Message from the Board

Jean-Noël André, co-Chair

The June 2016 IofC Canada AGM and National Consultation held in Montreal was an opportunity to look at our mission, structure, operations and financial health, and feed the unity amongst all members of IofC across the country. Shortly thereafter, we received notice of approval by the Canada Revenue Agency of the restatement of our IofC Canada Purposes. The Board also reconfirmed the three priorities that have received focused attention in Canada:

- Follow up to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Building bridges between groups
- Youth engagement and mobilization

The following pages describe some of the activities, successes and challenges as various IofC teams across Canada focus their efforts to embody and promote lasting change.

Some key areas dealt with by the Board:

A **communications strategy** was adopted and an action plan developed. With Tim Hall’s departure in late 2016, Samrawit Mersha resigned from the Board and took on responsibility for communications. Improvements in both internal and external communications have taken place.

A **Fundraising** appeal was launched in late 2016 and resulted in new giving and new monthly pledges. The Board intends for fundraising to be a continuing focus as we move to a more sustainable organization.

**Ottawa office staffing** needs were addressed with the part-time hires of Mary Ella Keblusek to provide coordination and oversight and a new administrator to provide administrative support.

The **archives development** project, led by Elaine Gordon, continued with the sorting, screening and cataloging of the Oxford Group and MRA Canada’s historical documents, reaching 1954 by year’s end.

**MRA Productions North America** wrapped up in Canada at the end of 2016 after many years of faithful service by Chris Hartnell, assisted most recently by Tim Hall.

As we look forward together, may we all play our part helping change the world by first being the change we want to see in the world.

Lorne Braun and Jean-Noël André, co-Chairs, for the Initiatives of Change Canada Board

IofC Canada new Statement of Purpose

(a) To foster healing and reconciliation, by providing workshops, seminars, and other training activities to the public about the principles of the worldwide Initiatives of Change movement, as described in the Preamble of the Articles of Initiatives of Change International.

(b) To undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purpose.

At a Special meeting of the IofC Canada Association held by web conference on July 23, 2016 members unanimously approved a resolution to amend the purpose of the association. A major part of the change has been to move IofC Canada’s purpose from the charitable category of ‘advancement of religion’ to that of ‘other purposes beneficial to the community’.

Contents

| Message from the Board | 2 |
| IofC Canada 2016 Highlights | 3 |
| Youth Engagement | 4 |
| Building Bridges | 4 |
| Communications | 7 |
| Finances | 7 |

To Donate

Alberta Champions Society honours Chief Walking Buffalo

One of IofC Canada’s historic ambassadors, Walking Buffalo, a Chief of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation in the early 1900s, was honoured by Alberta Champions Society on September 27, 2016 in Calgary. The Society unveiled monuments in a “Field of Fame” to celebrate the contributions of six individuals who had an immense impact on the city and province.

Highlighting the Chief’s work for reconciliation, the inscription reads: “In 1958 at the age of 87, Walking Buffalo took on a whole new life mission. Sponsored by International Moral Re-Armament (as IofC was then called), in 1960 and 1961 he traveled to 22 countries and gave millions of people a message on love and respect for fundamental human dignity and the importance of respecting and protecting Mother Earth”.

IofC Canada represented at Caux

A three-member team represented Canada at the Caux conferences of 2016. Lorne Braun (Board Chair) attended the Global Assembly, and Samrawit Arayamedhin Mersha (Board Member and Communications Chairperson) attended the Global Assembly and the Global Communications meeting. Mary Ella Keblusek traveled to Caux in her capacity as Fundraising Lead for IofC International and also represented IofC Canada at the Global Communications meeting. Other IofC Canada members participated in different sessions of the 2016 Caux conferences.

University of Alberta honours a longtime IofC member, John Bocock

John Bocock, an IofC member from Alberta, received a high honour from the University of Alberta when he was given the Alumni Centenary Award for Service to the University. The citation for the award stated that among other contributions, “Bocock has been involved with Initiatives of Change for more than 50 years. The organization is committed to promoting racial harmony and reconciliation around the world.”

In an interview with the St. Albert Gazette, Bocock said he decided to join Initiatives of Change after watching an IofC film called Freedom in 1958. The film talked about the importance of reconciliation, which made him look at his own life and inspired him to fix his relationship with his brother.

The award also recognized Bocock’s significant work as an environmentalist. When an oil company announced plans to set up a sour gas plant near his home, Bocock was chief spokesperson and helped bring people together to require the company to install scrubbers that would reduce sulphur emissions.

Fundraising:

The Fundraising Committee (Lorne Braun, Mary Ella Keblusek, Aron Tegenfeldt and Joseph Vumiliya), launched an Annual Giving Appeal by email and postal mail in late 2016.

The Committee plans to begin the next appeal around October 2017. In the meantime, it will focus on identifying and applying for grants to support IofC Canada programs.

Annual General Meeting

IofC Canada’s 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Consultation weekend was held near Montreal from June 3 - 6, 2016 with the theme “Moving Forward Wholeheartedly”. Thirty members attended the meeting at Manoir d’Youville while ten others participated online from across the country.

The meeting was opened with a First Nations ceremonial circle led by Nicole O’Bomsawin, Marie-Émilie Lacroix and Lee Crowchild, preceded by a pre-consultation meeting of staff and core volunteers. The weekend focused on reflection and discussion about how to better collaborate to overcome organizational and personal challenges to being more effective together in IofC’s work.

There was also an opportunity for each IofC team to present an overview of their activities and programs, followed by a time of fun and relaxation. The meeting was closed on Sunday morning by reflecting on the discussions of the two previous days, and discerning how to best move forward to create a stronger and more financially viable IofC Canada.
Youth engagement

Youth challenged by forgiveness in Montreal

The film *The Imam and the Pastor*, which discusses interreligious dialogues, was screened for students of the Louis-Joseph-Papineau High School in Montreal on January 25, 2016.

The Ethics and Religious Culture teacher, Patrice Trudeau, appreciated screening of the film *The Imam and the Pastor* and said “It is a very moving documentary because we all know how difficult forgiveness is. What a beautiful lesson of faith! Who could not be challenged by how forgiveness helps build a better world? I felt that the sharing after the film led by Laurent Gagnon and Joseph Vumiliya, really challenged my 15-17 year old students.”

Trudeau also added that as “the objective of the Ethics and Religious Culture class is actually to foster a spirit of tolerance in compliance with UNESCO’s goals, the documentary is a relevant step on the road to discussing interreligious dialogue.”

IofC values highlighted at Calgary Cambodian youth peace celebration

It was a landmark celebration on October 22, 2016 as the Cambodian Khmer Krom Youth Association (KKYA) of Calgary marked 25 years since the signing of the Paris Peace Accord that finally put an end to the Cambodian-Vietnam war. The KKYA, once again invited Janyce Konkin, IofC’s Regional Coordinator of Programs in Alberta, to address the gathering. “This year I chose to speak on the role of forgiveness in healing and reconciliation,” said Janyce. Quoting from her speech, she told participants that, “When everyone feels valued, respected, loved and forgiven, then we are able to build the trust that is at the very basis of living together in this world.” In closing, she said: “The values of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love are the glue that we need to cultivate in ourselves to impact our own actions of forgiveness and to inspire those people around us.”

Building bridges

Southern Ontario Team meets Ottawa visitors

Doreen Johnson (standing, 3rd from right), longtime director of Hamilton’s highly respected IofC Hope in the Cities program, hosted IofC team members from Hamilton, Oakville and Toronto in late October 2016 to hear updates from the National Office in Ottawa, and to make plans for 2017.

The City of Hamilton is in the process of establishing an anti-racism centre, and has requested support and involvement from IofC’s Hamilton team, which has worked for decades in the Hamilton area with programs focused on racial equity, justice and trustbuilding. The City’s decision to move forward with a commitment to building an anti-racism centre is an excellent opportunity for Initiatives of Change to broaden the audience for our work with community building and youth in the region.

In Toronto and Oakville, team members are planning quarterly gatherings in homes as a way of inviting new people to learn more about IofC, and deepening the relationships among the existing team members.

Visiting from Ottawa were Canadian Operations and Program Coordinator Mary Ella Keblusek (seated, far right) and Andrew Drake (standing, 2nd from right).

Mary Ella reported on the June 2016 IofC Canada Annual General Meeting, subsequent initiatives from the new Board of Directors, and the success of the Ottawa / Gatineau team initiative of monthly Movie Night gatherings.

The Movie Night experience combines a potluck meal, fellowship, and conversation about a particular theme, using IofC’s films and short videos as inspiration for discussion and deep sharing. Three Movie Nights were held on Saturday nights in Ottawa in 2016, attracting 15-20 IofC members and guests for each event.
Launching the film Beyond Forgiving

In Montreal, Initiatives of Change (IoFC) had its dream come true of launching the film Beyond Forgiving. The event took place Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the auditorium of the Dominican Pastoral Institute in close collaboration with the Centre Culturel Chrétien (Christian Cultural Centre). Many partners took part in this adventure: Montreal’s Catholic diocese, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Brian Bronfman Family Foundation, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, Religions for Peace, Pax Christi, the Al Arabiya Centre and the Centre Afrika.

Both the film and the theme of the evening, ‘Out of our solitudes, into building together’, attracted 165 dynamic participants from different backgrounds who want to contribute to peace and harmony in Quebec through promoting trust, establishing harmonious relationships between communities, and developing a civic spirit.

Four speakers, who put the film into context for the audience, also facilitated the sharing after the film for this 2013 South African documentary. The four of them represented the four Canadian Solitudes: Aboriginal, French, English and immigrants. Each speaker shared his or her experience as it related to the film and offered perspectives on how to better live together.

The four speakers were Nicole O’Bomsawin, an Abenaki anthropologist and a teacher at the Aboriginal College of Kiuna in Odanak; Francine Lemay, a translator and sister of Corporal Marcel Lemay killed during the Oka crisis of 1990; Father John Emmett Walsh, the president of the Board of Management for the Nazareth Community and an administrator for the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism; and Yvette Mbogo, a cultural journalist and facilitator in intercultural development.

Some quotes from participants: “The film convinced me of the power and impact of forgiveness for personal and collective healing” – “Openness, humility, listening, attention to others are necessary for living together” – “This film could be useful in any conflict situation”.

During the year, this documentary film was presented to several different audiences who all found it relevant to our world.

‘Intercultural Bridge’: promoting dialogue

The third public ‘Intercultural Bridge’ evening took place in Quebec City on November 8, 2016 under the theme of “Bridge-building potentials between you and I”. This group called Passerelle interculturelle was created by IoFC, Development and Peace (an international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada) and other concerned individuals as a follow-up to the launch of the film Beyond Forgiving.

The evening started with the screening of The Imam and the Pastor, followed by the testimony of Khadija Said, a young Muslim woman who lives in Quebec City. That was followed by a short Q&A period and sharing in small groups, and the evening ended with a larger group conversation. As participants left the room, each person was invited to write on a paper flower a thought or a comment on how to get closer to other cultures.

Khadija Said shared these thoughts: “My parents and my grandparents have taught me how to be respectful of my host country” – “Love is my most powerful weapon” – “I believe in non-partisan secularism. Even if I could be justified in asking for my rights to be respected, for instance my prayer times, before I do ask, I must think of how exercising those rights will impact other people and society”.

Comments collected from participants about how to connect to other cultures included: personally looking into someone else’s culture; asking questions to people from different cultures and showing interest in them and their cultures; participating in and encouraging educational meetings like tonight.
IofC and partners hold Calgary workshop

South Sudanese community organizer Gatluak Bichoik expressed his appreciation for IofC’s ongoing role in helping his people integrate successfully into Canadian society: “This community is where it is today because of your unwavering support and mentorship. IofC assisted us in various ways. Thus I do believe that IofC was and still is the core partner of our community.”

His comments followed a full-day workshop on January 30, 2016 in Calgary titled “Collaborating Towards a Community Approach to Children, Youth and Families’ Wellbeing” held at the Grace Lutheran Church. A combined effort of Initiatives of Change Canada, the South Sudanese Community Association and the Calgary Catholic Immigrant Services, the workshop was the culmination of eight months of planning and cooperation, and drew nearly 100 participants from the South Sudanese community, Calgary Family Services (CFS), Calgary Police Service (CPS), and the City of Calgary.

The day began with welcoming speeches from community leaders, followed by a keynote address by Jon Reeves, CFS Regional Director. Panel presentations were then made by each of the representative groups.

Breakout sessions led by IofC in the afternoon focused on creating solutions that were brought to a plenary session at the end of the day. Each group presented their findings and created time for the beginning of a dialogue that will be continued. Respondents felt that the workshop created space for relationship-building between community members and service providers.

“The organizing committee was very successful in building teamwork and collaboration for this event,” stated committee member Otor Okoth. The discussions identified the need for follow-up community break-out sessions to make specific recommendations that will be included in a final report to be presented to all service providers and community members.

Blanket Exercise presented at World Social Forum

The 12th edition of the World Social Forum was held on August 9-14, 2016 in Montreal and was attended by about 35,000 participants from over 125 countries representing many organizations and activist groups. Initiatives of Change Canada in partnership with ROJEP, an Ecumenical Network for Justice Ecology and Peace, was invited to present the Blanket Exercise at this event.

The Blanket Exercise is a learning tool that focuses on Canadian-Indigenous relations starting from the first encounter with Europeans. In this exercise, participants were invited to play the roles of First Nations, while the organizers took on the roles of the European colonists and history narrators. The narrators revisited various historical events that unfolded such as treaty-making, wars, and resistance while the participants simultaneously walked around on the blankets exchanging objects with one another simulating the barter that occurred at the time. Following the arrival of Europeans coupled with events that transpired afterward, the narrators gave participants cards of different colours representative of events such as death, children who were sent to residential schools, and family displacement. Meanwhile, the blankets on which the participants stood were gradually taken away, indicative of the dispossession of First Nations’ territory.

Léonard Ishimwe of Montreal, one of the attendees of this forum, said that it gave him the opportunity to exchange ideas and to network with all these different people that made his first participation in the World Social Forum so valuable. “It was an enriching experience for me,” he says.

The Blanket Exercise has become an excellent tool across Canada for communicating to citizens about indigenous history.
Communications

A variety of communications efforts occurred during 2016. Internal and external audiences have been reached through several channels: Canadian Initiatives/ Initiatives Canadiennes - a quarterly newsletter for English and French readers, the IoIC website, social media, publications and films. A five-minute promotional video has been produced by MRA Productions as part of the communication effort.

The communications committee finalized development of an editorial policy and guideline document that calls for setting up an editorial committee to ensure consistency and relevance in the organisation’s print and electronic publications. A four-member editorial committee has been set up.

On Dec. 31st, 2016, MRA Productions wrapped up its operations after 30 years of service. Initiatives of Change Canada has operated MRA Productions / FLT Films North America in partnership with IoIC UK and IoIC USA for the production and distribution of powerful stories of change through films and videos. Through the years, Initiatives of Change has kept pace with the changing technology from 16mm film to VHS to DVD and looks forward to sharing the films digitally.

Based on the request from the members at the 2016 AGM to improve internal communication, a survey was conducted to determine what kind of communication members prefer. The survey results showed the majority preferred to receive monthly updates by email, while some chose to participate in teleconferences. Both monthly email updates and teleconferences are to be implemented throughout 2017.

IoIC’s communication will thus be focusing on improving internal communication to keep members updated, and increasing its social media presence to reach youth.

Finances

Initiatives of Change depends on the generosity of individuals and institutions to continue its vital work. Initiatives of Change Association (Canada) is a registered charitable organization and issues receipts for income tax purposes for all donations.

IoIC Canada’s Registration Number is 11904 5912 RR0001. Quebec Enterprise Number is 1144459701.

The audited financial statements for the year ended December 2016 are circulated to the membership and are available upon request from the IoIC office in Ottawa or on the IoIC Canada website.

IoIC Canada would like to thank the individuals, foundations and governments and all those who responded to the annual giving appeal for their financial contributions - without which its work would not have been possible. IoIC Canada also appreciates all the volunteers who contribute many hours of their time and talent to promote IoIC values and objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$173,790</td>
<td>$189,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$245,065</td>
<td>$226,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/(decrease) in reserves</td>
<td>($71,275)</td>
<td>($37,384)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initiatives of Change (IoF) Canada
is part of a global movement of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.

What we do
IoFC Canada inspires, equips and connects people to address local and world needs, starting with themselves, taking focused action alongside others who share our vision and values.

Approach
IoFC focuses on the link between personal change and global change. The key aspects of IoFC approach being:

Change begins in silence: It will take more than human reason and ability to solve the problems of the world. When people listen to what is deepest in their hearts, insights often come.

Start with oneself: An honest look at one’s own motives and behaviour is often the starting point for personal transformation.

Listen to others: With its intergenerational, multicultural and interreligious diversity, IoFC enables honest conversations in an open spirit, building bridges of trust and community between people of similar, different and even antagonistic backgrounds.

Take action: IoFC programs aim to address local and global needs through focused activities.

Areas of Focus
Follow-up to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: To engage First Nations, French Canadians, English Canadians and recent immigrants in healing the divides of the past for a better future together.

Bridge Building: Intercultural and interfaith dialogue to build community and establish trust across divides.

Equipping Changemakers: Enabling young people to discover leadership skills in their own vocation.

IoFC Canada is a member of IoFC International. Globally the movement has been active on every continent for over 70 years. Today IoFC International holds Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Contact Information
National Office
Initiatives of Change Association (Canada)
Suite 101A-225 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa ON K2P 1P9
Tel: 613 230-7197
Fax: 613 230-7198
admin.CA@iofc.org

Quebec City
Contact person: Lucie Pagé
Tel: 418 623-2217
lucie.page@iofc.org

Calgary
Contact person: Janyce Konkin
2919 - 8th Avenue N.W.
Calgary, AB T2N 1C8
Tel: 403 270-0975
janyce.konkin@iofc.org

Ottawa
Contact person: Mary Ella Keblusek
Tel: 613 413-8663
maryella.keblusek@iofc.org

Board members
Jean-Noël André, Neuville, QC
Karen Bambonye, Ottawa, ON
Lorne Braun, Richmond; BC
Elaine Gordon (until Dec 2016), Ottawa, ON
Samrawit Mersha (until Dec 2016), Ottawa, ON
Firyal Mohamed (from Feb 2017), Haida Gwaii, BC
Thembi Silundika, Gatineau, QC
Aron Tegenfeldt, Vancouver, BC

Consultants
Investment manager
Don Douglas, RBCDS
Legal counsel
MacKay and Asangarani LLP (Ottawa, ON)
Auditor
Robert Montgomery, CA (Ottawa, ON)

Published by
IoFC Canada Communications
Comms.CA@iofc.org

Compiled and designed by:
Samrawit A. Mersha

Document aussi disponible en français: