

News

New office opened in Montreal

The transfer of the responsibilities of provincial coordinator to Joseph Vumiliya led to the need to consider renting an office for him, as he had previously been working out of the LaSalle office at the Gagnon residence.

It is therefore with happy anticipation that the Montreal team announces that, as of March 1, 2017, the main office of IofC in Quebec will be located at 2715, Chemin de la Côte-Ste-Catherine, Montreal QC H3T 1B6. Phone number to be announced shortly.

This 165-square-foot office is conveniently located close to the University of Montreal - opposite the bus stop 129 - about 7 minutes' walk from the University of Montreal metro station.

Fundraising campaign a success

The Fundraising Committee (Lorne Braun, Mary Ella Keblusek, Aron Tegenfeldt and Joseph Vumiliya) reports that over \$45,000 was raised in the first Annual Giving Appeal launched in late 2016. The Committee was especially pleased to note that donations were received from 10 first time donors to IofC Canada, and the number of monthly donors increased significantly (from 4 to 7). Regular monthly donations are particularly appreciated, as they make it easier for sustainable budgeting of expenses.

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

You can donate to IofC Canada using a credit card [HERE](#) through CanadaHelps, or mail a cheque to the national office at 101A-225 Metcalfe St, Ottawa ON K2P 1P9.

Announcements

Call for Submissions:

Members Update would like to publish submissions from IofC Canada members. The submissions could be reports of activities, reflections or stories of change that you would like to share. Tips, puzzles, inspirational quotes are also welcome, as well as questions or topics you'd like to see addressed.

News/reports of activities need to be less than 110 words.

Other submissions can be as short as 2-3 sentences, or as long as 250 words.

Please send your submissions to Comms.CA@iofc.org

To order DVDs of current films please contact an Initiatives of Change office near you.

Members Update is a monthly update prepared by IofC Canada Communications

Editor: Samrawit A. Mersha
Contributors for this issue:

Joseph Vumiliya, Rosalind Weeks, Lucie Pagé, Joy Newman, IofC Canada Board, Mary Ella Keblusek

Volunteers for this issue; Peter Heys, Andrew Drake

Translation to French: Andrew Drake, Joseph Vumiliya

For submissions: contact us at Comms.CA@iofc.org

IofC Montreal New Address

2715, chemin de la Côte-Ste-Catherine
Montréal QC H3T 1B6

Caux 2017 announcements

The Caux Conferences have been renamed Caux Forum, offering an enhanced Caux experience and providing more space for training and dialogues. The Caux Forum aims to develop the human potential in global change, and its main events will focus this year on addressing extremes of all kinds.

- For more information Visit: <http://www.caux.ch/caux-forum>
- Participants who register before 31 March 2017 will receive a discount of 10% on Forum packages. Visit <http://www.caux.ch/forum-fees> for more information on Forum fees, package deals and the Early Bird special.
- Canadian participants in the Caux Forum, Caux Scholars, Caux Peace and Leadership Program, and Caux Artists Program could be eligible for a small grant from IofC Canada. For more information email: CauxCommittee.CA@iofc.org

IofC Canada Board Meets

The IofC Canada board held its second meeting of the year on February 12, 2017. The following is the summary of the meeting sent from Lorne Braun, co-chair of the board.

- We welcome Firyal Mohamed back to the Board, appointed to fill the remaining term of Samrawit Mersha, i.e. until the 2018 AGM.
- As Murielle Cassidy completes her work in the Ottawa office late March, we are currently searching for an administrative support person. If you have any leads please forward them to the Ottawa office. The job description has been posted on the IofC Canada website on the following page: <http://ca.iofc.org/bilingual-office-administrator-needed-0>
- Monthly conference calls will begin soon to give members an opportunity to discuss important IofC issues. Details will follow.
- We have just signed an agreement for Joseph Vumiliya, the IofC Quebec Regional Coordinator, to have office space at the Dominican Pastoral Institute in Montreal.
- The Board, Communications Staff and the Editorial Committee are planning a review to ensure that our various communications tools are geared to the appropriate audience, that we reduce unnecessary overlap between our Newsletter and Members Update, and that our communication work is as effective as it can be.
- In lieu of the traditional annual in-person retreat, the Board is meeting on March 11 in a “virtual retreat” to look at issues beyond its regular business.

Toronto story published in Global Voices series

In 2011, Mercy Okalowe was an IofC Canada Regional Coordinator in the Toronto area. Since then Mercy has participated in a variety of IofC programs in Canada and the US. Visit

<http://www.iofc.org/dark-girls-toronto-reflections-iofc-canada-regional> to read her commentary ‘Dark Girls in Toronto’, published in late February on the IofC International website in their ‘Global Voices’ series.

Quebec team represents IofC

Lucie Pagé, the coordinator of the Quebec Region, attended the regional meeting of the Christian Interfaith Council of Quebec City on January 31, 2017 at the Montmartre. The meeting brought together Francophones and Anglophones of different spiritual backgrounds. The Council has been building bridges with the members of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City.

Joseph Vumiliya participated in a day of training organized by the Ecumenical Council for Justice, Ecology and Peace, in support of its 40 member organizations. In attendance were theologians and anthropologists, who reviewed the experience of decolonization and took a critical look at colonization.

On February 8, 2017, Joseph Vumiliya participated in a conference Exchange on Mediation, Democracy: A path to peace: The case of DR Congo organized by Pax Christi Montreal – an organization to which Initiatives of Change has been a member for several years. The conference, held at Bellarmin House (Centre for Justice and Faith), highlighted the roles played by the various actors who are involved in the process of peace in the DRC, including nonprofit organizations, influential individuals and faith-based networks.

IofC gets new email addresses

Late last year, IofC email addresses across the global network were transitioned to a new format. Here’s the impact in Canada.

All organizational addresses will now have ‘CA’ before (rather than after) the ‘@’ symbol. So for example, the new email address for the Ottawa office is ‘admin.CA@iofc.org’ and emails to the Board of Directors may be sent to ‘Board.CA@iofc.org’.

For individual IofC email addresses, the ‘CA’ has been entirely removed. The individual address format is now ‘firstname.lastname@iofc.org’ (for example, ‘joseph.vumiliya@iofc.org’). Please make these changes to the IofC email addresses in your address book.

Laurent Gagnon email address is now laurent.gagnon1@videotron.ca

lofC stands in solidarity with the Muslim community



The lofC Canada board sent the following message to the Muslim community of Quebec City after the mosque attack that took place on 29th Jan. 2017.

We are shocked and deeply saddened by the shootings targeting Muslims in Quebec City on Jan. 29, 2017. We condemn this act. We are in solidarity and prayer with the Muslim Community. We remain committed to building bridges between people of all cultures and beliefs.

Meanwhile in Quebec, Lucie Pagé represented lofC Canada at the multi-generational vigil and solidarity march held on January 30, 2017 at the Grand Mosque of Quebec in honour of victims of the mosque attack.

A moment of silence was observed for each of the six victims, followed by a silent march that ended at a church a few steps from the mosque. Several prominent people attended the event.

On February 20 Lucie also participated in an evening in solidarity with the Muslim community in Quebec City. Young people representing various cultures attended the event at which several young poets shared their words on creating a peaceful atmosphere and living in diversity.

Reflections

New solidarity after tragic events

Richard and Ros Weeks, Ottawa

In the aftermath of the terrible event at the Grand Mosque on January 29, we have been moved by the ways in which Canadians have come together to offer support to all those most affected. The lofC website gives details of what our colleagues in Quebec City have done to cement their many years of trust-building and to stay close to their friends from that mosque. We want to report on an event from last fall, which made a deep impact on us and on the city of Ottawa.

On November 19th, 2016, we took part in a most wonderful gathering, very much in the spirit of lofC, at the local synagogue a few minutes' walk from our home. It was an open event to which the public from Ottawa was invited, to show solidarity as a community in the wake of a horrible series of vandalizations and hate graffiti – to this synagogue, a mosque and a church - which shook the city. We were a huge crowd

packed into the spacious temple, welcomed graciously by the Rabbis and members of the congregation. It was a Saturday, Shabbat, and therefore no cameras or recording equipment were allowed. But none of us who attended will ever forget the event, and the amazing spirit of oneness, across all differences. The leaders of all the main faith groups, the mayor, and civic and provincial leaders all spoke from the heart.

The love and respect were palpable and there were many bursts of applause. It was a powerful act of healing, with a strong challenge to each one to take this spirit with us into our everyday lives. We have never felt more proud of our city, or of the privilege of living here. The following statement was circulated, and we all stood and read it aloud together:

We gather together as a united community to express in words what we feel in our hearts. Painful events of the past week have proven a number of important points: Words of concern and empathy are more powerful than graffiti; Expressions of love are more potent than expressions of hate; The power of togetherness is stronger than the power of divisiveness; A community standing together negates evil intentions; Words of comfort heal the wounds of verbal assault; A common commitment to everyone prevents an attack on anyone; We are strong because we are resolute in our togetherness; We are even stronger because we are cooperative in our diversity; We gather to focus on the good that inheres in all of us; We gather to extol the mosaic that defines who we are; We gather to celebrate the beauty of our community; We gather to express our gratitude for the wonderful people who comprise this great city, our Nation's Capital; We gather to be thankful for living in this caring country, Canada. We resolve, individually and collectively, to do all within our power to assure that this is the Canada that our children and theirs will inherit. Amen.

My participation in various activities in Québec City

Marie Émilie Lacroix (Missinak)

The weekend of February 18 and 19 was a rich one, filled with activities and very interesting meetings. Creating links and potential projects were discussed and will come to fruition in the coming months. On Saturday, as part of Black History Month, I participated in a march with my drum with nearly 250 people in a neighborhood of Quebec City. Slogans and posters - as any good march needs - were featured. A few stops were planned during which people representing various cultures and associations addressed both the marchers and those gathered to observe the event.

Two speeches were particularly well received: that of Donna Larivière, who spoke emotionally of First Nations women and Webster with the power that she is known for. Also appreciated was the demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy, informing us of new and "armed" rules that Canada and our neighbors would like to promote on our side. Strong reactions were heard in the group and for a good reason.

On Sunday, a small group of First Nations people took the initiative to go to the Grand Mosque, following the warm reception received from the Islamic community, to offer our condolences. Some songs and kind words were offered - on the men's side by Stuart Miyow from Kahnawake, and I did the same with the women. A heart to heart exchange - with tears too - not only one of compassion but also of openness. After recounting the dramatic events and their consequences, we shared hugs. Then, as we were leaving, a woman approached me and asked me for my contact details because, she said, we cannot finish this way; we must see each other again.

After each event I found myself in a small restaurant with 7 or 8 people, some of whom I knew and others not, from different cultures and we drew up plans for future actions. Some are already being prepared with a committee and others will be realized in the summer and fall.

In conclusion, every evening I returned with the same thought heard during the day: it took a drama like this to create a movement of compassion and, I would say, "revolt" - healthy and mobilizing - which will change attitudes a little bit, one person at a time - the creation of peace.

communication
Your Tips



IofC builds trust across the world's divides. But to be an effective trust builder, we must first learn to be an effective listener.

What kind of a listener are you?

Stephen R. Covey's Listening Continuum identifies five levels of listening.

Level 1: Ignoring

You are talking but the other person is not giving any attention to what you are saying.

Level 2: Pretend Listening

Pretend listeners give you the impression they hear what you say, and they may hear some of your words, but they are not "present." They may nod their head or offer another gesture to indicate they are listening, but they are not giving you their full attention.

Level 3: Selective Listening

The person who listens selectively only wants part of the message, but not all. They are probably the person who says, "So, what's your point?" They are quick to interrupt the person who is speaking or they have the tendency to finish the other person's sentences.

Level 4: Attentive Listening

Attentive listeners offer their time and attention. But they are one step short of being empathic listeners because attentive

listeners hear from their frame of reference. They don't try to put themselves in the other person's shoes.

Level 5: Empathic Listening

Empathic listening is intentional. The person who develops this skill listens not only to the other person's words, they listen for what the other person means. They are willing to give their time AND full attention to truly hear the other person.

Source: Stephen R. Covey, *The 8th Habit*