Toronto, Ontario,

October, 2017.

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,

Government of Canada,

Ottawa, Ontario,

K1A 0A6.

Re: Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you on behalf of **Religions for Peace Canada,** the Canadian branch of **Religions for Peace International.**  We gather together representatives of many faiths to work together for many issues related to peace, and we collaborate with other interfaith organizations and interfaith leaders with similar concerns and values.

Over the last few years, we have been following the efforts being made to bring the nations of the world to an agreement to ban nuclear weapons. This is an issue about which people of faith have very strong feelings as the existence of nuclear weapons in the world is seen as totally immoral and unacceptable. The very existence of nuclear weapons threatens gravely the life of all peoples and of the Earth. Their existence cannot continue.

This past summer, the many efforts to eliminate these weapons of mass destruction came to an historic moment at the United Nations. 122 nations gathered to agree on and endorse a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons. The organization**, ICAN**, was key in bringing about this decision, one of the most hopeful that the United Nations has seen in a very long time. Certainly, after any movement forward had been stalled for many years, the world breathed a sigh of gratitude and relief. The **Nobel Peace Prize Committee** saw the significance of this accomplishment, and has just awarded **ICAN** the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017. The danger of the deployment of nuclear weapons has been growing over the last year, and it is critical that the nations of the world take immediate action.

We are deeply dismayed that Canada, who has been a leader in nuclear abolition, was not present at the negotiations this past summer, and has not signed the Ban Treaty. There can be no valid reason for avoiding the responsibility to join in this movement of hope and protection for the world. For the sake of our children, and for our vulnerable Earth on which we depend for life, we call on you to reconsider your position and make a decision to sign and ratify the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons. This Treaty is completely consistent with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and its implementation would assure peace and security in the world far more than the existence of nuclear weapons.

As people of faith we strongly urge you to consider our grave concerns and hopes. We await a response from you. Thank you for your attention, and be assured of our prayers for peace, courage and wisdom.

Sincerely,

Sr. Mary-Ellen Francoeur

National Board, **Religions for Peace Canada.**