



Volume 2, November 3, 2023

# Kokanee Concerns

We are reminded in the Gospels and in the Baptismal Covenant that we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbour as ourselves. We are reminded also to strive for justice and peace, respecting the dignity of every human being, and strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, respecting, sustaining, and renewing the life of the earth. *Kokanee Concerns* is a weekly publication from the Anglican Parish of Kokanee that identifies items of concern in both the local community and the wider world, for which we can advocate, act upon, pray, and learn on a weekly basis. Consider the local community, the wider world, and your place in both as you reflect upon the topics each week. In particular this week, please consider these thoughts in relation to our responsibilities as peacemakers and as carers of creation and of the community around us.

Peace,  
*David*

## Concern in our Neighbourhood . . .

The BC News this morning article headline "*New housing legislation promises to create 130,000 homes in B.C. in 10 years: Single-family density increase coming across the province for communities over 5,000 people*" caught my attention.

[New housing legislation promises to create 130,000 homes in B.C. in 10 years - Today In BC](#)

What might this mean for the local communities of the West Kootenay?

Certainly, Nelson plays into the 'over 5,000' category. We are already seeing a surge in densification here; laneway housing, single lots subdivided, duplexes built, etc. How do we as community and we as homeowner/renter/unhoused view this intended expansion of

housing? Will it be beneficial? And to whom? Will it translate eventually into lower rental rates due to more availability? What about the resources needed for building? Infrastructure needs? Increased traffic and parking requirements? Housing needs? Will this help to alleviate the perceived housing shortage, and/or will this be a means for lining already well-padded pockets? How we look at this picture may be determined by how we already view our world and our place in it. Do we see life through a lens of abundance or a lens of scarcity? Do we place our comforts above the needs of others? And are those mutually exclusive? It seems that careful, thoughtful conversations at the local level are needed, but is that still possible or is the horse already out of the barn and the doors closed?

How can we view this in relationship with what we know about the gospel messages of where our treasure may be, of compassion, sharing, looking after those on the margins. How does our view of what the common good is play into decisions made? Who's 'good' is being addressed and whose is being overlooked?

Today's news article has many, many angles for thought and contemplation, and this legislation's success perhaps may depend on the intentions behind any or all the players taking part. May this latest strategy include concern for all of us, our sisters and brothers who have the least resources to manage life and the decisions made by others, and Mother Earth whose resources we use.

## Concern in the World . . .

Last week, in this space, we acknowledged that right now our world is hurting because people are hurting and hurting each other. The reports of the impact of the conflict in the Middle East seem to be going from bad to worse, and then to get even more violent than we can imagine. More lives lost, more pain, more destruction and death. We are hearing about the desperate need for water, food, shelter; the need for hope, and peace. The root cause of the fear and hatred that is boiling over so violently now, is complicated. Each group is sure their version of history is correct, and other understandings of history are misinterpretations and lies.

The Middle East is not the only place where nations are at war, but it is the one where the fighting is most intense at this time. It is difficult to take in the extent of suffering that results from wars.

What can we do? How can we help? The situations are so overwhelming that we may feel anger, despair, and powerlessness. How do we, as a Christian community, as servants of God, respond to these horrific events? Is there anything we can do?

**Yes!** We need to respond, with love. Pray for leaders to have compassionate hearts. Pray for safety for aid workers. Pray for a just peace. We may like to include a prayer from Bishop Deor K. Johnon

Cry out! Cry Out!  
O God, what shall we cry?  
Cry out for Justice, cry out for Love  
Cry out for Hope. Cry out for Mercy  
Cry out for Kindness, Cry out for compassion.  
Let everything that hath breath cry out!  
What shall we cry”  
Cry out for Peace! Amen.

The Anglican Church in Canada has been supporting a hospital in Gaza for many years. It is one of the many medical centers that are suffering from the bombing. We can continue to support the work they, and others are doing, through a special fund set up by PWRDF (Primate World Relief and Development Fund). You can find more details on the Primate World Relief and Development Fund website.

**How you can help** (Taken from the PWRDF web site)

To support the al-Ahli Arab Hospital during this time of crisis, please donate online to our [Gaza Hospital Emergency Appeal](#). You can also donate by phone at 416-822-9083 (or leave a message toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and we will return your call) or by mail. Send your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4Y 3G2. Please indicate “Gaza Hospital” in the memo field.

[Support the Gaza Emergency Appeal](#)