

Highlights and Decisions
The Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting
May 14-16, 2014 – St. Paul's University, Ottawa, ON

"Faith and Public Life"

The [Canadian Council of Churches](#) is the broadest ecumenical body in Canada. The Governing Board brings together representatives from Anglican; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; Historic Protestant; and Eastern and Roman Catholic member churches to review and coordinate the work of its Committees and Commissions, appoint officers, obtain funds for its work, and determine external relations to other religious and secular organizations and movements. The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.

***Next Meeting of the Governing Board** is scheduled for **November 19-21, 2014**, as part of the Canadian Council of Churches Assembly and 70th Anniversary beginning on November 17-21, 2014, at Queen of the Apostles, Mississauga, ON.

At this semi-annual meeting of the Governing Board we:

1. **Visited the Prime Minister's Office**, where members of the Executive and two other Governing Board members met with senior staff.
2. **Visited** nine other Parliamentarians and policy officers, including the leaders of all Opposition parties, for a total of ten delegations to Parliament Hill (see list below). The main discussion topics for all delegations were: human trafficking, climate change, religious freedom, and the Arms Trade Treaty.
3. **Approved** an affiliate member application from [Oikocredit Canada](#) (www.oikocredit.ca).
4. **Approved** the Audited Financial Statements for 2013, and **Appointed** the Auditors for 2014 fiscal year..
5. **Received** the Draft document "**Framing Principles for Witness and Action on Climate Justice, Energy and the Economy**" from the Commission on Justice and Peace, with the request to member denominations on how they would disseminate and use such a document.
6. **Held an expert panel presentation on climate justice**. The panel was moderated by Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle, V.P. CCC; expert presentations by Dr. John M. R. Stone, IPCC Nobel Laureate, and Clare Demerse, Clean Energy Canada; and three short panel remarks from Kathy Vandergrift, Commission on Justice and Peace; Jacob Liao, student intern, CCC; and Joy Kennedy, Faith and Public Life Coordinator.
7. **Worshipped, prayed and sang** in United Church, Baptist and Roman Catholic traditions.
8. **Held a Talking Circle, on "Ecumenism and Public Engagement"** to debrief the parliamentary visits, reflecting on how to integrate the learnings, build relationships, and in order to better inform our Triennium priorities, as well as mobilize in our denominational contexts.
9. **Received** a visit from the **Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces**.
10. **Celebrated** the success of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** which saw a 65% increase in uptake and donations, and distributed the kit for next year.
11. **Discussed** the report of the Christian Interfaith Reference Group (CIRG), which highlighted the near completion of an Interfaith Database, and the work on a potential resource on **Freedom of Religion and Belief, resulting from discernment of response to the proposed (now on hold) Quebec Values Charter legislation**.
12. **Requested** that a list be compiled of all ministerial associations across Canada in order to be able to connect with them.
13. **Received and discussed** the Commission on Justice and Peace and the Commission on Faith and Witness reports.
14. **Were inspired** by the **President's Workshop on Indigenous Peoples in Canada**, with guest Ed Bianchi of **KAIROS**, where a film from the Edmonton Truth and Reconciliation National Hearing was shown, featuring the

CCC Expression of Reconciliation, referring to the CCC collected policy document from 1944 to present, heard reflections from members who participated and considered directions forward for the CCC as well as collaboration with partners.