



Message from the Board



The IofC Canada Board met March 15 in a virtual retreat to look at issues beyond its regular business. The purpose was to look at how to get beyond the programs of IofC to what lies beneath. The question is how do we both attract new people and deepen the engagement of people in IofC? One of the possible priorities the board is exploring is 'Re-invigorating our commitment to a culture of caring', which would include strengthening our teams and creating more opportunities for individuals to be involved in IofC activities. The Board will continue its exploration of these deeper issues and will report at the AGM.

Other news from the board:

- The AGM Planning Committee is Firyal Mohamed (chair), Jean-Noël André, Karen Bambonye, and Mary Ella Keblusek. Details on dates and plans will be shared soon.
- Finances continue to be an area of constant attention. The audited financial statements you will receive before the AGM will indicate a larger than expected deficit. This despite our fundraising campaign in late 2016. One of the responses is to be looking at ways to reduce expenses in a number of areas for 2017 and 2018. More details will follow.
- The Nominations Committee – Sara Vassigh (chair), Lee Crowchild, Mary Ella Keblusek and Firyal Mohamed – is preparing the packet of nominations information for the membership, to fill 2-3 board positions at the 2017 AGM. Please note the April 20 deadline for nominations.
- The Board has accepted the Editorial Committee's recommendations to continue generating the Members Update monthly, put the Spring 2017 Canadian Initiatives newsletter on hold until a new strategy is developed, and move forward with other information gathering processes to make sure our communications are as effective and efficient as possible.

The next board meeting will be April 29, 2017.

Announcements

Call for Submissions:

Members Update publishes 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 or reports of activities can be 110 words or less.

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.

The **fundraising committee** is looking for individuals interested in helping conduct research for grant opportunities for IofC programs, as well as those who can help write and edit grant applications. If interested, please send your name to Admin.CA@iofc.org.

If you have MRA or IofC-related materials (books, pamphlets, DVDs, other materials) that you no longer need, please contact the Ottawa office (Admin.CA@iofc.org) to see if they can be used.

Members Update is a monthly update prepared by IofC Canada Communications

Editor: Samrawit A. Mersha

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lofC Calgary to host an open house on April 22

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD!

ENGAGING IN INITIATIVES OF CHANGE'S ACTION ITEMS!

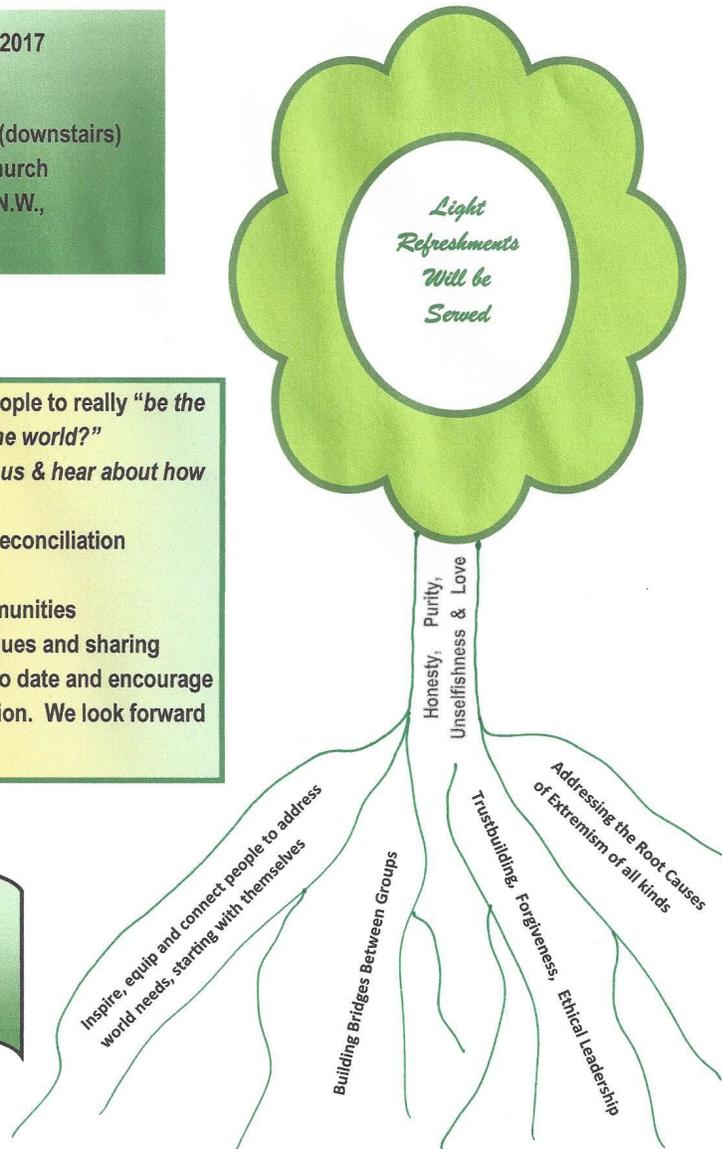
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017
 Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
 Place: Conference Room (downstairs)
 Parkdale United Church
 2919 - 8th Avenue N.W.,
 Calgary T2N 1C8

How does lofC encourage people to really “be the change they want to see in the world?”
 Come spend some time with us & hear about how we are:

- following-up on Truth & Reconciliation
- Engaging youth
- Building trust in our communities

Through presentation, dialogues and sharing stories we will bring you up to date and encourage your feedback and participation. We look forward to having you join us.

Please RSVP by Phone or E-Mail
 403-270-0975
 janyce.konkin@iofc.org



Caux Brochures:
 The digital versions of the Caux Forum brochures are available for download in [French](#), [English](#) and [German](#) on the Caux website: <http://www.caux.ch/caux-forum> and on the individual event webpages.

Membership Application:
 If you know anyone who is involved with lofC who might like to apply for membership, they can contact Admin.CA@iofc.org to get a membership application. As members, they will be able to participate and vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Donations:
 You can donate to lofC Canada using a credit card through CanadaHelps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/initiatives-of-change-association-canada/>, or mail a cheque to the national office at : 101A-225 Metcalfe St, Ottawa ON K2P 1P9

A public meeting held in Quebec City



On March 20, at the Diocesan Services in Quebec City, Passerelle Interculturelle in partnership with Initiatives of Change and Development and Peace, hosted a public evening focused on living together after the January attack at the Great Mosque in Quebec City.

The event began with an Aboriginal ritual, conducted by Marie-Émilie Lacroix. This was followed by an interpretation of Anne-Marie Olivier's text by Marie-Émilie, Lise Gauvreau and Khadija Said, who are all members of Passerelle Interculturelle. This text was written on the occasion of the presentation "Together we are Quebec", which was organized in the wake of the mosque attack.

The guest of honor for the evening was Mr. Boufedlja Benabdallah, a Muslim Quebecer who has lived in Quebec since 1969, and is both a father and a grandfather of multiple children - all born in Quebec. Mr. Boufedlja has contributed to Quebec's international reputation and is a co-founder of the CCIQ (Islamic Cultural Center of Quebec). He gave the participants a touching testimony after describing "living together". He spoke of the two major problems about living together in disharmony: "it is insidious, and it causes isolation; this has repercussions on the individual as well as on society". There are solutions within our power; living well together requires getting to know each other. In short, we have to introduce benevolence, encourage the good and discourage the bad.

After the testimony, the participants suggested actions to improve our ability to live well together (sharing of religious festivals, interdenominational food drive events, etc.). At the end of the evening, the interreligious representative of the diocese of Quebec, Mr. Pierre Lefebvre, offered Mr. Boufedlja a copy of the magazine *Pastorale Québec*, whose cover photo is the famous accolade between Cardinal Lacroix and Mr. Boufedlja.

Introducing 'Living Differently' in Canada

'Living Differently' is an initiative developed in 2015 by IofC members from across the global network, for the purpose of creating deeper relationships and a greater capacity for reflection. It consists of six monthly, small group sessions that provoke, encourage and support individuals and teams on their journeys of self-transformation and team-building.

The monthly sessions are about two hours in length, and designed for groups of 4-7 people, who commit to attend the entire 6-session series. Meetings are self-facilitated, using a facilitator guide that is available in both English and French. So far, teams from five IofC countries (Nigeria, Sweden, UK, USA and Vietnam) have participated in Living Differently, and reports of the experience have been very positive.

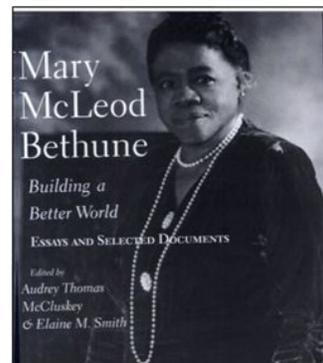
Mary Ella Keblusek, the IofC Canada Operations and Program Coordinator, hopes that groups will spring up across Canada to experience 'Living Differently.' She notes, "We designed this initiative for multiple audiences: as an experience for individuals who are already part of IofC, as well as being a way to invite new people interested in IofC to learn more about IofC core values and develop deeper relationships."

Anyone who is interested in learning more about this program – either to host a group or to participate in one - is invited to contact Mary Ella for more information. She plans to schedule a conference call in April or May to discuss how the program works, answer questions, and discuss the materials that are provided. [email at maryella.keblusek@iofc.org or phone 613-413-8663]

Mary McLeod Bethune - an inspiration

*'I listened to God this morning and the thought came to me,
"Any idea that keeps anybody out is too small for this age—open your heart and let everybody in—every class, every race, every nation."*

Mary McLeod Bethune addressing a World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament, July 1954, Caux, Switzerland. (printed in full on pages 56-58 of this book.) Published by Indiana University Press



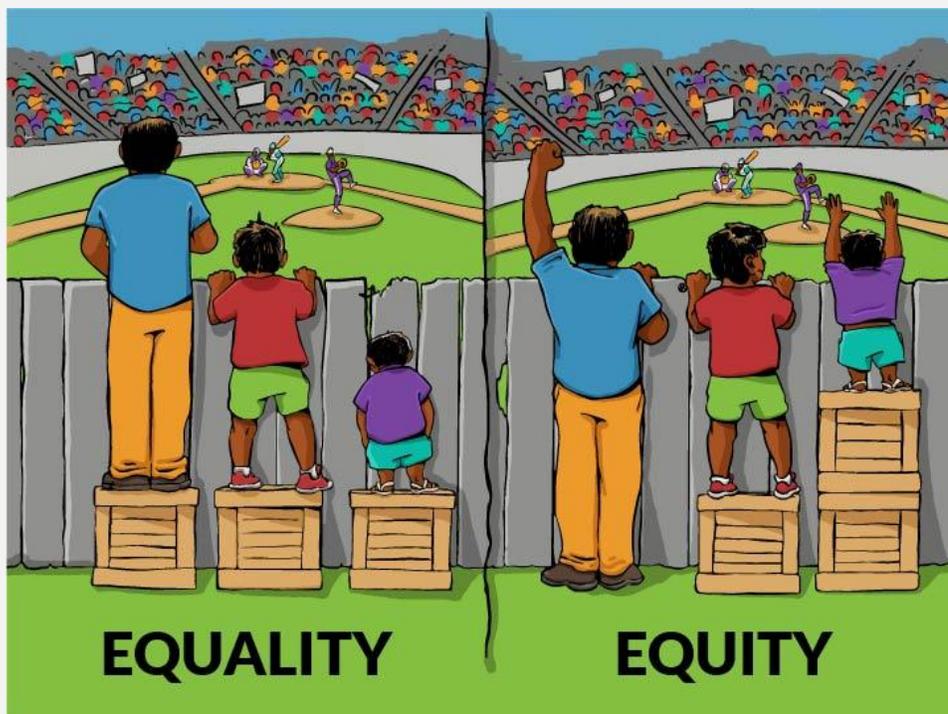
Mary McLeod Bethune 1875-1955, great African-American leader, founder of Bethune-Cookman College and advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Aged 13, I was at a conference in Caux when my beloved grandfather died. I wandered into the theatre where the film "The Crowning Experience", based on the life of Mary McLeod Bethune, was being shown. I was deeply moved by it and specially by the song "Wade Out", so magnificently sung by the mezzo-soprano Muriel Smith. Over the years, the life and work of this great lady continues to inspire me.

Among IofC Canada's Archives is an article written by McLeod Bethune in the Chicago Defender, on April 24, 1954, entitled "Moral Re-Armament Movement Heavily Felt in Africa". In it, Mary McLeod Bethune described her gratitude for the work of MRA in Africa. She became involved in the work of MRA later in life, and wrote articles in support of MRA and its work.

Further information about MRA involvement can be found at <http://www.iofc.org/frank-buchman-legacy-11> and under 'Moral Rearmament' at http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/1394_MaryMcLBethPapFoundPt3.pdf

Elaine Gordon - Ottawa



Your Tips

The difference between equality and equity is interestingly depicted in this picture. Note how the words are similar, but their meanings, significantly different.

Source: *Interaction Institute for Social Change*
<http://interactioninstitute.org>

Artist: *Angus Maguire*
<http://madewithangus.com>