learn more about the campaign.

Thank you for your solidarity with the Indigenous and traditional peoples of the Amazon and for protecting our common home.
A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten
of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Prayer by Pope Francis, from the encyclical, *Laudato Si’*. 