



ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

Phone: 1-833-236-0280 / 905-659-3343

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0

Website: www.arwrcucc.ca Email: arwrc@united-church.ca

Chair of the Stamp Advisory Committee, Canada Post
2701 Riverside Drive, Suite N1070,
Ottawa K1A 0B1

Dear Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council of The United Church of Canada. The regional council covers south-western Ontario including Zorra Township and the village of Embro, the home of Rev. Dr. George Leslie Mackay.

I am pleased to write in support of the proposal from the Canadian Mackay Committee for a stamp in 2022 to commemorate Rev. Dr. George Leslie Mackay and 150 years of Canada's engagement in Asia.

Mackay is a national hero in Taiwan, and deservedly so, but almost unknown in Canada. This is unfortunate. His engagement *with* the people of Taiwan, and in particular, his advocacy for indigenous rights, language, culture and leadership continues to be an inspiration, and indeed a precursor to the United Church's commitment to right relations with Indigenous peoples, and mutuality and respect with global partner churches.

Mackay is important to Canada as the only (non-Chinese) Canadian to actively, and prophetically oppose the 1885 Poll Tax on Chinese immigration. He argued vigorously for an end to discrimination against the Chinese, calling it immoral and unconstitutional, and in 1895 pushed the Presbyterian Church in Canada (one of The United Church's founding churches) to take a public stand calling for an end to the Poll Tax

A play written about Rev. MacKay played to sold-out crowds at the local theatre in Embro. He is an admired and well-known figure particularly in Oxford County.

The relationship between Canada and Taiwan remains a lively one. The United Church was recently humbled to receive boxes of masks and PPE from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, donations that were sent on to urban outreach ministries in Canada. We live in an interconnected world, and when appropriate, it is important to honour these relationships.

A "Mackay 150" stamp in 2022 would be a fitting tribute to MacKay's historic legacy and to continuing connections.

Sincerely,

Joyce Payne
President, Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Cc: canadianmackay@gmail.com