

MEDIA ADVISORY

Travelling by Train Helps United Church Leader Reduce Her Carbon Footprint

Toronto: Alberta will be the next stop for The United Church of Canada's Moderator, Mardi Tindal, as she continues a month-long journey inviting people to come together to talk about their concerns for the environment.

Tindal's journey was named the Spirit Express because she intentionally scheduled this leg of her regional visits so that her travel between the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta could be done exclusively by train. She chose this means of transportation as a way of reducing her carbon footprint during her three-year term when she knew she would be travelling extensively.

Tindal boards the train for Alberta in Saskatoon at 10:47 p.m. on Monday, November 1, 2010. She arrives in Edmonton at 6:37 a.m. on Tuesday morning. In addition to her time in Edmonton, Tindal will be visiting Calgary, High River, Viking, Fort Saskatchewan, and Athabasca. She will be hosting Spirit Express town hall meetings in the following locations:

Wednesday, November 3, 2010
High River United Church
123 Macleod Trail South
High River, AB T1V 1M6
www.highriverunitedchurch.org
Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 4, 2010
Trinity United Church
8810 Meadowlark Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5R 5W6
www.trinityunitededmonton.com
Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

Members of the media and the general public, including those of other faith traditions, are welcome to attend these town hall meetings.

Spirit Express.../2

Tindal's visit to Alberta will also include a gathering on Wednesday, November 3, at Red Deer Lake United Church for a conversation with Calgary-area church representatives to talk about their greening initiatives and to enjoy a noon-hour 100-mile lunch.

On Thursday, November 4, the Moderator will travel to Viking to attend a luncheon at the community hall that will feature local produce and a presentation on Viking's Green Community Project.

In Fort Saskatchewan, November 5–7, the Moderator will participate in a three-day symposium at First United Church. The focus of this event, called *After the Beginning: You, Me and Creation*, is on how community, industry, and church can be in conversation about respect for creation. Tindal will be a theme speaker on Friday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. and a guest preacher on Sunday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m.

During her visit to Athabasca on Monday, November 8, Tindal will spend time with members of the Keepers of the Athabasca, a group dedicated to uniting the peoples of the Athabasca River and Lake Watershed to secure and protect water and watershed lands for ecological, social, cultural, and community health and well-being. She will also tour Alberta-Pacific, which describes itself as "one of the most environmentally advanced (pulp) mills in the world." Tindal concludes this first leg of her Spirit Express journey later that evening, leaving by train from Edmonton at 11:45 p.m.

For more information about the Moderator's Spirit Express journey, please visit www.wondercafe.ca/spiritexpress.

NOTE TO PHOTO EDITORS: Photos to accompany this advisory are available at <http://photos.newswire.ca>. Images are free to accredited members of the media.

Additional photos are available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/31483287@N05/sets/72157624976055493/>

To arrange media interviews with Mardi Tindal, please contact:

Mary-Frances Denis

Program Coordinator, Media and Public Relations

The United Church of Canada

416-231-7680 ext. 2016 (office)

1-800-268-3781 ext. 2016 (toll-free)

416-400-7273 (cell)

mdenis@united-church.ca