

**TWO MONTH COVER LETTER – SEPTEMBER 17, 2014**

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Assembly – November 17 – 21, 2014

**Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre – [www.goa.ca](http://www.goa.ca)**

Dear Friends,

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Assembly of The Canadian Council of Churches is now just two months away. Registrations are coming in at a brisk pace even though the **deadline for registration is** still some weeks away: **October 15. [Everyone should register.](#)** Accommodations at Queen of the Apostles are nearly complete, and soon only the Admiral Inn will be available. This letter provides a detailed schedule for the five days to assist you in your planning and decision-making regarding arrival and departure times. No doubt there will be later versions of this schedule that reflect updates and changes, but this is where we are two months out.

**The first half of the week** up to Wednesday noon **is dedicated to business meetings** of various bodies of the council meeting simultaneously. We want to create an environment where members can visit one another's meetings, report to other bodies to propose collaboration and new initiatives, and at the same time become more acquainted with one another during the mealtimes, the shared prayer and Bible study sessions and the Tuesday evening special event featuring leading practitioners of ecumenism. By encouraging members of the groups to attend and participate in one another's meetings we want to create more awareness of how the different groups work and encourage new synergies and innovation.

**The second half of the week is shared time for discussion, dialogue, and challenging one another.**

Wednesday afternoon is a response to the CCC's Expression of Reconciliation earlier this year at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: *The indigenous rights history we have never been taught* led by KAIROS. Then we travel together to Redeemer Anglican church at University and Bloor in Toronto for a special worship service featuring Mary Jo Leddy speaking on faith and the public square. Thursday includes opportunities to debate the transformation ecumenical institutions are going through, to imagine the future of ecumenism in Canada, and to plan to commemorate significant anniversaries. All this is topped off with a special event Thursday evening featuring Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and The Right Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop. If you are a Governing Board member, then the business meeting is scheduled for Friday morning.

Some of you have wondered about the **fees**. The \$100 registration fee helps to offset the extra cost of putting on the event, including extra staff time and engaging special resource persons. It is a flat rate regardless of the number of days you plan to attend. The meals are pricy, but this is the way the Queen of the Apostles recovers the cost of the meeting rooms since we are not charged for venue rental. Consequently, for Governing Board members there will also be no invoice for shared expenses this time. In any case, we are working to make attendance at the Assembly possible for all who would like to attend, so if you have questions about offsetting the cost of your attendance, please contact me, Peter Noteboom ([noteboom@councilofchurches.ca](mailto:noteboom@councilofchurches.ca)).

I look forward to welcoming you at the Assembly,

Peter Noteboom, Deputy General Secretary