

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, September 24th, 2009 ~ For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC ~ The Very Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie ~ Dean of Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Victoria, BC calls for a response from the Canadian Government on the denial of visas to eleven invited Anglican guests from Myanmar.

In the past 13 years, over forty Anglicans from Myanmar have visited the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia as part of a church to church and cultural exchange. Fifteen men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 were on their way to Victoria for this year's exchange. Eleven of them have been turned back at the Canadian embassy in Bangkok because they were denied visas twice by Canadian officials there. Requests for intervention and assistance from Immigration Canada in Ottawa were also denied. This comes despite assurances by officials at Immigration Canada that the movement of these delegates would be monitored from Yangon to Canada.

The Anglican Church has been forced to incur substantial expenses for these 11 men and women from Myanmar.

Exit visas were issued for all delegates by the Union of Myanmar.

I call on the Government of Canada to explain its actions, apologize to those affected and request compensation for costs incurred.

*The Very Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie
Dean of Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
250.383.2714 Office
250.882.1565 Cell*