

2012-15 Program Plan – 4th Draft (November 2012)

Commission on Justice and Peace

The Canadian Council of Churches

Introduction

At its May 14-16 meeting in Ottawa, the Commission on Justice and Peace noted the accomplishments and challenges of the 2010-12 Program Plan, examined the current context of The Canadian Council of Churches, member churches, the global ecumenical context, and the Canadian political context. As a result of this assessment of the past few years and evaluating the current situation, the Commission proposes the following program plan framework for the 2012-15 period, even the period leading up to 2017 when Canada marks 150 years of its existence.

A New Programming Framework

This program framework includes a banner where all its activities aspire and find a home: an imaginative, inspiring and inquiring phrase that invites a new perspective. It may also be tied to a theme of Canada@150 or a Vision 2017. The banner gives shape to a series of event-based opportunities that reoccur and can be predicted in the coming years. The banner and events will demonstrate a newly focused way of working together, which has been the main shift in thinking during this meeting: less issue-based work, more focus on the role of the Commission and how it works. Finally, the banner, event-based opportunities and ways of working bring along in its train a series of issues and topics that the Commission will rank in order of priority and capacity.

The Banner

The purpose of the banner is to increase the effectiveness of communications and amplify social justice work, clarifying what we do. This is an imaginative, inspiring and inquiring (Gospel) phrase that invites a new perspective on Canada. Ideally it would be tied to a Vision 2017 or Canada@150 theme. One possibility might be “A Just and Caring Canada”. We want to “catch the wind”, create an infectious, viral meme with this banner or theme.

Event-based Opportunities

There are a series of events and opportunities on the horizon that we want all our work to participate in:

- *2013 Conference on Religion and Public Discourse*
This is an event that is quickly taking shape under the leadership of Mike Hogeterp (CRCNA), Geoff Cameron (Bahà’i) and Wesley Macleod (Manning Centre) and a growing Steering Committee made up in many cases of members of the Canadian interfaith conversation who have strongly endorsed the proposal. The role of the CJP is to help give shape and participate in this event according to its ways of working and cultivating a stronger sense of a positive role for faith in public discourse under the banner theme.
- *2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, “Is Christ Divided?”*
Canada is the host country for the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is held in January of every year. We want the collaborating work of the Commission to help shape this week and use

the theme to engage the public narrative on the urgent themes of the day and integrate the issues of related groups throughout the year. The theme invites reflection on a divided Canada: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, Francophone and Anglophone, Multicultural, Wealthy and Indebted. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity would also demonstrate movement toward the banner theme.

- *2014 CCC Assembly "Is Christ Divided?" (?)*

While a decision has not yet been made regarding a CCC Assembly or its theme, the Commission could seize the moment as an organizing time when all of its related groups and membership gather to reflect on design, and elaborate the vision for 2017 and Canada@150 under the Banner theme.

- *2015 Canadian Federal Election*

The next Federal Election is scheduled for the Fall of 2015. For many Canadians, this will be an opportunity to reflect on the kind of Canada Canadian want. The CJP's banner theme and integrative framework can again organize member church efforts in this area as well as the many issue-based groups that relate to the Commission.

- *2017 Canada marks 150 years of existence*

This is and will become a major focus for many groups and provides an important opportunity for Canadian churches to put forward a compelling vision of what the Gospel announces. The banner theme, prior events, ways of working and issues all contribute to this effort.

Ways of Working

The work of the Commission on Justice and Peace will demonstrate these characteristics:

- Collaborative and cooperative approaches across CCC and ecumenical agency groups and boundaries.

By design, the Commission will amplify, extend, and collaborate with other related groups who possess their own capacity to cooperate, research, educate and advocate on their issue.

- Shift from public and government engagement to community and constituency engagement.

Rather than a perceived focus on church leaders' letters to public officials, we want to shift the focus toward pastoral and educational engagement with congregations, communities and constituencies.

- Building or contributing to building capacity of related groups.

Some groups related to the Council are much larger than the Council, others are small. By design, the Commission will seek to nurture and grow the capacity of these groups to carry out their work faithfully and successfully connect to member churches for implementation.

- Interfaith by design when possible and appropriate.

Interfaith collaboration is no longer difficult to imagine or unstructured. When appropriate, the Commission will seek to collaborate with other faith communities to advance its work.

- Anti-Racist and intentionally diverse.

To further live into the reality of the church in Canada today and to more fully include or join Christians from other cultural communities who have not historically participated in Council work, we will invite, learn from and be changed by more diverse leadership.

- Indigenous leadership by design whenever possible.

As an ongoing commitment following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in the spirit of right relations, we will invite, learn from and be changed by indigenous/aboriginal leadership.

- A fortified communications and social media presence to promote the work of the Commission/Council and its related groups.
We will plan and invest in new capacity and resources to strengthen the profile of the work of the Commission, including moving toward a smart phone friendly website. We will want communications goals, key performance indicators and metrics to measure those achievements so that we can confidently communicate the impact we want to have and are having.
- Responsive advocacy.
When issues and opportunities to share the Gospel vision arise, we will continue to respond and take action when capacity and priorities allow.
- Function under an integrative framework of “Just Peace”.
Just Peace is a theme describing a World Council of Churches integrative framework that has been developed in some detail. We want to bring the strength of that framework to all the work the Commission supports and does.

Issues/Topics

Because collaboration and cooperation is how we want to work we will amplify, extend and connect the work of related operating agencies, reference groups, networks, working groups and affiliates (as well as sister ecumenical agencies). The principle here is that these are all groups who function in a way related to the Council and receive staff support in convening, hosting and communicating their work. The below list has been ranked top to bottom using a set of 5 criteria. It will also be important to name more specifically the CJP member roles on each of these issues, and the point person for each issue.

1. Climate Justice: Canadian interfaith conversation, Citizens for Public Justice, KAIROS
2. Poverty in Canada: Citizens for Public Justice
3. Indigenous rights: KAIROS
4. Religion and public discourse: Canadian interfaith conversation and the Event Steering Committee
5. Peace and disarmament: Project Ploughshares
6. Intercultural ministry leadership development: Canadian Churches’ Forum for Global Ministries
7. Human trafficking: Human Trafficking in Canada working group
8. Undoing racism in Canadian churches: Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network
9. Human rights, religious minorities, and religious freedom, Office of Religious Freedom: Convene a consultation?
10. Faith and genetics and other related issues: Biotechnology Reference Group
11. Faith, Sustainable Economy, and Eco-Justice: North America ecumenical network

Topic One/Two-Pagers with Details

The following one/two-page descriptions have been prepared that provides further details on the topic, the Commission members who connect with the topic, the partner or lead agency/organization, the key objectives, opportunities, communications or engagement strategies, the relevant record of previous work, the main policy positions, and any specific finance and budget considerations.

Climate Justice

The Topic

There have been several titles for this topic in the past number of years ranging from climate change to sustainable economy, global warming, and climate debt. Currently KAIROS is exploring “flip the switch” language which indicates a move from a fossil-fuel based economy of growth to a renewable energy economy of care. Commission events have used language of a three-fold moral crisis: climate, poverty, and the economy.

Commission members who connect

Partner or lead agency/organization

This is a collaborative venture with a lead working group including at least the Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace, the Canadian interfaith conversation, Citizens for Public Justice and KAIROS.

- Canadian interfaith conversation: played a formative role in the 2010 World Religions Summit that included a Care for the Earth component, helped organize the 2011 Interfaith Forum on Faith and Climate, and led the development of the *Canadian Interfaith Call for Action and Leadership on Climate Change* which was endorsed by over 50 faith communities and faith-based organizations. The Canadian Council of Churches members did not reach consensus and so the CCC could not endorse the Call.
- Citizens for Public Justice: participated actively in the 2011 Interfaith Forum on Faith and Climate, and endorsed the *Canadian Interfaith Call for Action and Leadership on Climate Change*
- KAIROS: a major focus of KAIROS programming is the Sustainability Circle. KAIROS has been active on the topic of climate and sustainability in a myriad of ways, perhaps most memorably through the organization of the church leaders’ delegation to the tar sands and their statement on Canada’s participation in the Durban climate change conference in the Fall of 2011. KAIROS endorsed the *Canadian Interfaith Call for Action and Leadership on Climate Change*.

Key objectives and opportunities

- **Qatar COP 18 (Nov 26 – Dec 7):** The Canadian Council of Churches, through the availability of a restricted fund available through MESA (the Movement for Economic Solidarity in the Americas, now suspended) has indicated a willingness to fund the participation of a MESA partner from Central America in the Qatar COP 18, namely Rev. Marta Benavides. Rev. Benavides is a Baptist pastor who is known for her work for peace, human rights and ecological justice. She has been involved with recent COPs (16 and 17), and indicates that she made presentations in both. She was also part of Rio+20 where she made presentations on gender and climate. Marta says that her work has always focused on the “culture of peace.” She was among Archbishop Oscar Romero’s group of ecumenical advisors. She was a co-founder of the Inter-Religious Task Force for El Salvador and Central America in the 1980s. This creates the opportunity of an early November letter from endorsers of the Call to Action to the government delegate, the minister, and the All Party Caucus including the 3 points from the World Religions Summit and the Interfaith Call, concern about pulling out of Kyoto. Follow-up on the meetings Willard Metzger and Mardi Tindall had with Minister Kent in December 2011 and Senior Policy Advisor Kogelmass in May 2012 would also be appropriate at this time.
- Citizens for Public Justice is preparing a new print and on-line resource on “Living Ecological Justice” with a scheduled release of Summer 2013.
- KAIROS is preparing a discussion paper on the pipeline that can be circulated to CJP members. KAIROS is also organizing workshops mostly in the West beginning in 2013 that are aimed at communities and attracting youth. We might also consider including a workshop in a future Governing Board meeting of the CCC.

So what: desired impact

- Maintain the fire
- Unity, active engagement, community organizing, youth engagement
- Ministry recognition of faith communities concerned about climate

Communications or engagement strategies

- Revise the CCC website so that the climate work we've done is collected and accessible.
- Publicize the visit of Rev. Benavides (Social Media) and perhaps invite her to Canada to share her experiences (a report, more substance).
- Letter to the Minister in November (traditional media: website and social media)
- Facilitate private correspondence with Minister Kent and Senior Policy Advisor Kogelmass as follow-up from May visit
- Circulate and promote "Living Ecological Justice"
- Circulate KAIROS pipeline discussion paper (email)
- Promote community workshops (social media, email circulars)

Relevant record of previous work

- Canadian Interfaith Call for Action and Leadership on Climate Change (November 2011):
<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/communications/canadianinterfaithcallforleadershipandaction-finalextended-eng.pdf>
- North America Consultation on Poverty, Wealth, Ecology (November 2011):
<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/communications/theresanewworldinthemaking-final-eng.pdf>
- Interfaith Forum on Faith and Climate (October 2011):
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/communications/report_interfaithforumonfaithandclimate_oct24.pdf
- A Time for Inspired Leadership and Action (2010 World Religions Summit):
<http://www.faiethchallenge8.com/pdfs/2010%20Interfaith%20Statement%20-%20English.pdf>

Main policy positions

Technically none, though the 3 policy points of 1) a binding international agreement that keeps temperatures below a 2 degree increase from pre-industrial levels, 2) national carbon emissions targets and a renewable energy policy, and 3) committing public funds to mitigate climate change effects (in poor countries) are widely referenced.

Finance and budget considerations

- MESA Restricted Fund - ~\$4,000 - will be drawn down by Rev. Benavides travel expenses.

Poverty in Canada

The Topic

Poverty in Canada: hunger, homelessness, social determinants of health, living wage, basic services for remote and indigenous communities

Commission members who connect

A conference call organized by CPJ for CJP members (!) on this topic may be a good next step: Commission members discuss score card, summit plans, child rights developments, and invite greater participation.

Partner or lead agency/organization

This is a collaborative venture with a working group including at least the Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace, the Canadian interfaith conversation, and Citizens for Public Justice. Citizens for Public Justice is the lead organization.

- Canadian interfaith conversation: led the organization of the 2011 Interfaith Forum on Faith and Poverty, the related visits between leaders of faith communities and leaders of political parties, and the Interfaith Declaration on Poverty in Canada.
- Citizens for Public Justice: plays a leading role in the Dignity for All campaign, co-organized the 2011 Interfaith Forum on Faith and Poverty, and published Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty.

Key objectives and opportunities

- Develop and circulate annual October 17 Eradication of Poverty Day education and worship materials including prayer and bulletin inserts.
- Encourage all CCC member churches to endorse the Dignity for All campaign (compare endorsers with CCC member church list).
- Co-organize three important policy summits, the first one on food security in the Spring 2012.
- Monitor MPs private bill member's bill coming in
- Monitor UN Periodic review process and the indigenous people's connection
- Promote lent readings related to the Living Justice publication
- Continue to advocate for a Federal Anti-Poverty Strategy

So what: desired impact

- The Canadian government adopts a Federal Anti-Poverty Strategy
- People of faith are resourced and connected to others working on the issue of poverty
- There is a broad and deeper Evangelical Ecumenical Interfaith policy platform all agree on, support advocate

Communications or engagement strategies

Annual October 17 materials are featured, promoted and circulated widely both through CCC networks, Cic networks, member church networks, and beyond (email, website and social media)

Dignity for All endorsement invitations are targeted and promoted (personal connections)

Policy summits are advertised and promoted (email and social media)

Relevant record of previous work

- Interfaith Declaration on Poverty in Canada: <http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/news-view.cfm?newsID=139>
- Dignity for All endorsement (Nov. 2009): The Canadian Council of Churches, together with its partners in the Dignity for All campaign, wants 1) A federal plan for poverty elimination that compliments provincial and territorial plans, 2) federal anti-poverty Act that ensures enduring federal commitment and accountability, and 3) Sufficient federal investment in social security for all Canadians
- The Federal Contribution to Reducing Poverty in Canada: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/Brief_FederalContributionEndingPoverty.pdf
- Letter to Prime Minister Harper on Ending Poverty in Canada (Nov 2007): http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/PovertyLetterHarper.pdf

- Vision to Action - A Faith-Based Movement for a Canada without Poverty:
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/VisionToAction.pdf

Main policy positions

We call on all parties and all candidates for public office to make poverty reduction a priority, and all people of faith and good will to raise the issue of poverty with politicians and candidates for office.

We call on the federal government to give leadership and develop a federal poverty reduction plan that coordinates federal initiatives with existing and emerging provincial and territorial plans; to enact legislation to ensure federal commitment and accountability to poverty reduction goals; to develop a national housing strategy; and for all levels of government to ensure sufficient investment in social security for all Canadians.

As faith communities we commit to launching a national conversation about poverty, to deepen our commitments and multiply our activities that alleviate poverty, and to collaborate with others of good will to address the immediate needs of our neighbours.

And we call on all Canadians to consider how each of us, individually, as families, as communities and as a nation manifest in our lives together a common affirmation that all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; to be part of a community; to experience the reality of home; and to know what it means to have enough and be assured of the basic necessities of life.

Finance and budget considerations

None

DRAFT

Indigenous rights (This topic needs consultation and work! Some CJP members suggest this is already well in hand with KAIROS and the TRC Ecumenical Working Group)

The Topic

Playing our part in the truth and reconciliation commission on Indian residential schools.

Commission members who connect

Commission Chair

Partner or lead agency/organization

KAIROS
Ecumenical Working Group on Residential Schools

Key objectives and opportunities

Facilitating and encouraging involvement of CCC staff, Executive, and member churches in Truth and Reconciliation Commission processes.

So what: desired impact

Strengthen church ownership and Canadian awareness of the impact of residential schools and how it affects the future of full participation of indigenous peoples in Canada.

Communications or engagement strategies

Work with Laurie Ransom of the TRC to identify how the CCC might best further engage in the process through to its completion.

Social media and website notices of TRC events and CCC member church participation.

Relevant record of previous work

- *Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools* panel, Governing Board, May 2012
- *What Role for Faith in the Public Square?* The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians (May 2010)
- *The First Nations, The Churches, and Canada: How Can We Walk Together Toward Justice?* (Nov 2000)
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/First-Nations.pdf
- *Aboriginal Land Rights - A Jubilee Challenge Facing Canada* (Sept 2000):
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/Aboriginal-Land-Rights.pdf

Main policy positions

None at the moment.

Finance and budget considerations

None, possibly travel expenses to TRC events.

Religion and Public Discourse (DRAFT)

The Topic

The purpose of this conference is to explore the role of religion in Canada's public discourse, in terms of both thought and action. Our public discourse, by definition, is an ongoing exchange of ideas about the common good and the institutions and groups that support its advancement. Through our discourse we consider the nature of our shared commitments and give definition to the social framework within which we act. In a diverse society, the role of religion in public discourse can be viewed as a key dimension of a robust pluralism – considered separately from the matter of Church-State relations.

Perspectives that draw from religion have the potential to enrich this discourse through the application of spiritual concepts and principles to issues of social concern. Faith communities also offer perspectives informed by their experience of building unity and common ground out of the diverse fabric of Canadian society. This conference will provide a forum to consider how religious voices contribute to our national conversation, as they learn from the perspectives and approaches of its many other participants.

Commission members who connect

Members of the Commission who are currently involved on the Event Steering Committee include Mike Hogeterp, Bill Blaikie, Joe Gunn and Karen Hamilton. Mike Hogeterp is one of the creators of the initiative along with Geoff Cameron (Bahá'í Community) and Wesley McLeod (Manning Centre).

Partner or lead agency/organization

- Event Steering Committee: a robust group with solid credentials, complete with program and fundraising sub-committees is taking the lead on organizing the event.
- The Canadian Council of Churches is now being asked to take on an account holder or organizational home role. The initiative is planned and led by the Event Steering Committee.
- Canadian interfaith conversation: has indicated an interest in supporting and sponsoring the event, definitely promoting the event through its interfaith networks.

Key objectives and opportunities

See the Concept Paper for more details. The event will be organized around three primary themes:

- 1) Ideas and Approaches: What does religion bring to our public discourse?
- 2) Relationships: Building a national inter-faith presence;
- 3) Capacity development: Skills to navigate the faith-politics interface.

So what: desired impact

This needs to be distilled from the Concept Paper, but a stronger civic presence for faith communities in a (cantankerous and divided) public square.

Communications or engagement strategies

- Event promotion
- Social media action before, during and after the event.

Relevant record of previous work

The Canadian Council of Churches has organized annual events on "Faith and the Public Square". For details see the tab on the website: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/faith-public-square.cfm

Main policy positions

None.

Finance and budget considerations

A \$1,000 contribution from the CJP Fund in 2013 to be a sponsor of the event.

Peace and Disarmament (DRAFT)

The Topic

The range of program activities that Project Ploughshares takes on and that has an historical connection to the work of The Canadian Council of Churches including Conventional Weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Nuclear Weapons, Foreign, International and Defence Policy Reviews.

Commission members who connect

Project Ploughshares is an operating agency of The Canadian Council of Churches. In terms of program development, cooperation and collaboration Project Ploughshares connects to the CCC through the Commission on Justice and Peace so all CJP members connect.

Partner or lead agency/organization

Project Ploughshares

Key objectives and opportunities

Strengthen Canadian people and government support for the global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
Maintain Canadian government opposition to nuclear weapons internationally
Contribute to the development of an updated international and defence policy that brings human security perspectives into the debate

So what: desired impact

Maintained and strengthened support for peacebuilding and disarmament initiatives in Canada that contribute to the Government of Canada adopting policies that contribute to a safer, more peaceful world.

Communications or engagement strategies

Project Ploughshares has its own communication and engagement strategies. The CCC CJP can amplify and extend Ploughshare's own efforts.

Relevant record of previous work

- Project Ploughshares: <http://www.ploughshares.ca/>
- Arms Trade Treaty to Prime Minister Harper (June 2012)
(<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/communications/letterfromcontrolarmstopm-14june2012-eng.pdf>)
- Arms Trade Treaty - Interfaith Declaration in Support of an Arms Trade Treaty (Sept 2011):
<http://www.controlarms.org/interfaith-information>
- Nuclear Weapons – A World Without Nuclear Weapons (June 2010)
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/peace-disarmament/Church_Leaders_Letter_on_Nuclear_Disarmament.pdf
- Nuclear Weapons – NATO Correspondence (2010-11): http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/peace-disarmament-nuclear-disarmament.cfm
- Cluster Munitions (Dec 2008): http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/peace-disarmament-cluster-munitions.cfm
- Ballistic Missile Defence (2004): http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/peace-disarmament-ballistic_missile_defence.cfm
- Foreign Policy Brief (April 2003)
- CCC Website Tab: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/peace-disarmament.cfm

Main policy positions

See Project Ploughshares (www.ploughshares.ca)

Finance and budget considerations

None

Intercultural Ministry Leadership Development (DRAFT 2)

The Topic

Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM)

Commission members who connect

Jonathan Schmidt, Co-Director of the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries is the main connector. Peter Noteboom is also the Board representative to the Churches' Forum from The Canadian Council of Churches. Canadian Ecumenical Anti Racism Network is a key resource, as is work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Ecumenical Working Group on the TRC.

Partner or lead agency/organization

Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries is building capacity: A team of facilitators has been trained (with plans to expand this team). Learning programs will be offered in 2013.

Key objectives and opportunities

At the Commission on Justice and Peace table and also in the wider church raise consciousness and shape ways of doing work so that can intentionally respond to the questions:

- Who is not at the table and why?
- How to welcome them to the table?
- How to allow their presence to shape who we are and how we work?

So what: desired impact

- A more diverse CJP and wider church shaped by that diversity.
- Be able to live out the CJP "ways of working" commitments:
 - Indigenous leadership by design whenever possible
 - Interfaith by design when possible and appropriate
 - Anti-Racist and intentionally diverse
 - Collaborative and cooperative approaches across boundaries
- An intentional DUIM process at CJP to be more diverse and shaped by that diversity in its work.
- Wider church communities are encouraged to engage in similar intentional processes.
- CJP and wider church circles changed by the learnings of the TRC, Anti-racism work, engagement with cultures globally, and the increasing diversity of Canadian society and church.

Communications or engagement strategies

Invitations to participate in the program and promote the program (Email and Social Media)
CJP engage in intentional learning and process around being intercultural and diverse.

Relevant record of previous work

Some of the content of this program arises from previous work in the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network, especially the most recent resource, *Cracking open White privilege towards transformation*.

Main policy positions

Has the potential to shape how policy is engaged, as well as with and by whom.

Finance and budget considerations

Some costs to engage facilitators of the process for CJP.

Human Trafficking in Canada (Not Yet Reviewed DRAFT)

The Topic

This topic was identified to facilitate learning, theological reflection and common action on the topic of human trafficking in Canada. We want all churches in Canada to be more aware of human trafficking in Canada, advocate together when appropriate, share and develop educational materials, and provide a forum for theological reflection on the topic.

Commission members who connect

Colin Grimmond drafted the first Program Plan for the Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group. Grant Effer has been an active member on the group as is former CJP member Jean Bellefeuille.

Partner or lead agency/organization

The Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace has been the lead supporting organization. The group has been helped immensely by members from across the country, including representatives from The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Key objectives and opportunities

The main areas of focus have been theological reflection, education and information sharing, and advocacy. After a series of Forums on the topic (Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa), the group has been working to complete a resource for church use on the topic.

So what: desired impact

- Create greater awareness of human trafficking in Canada across member church offices
- Equip church members to reflect theologically, learn about the topic, and take action together
- Contribute to the public policy debate

Communications or engagement strategies

Promotion of the completed resource (web, email, social media)

Relevant record of previous work

See the main Human Trafficking page with relevant submenus: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/human-trafficking.cfm

Main policy positions

None yet, though in the 3P (prevention, protection, prosecution), now 4P (prevention, protection, prosecution, partner) approach we have been known to emphasize prevention and protection of victims of human trafficking.

Finance and budget considerations

In 2012 the CCC received a \$5,000 grant for further work in this area.

Undoing Racism in Canadian Churches (Not Yet Reviewed DRAFT)

The Topic

The mandate of CEARN is to accompany churches and church organizations in Canada who are working toward racial justice, racial reconciliation, and peace, to transform themselves and their communities.

Commission members who connect

Colin Grimmond has been a participant in CEARN meetings.

Partner or lead agency/organization

The Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace has been the lead supporting organization. Over the years the group has been helped immensely by participation from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, KAIROS, the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministry and a range of connected individuals whose passion for the topic runs deep. CEARN has felt disconnected from CJP and the CCC in recent years.

Key objectives and opportunities

CEARN's goals are:

1. To build and strengthen a national ecumenical network of anti-racism educators and activists.
2. To mutually support and hold one another accountable as we learn more about racism in the churches and church organizations in Canada, and become transformed churches.
3. To develop and share resources being used and being developed.

So what: desired impact

- To provide a safe location where anti-racist educators working in churches can receive support.
- To thereby contribute to undoing racism in Canadian churches.
- To resource learning opportunities on privilege and discrimination through the production of resources.

Communications or engagement strategies

Promotion of published resources (website, email, social media)

Relevant record of previous work

- Lots: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/undoing-racism-history-activities.cfm
- Theological Starting Points for Action: [http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/Theological%20Starting%20Points%20for%20Undoing%20Racism%20in%20Canadian%20Churches%20\(September%202006\).pdf](http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/social_justice/Theological%20Starting%20Points%20for%20Undoing%20Racism%20in%20Canadian%20Churches%20(September%202006).pdf)
- Cracking open White privilege towards transformation: (2012, not yet posted)
Mamoh Be Moh Tay Ta – Let Us Walk Together – Marchons Ensemble (2009)
From Chains To Freedom: Journeying Towards Reconciliation (2007)
For God So Loved the People of the World (2006)
http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Social_Justice/racial-justice.cfm:

Main policy positions

Finance and budget considerations

None.

Books are published on a cost recovery basis.

Human Rights, Religious Minorities, and Religious Freedom, Office of Religious Freedom

The Topic

Too broad to specify! For the moment though, let's make this topic "Religious Freedom". Of course this leaves out the important work completed on Canada's Role in Afghanistan, for example, or any number of other important initiatives in the area of human rights.

Commission members who connect

Several Commission members have connected on this topic and participated in a Study Day held in Ottawa in October 2012.

Partner or lead agency/organization

Project Ploughshares has organized a Study Day in Ottawa on the topic. The Canadian interfaith conversation has expressed interest in holding a ½ day panel on the topic. John Lewis from KAIROS Dignity and Rights participated in the Ottawa Study Day.

Key objectives and opportunities

Function as an information clearinghouse and connector for interested people.
Facilitate the development of principles that describe what we mean by religious freedom.
Document the history of churches' work on the topic of religious freedom.

So what: desired impact

Canadian churches and church staff aware of their history and fully engaged in dialogue with the Office of Religious Freedom.

Communications or engagement strategies

None yet, besides as email list that serves as an information clearinghouse.

Relevant record of previous work

Report of Study Day on Religious Freedom (October 2012)

Egypt: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/communications/egyptletter_october2011_eng.pdf

Roundtable on Religious Freedom Report (1999)

Main policy positions

None yet.

Finance and budget considerations

None.

Faith, Genetics and Other Related Biotechnology Issues (Not Yet Reviewed DRAFT)

The Topic

Broadly speaking faith and science issues, more specifically biotechnologies, and yet more specifically human genetics.

Commission members who connect

Stephen Allen is our esteemed long-time connection to the Biotechnology Reference Group. He regularly carries the reporting and accountability torch both ways, from CJP to BRG and from BRG to CJP.

Partner or lead agency/organization

The Canadian Council of Churches Biotechnology Reference Group has been the lead supporting organization. Since December 1999 the BRG has been the “go to” location for theological reflection, information sharing, and education issues related to biotechnology.

Key objectives and opportunities (BRG)

Cooperation: keeping watch on developments in nanotechnology, stem cell research, synthetic biology, military applications of biotechnology, genetic science, and patenting life forms

Theological Reflection: We want to move from the Beginning Biotech Guidelines to a broader, deeper reflection on the place of technology alongside an economic growth-driven society (in collaboration with Justice and Peace). We also want to explore in more detail a covenant model of doing ethics that has personhood as a central concept (in collaboration with Faith and Witness).

Education: Faith and Genetics Curriculum - Curriculum development, facilitator training, program pilot, program implementation across Canada

Advocacy: Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology

So what: desired impact

A clearinghouse for the gathering and exchange of information on biotechnology for member churches

Communications or engagement strategies

The rollout of the Faith and Genetics curriculum needs a defined communications strategy in itself that publishes the learning resource, promotes and distributes the resource, encourages churches to pick it up and use it, connects with interested congregations, and supports local facilitators. The BRG is considering hiring a communications support person on a very part-time basis to facilitate these efforts.

Relevant record of previous work

- A lot, see the Biotechnology tab: <http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Biotechnology/biotechnology.cfm>
- Principles of Oversight of Synthetic Biology: http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/ae/9/2287/1/Principles_for_the_oversight_of_synthetic_biology.pdf

Main policy positions

- Beginning Biotechnology Guidelines: http://www.councilofchurches.ca/documents/biotechnology/biotech_guidelines_nov05.pdf
- Principles of Oversight of Synthetic Biology
- GMO Labelling – Solicitor General Petition
- Supreme Court intervention on the ownership of life (2001)

Finance and budget considerations

Faith, Sustainable Economy, and Eco-Justice (More detail needed)

The Topic

In 2013 this network is planning an important consultation on food justice and food sovereignty and is facilitating participation in the 2013 Oikotree Forum in Johannesburg

Commission members who connect

Joy Kennedy

Partner or lead agency/organization

Oikotree: North America Covenanting for Justice ecumenical network

Key objectives and opportunities

Still to be developed!

So what: desired impact

Still to be developed!

Communications or engagement strategies

Still to be developed!

Relevant record of previous work

Still to be developed!

Main policy positions

Still to be developed!

Finance and budget considerations

None.



Appendix: Commission on Justice and Peace (The Canadian Council of Churches By-Laws [Nov 2000])

1) **PURPOSE**

To provide a forum for:

- a) sharing information and concerns among those involved in ecumenical work on peace and social justice in Canada and the world;
- b) reflecting biblically and theologically on peace and social justice, and
- c) facilitating the cooperation of the churches in peace and justice concerns.

2) **MEMBERSHIP**

- a) The Commission shall be composed of:
 - (1) up to three representatives from each member church of the Council;
 - (2) at least three youths (up to thirty years of age);
 - (3) on invitation by the Commission, one representative each from other Christian churches involved in ecumenical coalition or committee work on matters relating to justice and peace;
 - (4) a Vice-President of the Council; and
 - (5) designated Council staff.
- b) The Commission shall elect its own Chairperson, for a three-year term, renewable once.
- c) A past Chairperson may assume duties as directed by either the Chairperson or the Commission.
- d) In the final year of the Chairperson's term of office, the Commission shall elect its next Chairperson who shall serve as Vice-Chairperson for the remainder of the term and who will assume duties as directed by either the Chairperson or the Committee.

3) **MEETINGS**

The Commission shall meet at least once a year, frequency and times to be determined by the Commission.

4) **TASKS**

The Commission on Justice and Peace shall:

- a) call together churches, coalitions and other interested organizations and individuals for the purpose of sharing information on current activities, identifying emerging issues and making recommendations to the Commission for action to the Council and its member churches;
- b) convene, as appropriate, fora and ad hoc working groups of interested parties with expertise or shared interests;
- c) assist the collaboration of the churches with the World Council of Churches and other national and international bodies involved in promoting peace and social justice;
- d) engage as requested in the coordination of statements on peace and social justice in accordance with the by-laws on Council statements;
- e) receive regular reports from working Committees of the Council concerned with peace and social justice;
- f) report regularly to the Governing Board of the Council and submit annually a Commission budget to the Finance Committee;

- g) collaborate with other Commissions and agencies of the Council, and the Coalitions Priorities and Administration Committee, in areas of mutual concern;
- h) respond as required to requests of the Governing Board and other Commissions of the Council,
- i) advise and support the staff of the Council assigned to the Commission,
- j) oversee the representation of the Council at the United Nations, and
- k) facilitate the exchange of ecumenical news and information.

5) *STEERING COMMITTEE*

- a) There shall be a Steering Committee comprising the Chairperson and up to five members elected by the Commission.
- b) The Steering Committee shall be responsible for:
 - (1) planning agendas and follow-up for Commission meetings;
 - (2) assisting the Commission in the referral of issues to the appropriate groups for action/response, and
 - (3) acting on behalf of the Commission between meetings.
- c) The Steering Committee shall report on its activities at the next full Commission meeting.

6) *COALITIONS*

The Commission on Justice and Peace recognizes the special ecumenical tools of member churches which are called Coalitions. A Memorandum of Understanding amplifying the role of Coalition boards will be developed to serve as terms of reference for the Coalition boards, and specify working relationships.