***We Are More than Our Genes***

***A Workshop on Christian Faith and New Genetic Technologies***

***November 18, 2pm – 3.30 pm; CCC 70th Anniversary Assembly, Mississauga***

***Biotechnology Reference Group – The Canadian Council of Churches***

**Introduction**

This workshop is for people from all Christian traditions interested in exploring genetic technologies and how they intersect with faith perspectives on a day-to-day basis whether in health care, medical research, engineering future generations, or social justice, for example. This workshop is designed for people who have a curiosity about theology, ethics, and genetic technologies and want to be more aware of what is going on and watching how best to respond. We want to create space for thoughtful reflection and discernment.

**Working Agenda**

**2.00 Opening Reflection and Warm-Up on Genetic Technologies and Faith***Step 1 (Anne): A word of welcome from the Chair of the BRG, a prayer led by Stephen Allen

Step 2 (Peter): Think of one promise and one peril of new genetic technologies as you understand them. Then introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you or in small groups of three (if you haven’t already), and share what comes to mind for you as a promise and peril of new genetic technologies. Together, write them down on the post-it notes on your table, one per card. We’ll see and hear all!

Step 3 (Peter): Large group: Call out: what do you see that faith has to do with our perspective on the promises and perils that we’ve named?*

**2:30 Five Conversations: A Dialogue Café***This is a one hour table group session with five simultaneous conversations facilitated by five members of the BRG.

Step 1: As the participants return from the break, invite them to select a table conversation that they are most interested in from among the five topics below (five tables will be labelled with these five topics):*

* *Genetic Technologies, Faith and Human Dignity (Stephen Allen)*
* *Genetic Technologies, Information and Personal Identity (Emanuel Kolyvas)*
* *Genetic Technologies and Research on Human and Non-Human Subjects (Nik Caric)*
* *Genetic Technologies and the Engineering of Future Generations (George Tattrie)*
* *Genetic Technologies and Social Justice (Rebecca Ivanoff)*

*Step 2: In small groups, lead a leisurely one hour session on each topic, as designed by each facilitator. It could be as simple as a reading from the resource together followed by discussion, or a more structured set of learning activities. One useful sequence to consider might be to think of four steps: 1) Anchor the topic in the life of the learner, 2) add new content, 3) apply the new content through a series of questions or a structured learning activity, then 4) a moment to name some take aways from the session.*

**3.15 A Ripple***(Rebecca & Peter): What feedback do you have for us on today’s workshop? What worked well for you today, and what could be improved to make the workshop more relevant, meaningful and engaging?*

**3.30 Adjourn***BRG members will now meet with representatives from Environment Canada on a Federal policy regarding Access and Benefit Sharing for genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources*