



The Church Council on Justice and Corrections

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



The Church Council on Justice and Corrections



...serves as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections.

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About CCJC

The Council for the Study of the Responsibility and Action of the Churches in the Field of Justice and Corrections in Canada – Conseil pour l'étude de la responsabilité et de l'action des églises dans le domaine de la justice et de la criminologie au Canada was incorporated on 2 November 1972.

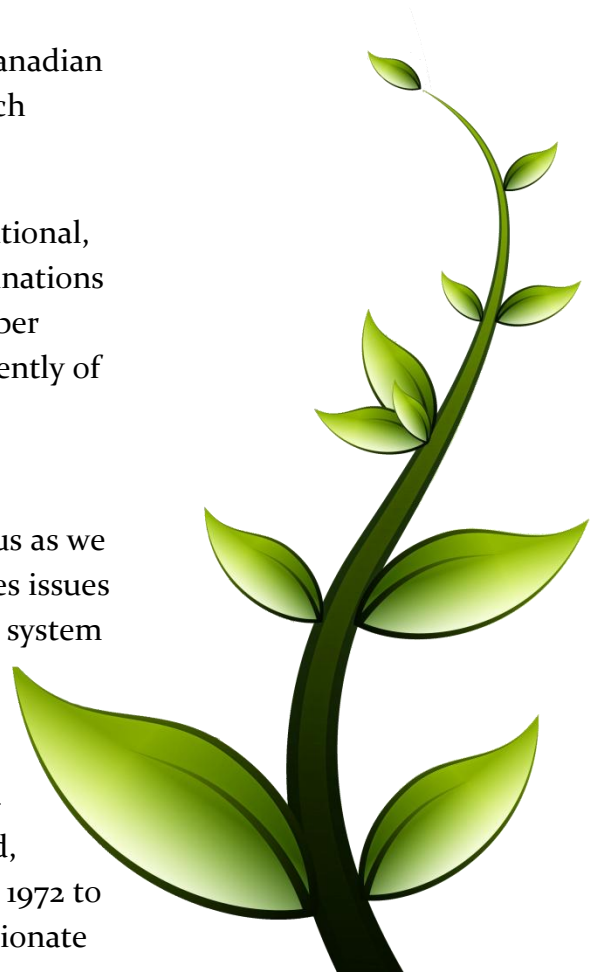
In 1974, the Canadian Council of Churches with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops co-founded The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC).

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections is a national, bilingual organization founded by 11 Christian denominations in Canada. United by the common values of our member denominations, CCJC nevertheless operates independently of these member bodies.

Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in restorative justice and who want to join us as we strive to bring about change in the way Canada handles issues of justice and corrections. We do not expect our legal system alone to be able to do this; the job of justice is also a community responsibility.

CCJC is widely known and has a long history as a non-governmental organization in the criminal justice field, nationally and internationally. CCJC has worked since 1972 to bring to public attention the need for a more compassionate justice system.

CCJC's mandate: *Through research, projects, workshops and presentations, CCJC promotes education on restorative justice and sponsors initiatives to build healthier and safer communities, while fostering and encouraging new and creative thinking about justice.*



CCJC's 2018-19 fiscal year member denominations included the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Mennonite Central Committee Canada.

Moving forward into the 2019-20 fiscal year, both the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have notified CCJC that they will no longer be able to maintain their memberships. While CCJC regrets these decisions, we are so very grateful for their many years of membership and participation: the Christian Reformed Church in North America joined CCJC in 1978 and the Friends (Quakers) were one of the founding church bodies.

CCJC holds affiliations, memberships and/or collaborates with secular and Government agencies working for compassionate change in the systems of justice and corrections. Our partners include the Canadian Council of Churches, Circles of Support and Accountability Canada, Collaborative Justice Program, le Conseil des Églises pour la Justice et la Criminologie du Québec (CEJCQ), Correctional Service of Canada, National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ), Ottawa Restorative Justice Network, Prison Fellowship Canada, Public Safety Canada, Restorative Ottawa Community Collective (ROCC), Canadian Collaboration on Child Protection, Transforming Communities Network and ecumenical ministries involved in peace and social justice.

The People of CCJC

Board of Directors

Rebecca Bromwich, President
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Pamela Dillon, Vice-President
The Anglican Church of Canada

Steve Hoffard, Treasurer
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Randy Klassen, Secretary
Mennonite Central Committee Canada

John DeVries, Director, Christian
Reformed Church in North America

Stuart Lyster, Director
The United Church in Canada

Yves Racicot, Director
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Verena Tan, Director
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Dennis Whitford, Director
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



Board Members:

Randy Klassen, John DeVries, Bonnie Weppeler (Executive Director), Steve Hoffard, Yves Racicot



Board Members:
Yves Racicot, Stuart Lyster, Pamela Dillon, Dennis Whitford
Missing: Rebecca Bromwich

CCJC Staff

Melanie Younger, Executive Director (June 2017 to October 2018)

Bonnie Wepler, Executive Director (October 2018 to Present)

Brent Pecoskie, Finance (January 2018 to September 2019)

Liz Shoniker, Queen's University Placement Student (March 2018)

President's Message: Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich



If our desire for justice is not rooted primarily in the pursuit of restoration, then reconciliation will be nearly impossible to achieve. It is precisely because grace is undeserved that makes it grace.

— Jamie Arpin-Ricci

I was grateful to serve as President of The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) for a two year term, and to have served as CCJC Treasurer for eight years before that. It was fascinating and humbling to work with our Board members from across Canada, from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, to shine a light on compassionate approaches to restorative justice and incite, encourage, and invigorate creative thinking about justice that heals. I am

confident that the organization is in good hands with Executive Director Bonnie Wepler and that she, with the Board, will honour, continue, and renew the work performed by CCJC Board members and staff over the last 47 years to promote restorative approaches to corrections and justice.

In November 2017, CCJC partnered with Ottawa's Collaborative Justice Program and Correctional Service Canada in hosting the 2017 National Restorative Justice Symposium in Ottawa – the year of Canada's 150th birthday. CCJC's ongoing task is to leverage the positive energy and interest in restorative justice generated by the Symposium into concrete strategies and tactics that work for change. A public event held in September 2018 at Saint Paul University, themed around creative and healing approaches to justice, featured a Paint Night experience, panelists who provide faith-based rehabilitative programming in prisons, as well as relaxing yoga to close off the evening, was also a success.

CCJC continues to shine a light on restorative justice with public education. In 2019, Executive Director Bonnie Wepler was successful in receiving a grant to have our Justice Storytelling Quilt digitized and posted online, allowing us to preserve the important narratives about restorative justice contained in the Quilt and to bring them to a national, even international, audience. The Empathy Project for women was piloted, for the first time, at the Grand Valley Institution in spring 2019; a second offering of this curriculum will

be given this fall. A plain language writing consultant has been working with Bonnie Wepler to ensure that the curriculum is readable and accessible to its intended audience.

CCJC remains grateful for the ongoing financial support provided by Public Safety Canada, our member denominations, religious communities and individual donors. For the last year, CCJC has been on significantly more solid financial footing than it has been for years, and I am confident that the team at CCJC will continue its excellent work in focusing on holistic change to bring into being justice that heals our communities in renewed and contemporary ways suited to the 21st century.

Executive Director's Report: Bonnie Wepler



*This is what the LORD Almighty said:
Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.
(Zechariah 7:9)*

SO MANY THINGS TO DO AND PEOPLE TO MEET

The last six months have been a whirlwind!

I stepped into the position of Executive Director on 18 October 2018 and the next day I was in a meeting with KAIROS' Steering Committee. Since then, there have been many more meetings with government partners, non-profit partners, church partners and others including CCJC Board Members.

I have attended award ceremonies, roundtables, protests, knowledge exchanges, policy forums and a symposium, participated in webinars and teleconferences, supervised a Queen's University student and attended a book launch. Every month, I meet at least one

person who tells me that they used to work or volunteer at CCJC! I have learned a lot from so many people and I have loved every minute. Thank you for your support over these six months.

MARCH 2019 BOARD MEETING

My first Board meeting was in March. Given that five of the nine Board members were newly elected in September 2019, and that CCJC's last Strategic Plan was done in 2014, it seemed like a good idea to go through a facilitated strategic planning session. During the four hours allocated to this exercise, we reviewed CCJC's Vision and Mission Statements to ensure that they still resonated with what we do.

CCJC's Vision Statement remains the same: ***CCJC serves to shine a light on restorative approaches to justice and corrections*** with the option of a tagline: ***We empower communities to explore healing justice***

CCJC's Mission Statement underwent in-depth scrutiny and the Board agreed that: ***CCJC is a national, faith-based coalition that nurtures healthy community, through the advocacy of restorative approaches to justice, education and social responsibility***

Finally, we were able to identify seven strategic areas of focus for the coming three to five years. Through the lens of Restorative Justice, I see these areas highlighting the concepts of:

- People: mentorship, membership, partnership
- Projects: past, current and future
- Promotion: advocacy, institutional memory, storytelling

We hope that, with these areas of focus, CCJC will again gain back the stability that it enjoyed in the past.

CCJC PROJECTS

CCJC's two primary projects, the Empathy Project for incarcerated women and the Justice Storytelling Quilt, are moving along.

The Empathy Project was piloted in spring 2019 at The Grand Valley Institution (GVI) in Kitchener, Ontario, with a second pilot planned for fall 2019. I was able to visit GVI in April, where I met with the two chaplains and facilitator who provided excellent input as we continue to make this curriculum the best that it can be. While at GVI, I was also able to meet the staff person who runs Correctional Service Canada's Restorative Opportunities program as well as the Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Canada, Stacey Campbell. Prison Fellowship Canada hosts the Sycamore Tree curriculum which is complementary to the Empathy Project.

“For most learners on Sycamore Tree the most powerful element of the programme is when a victim of crime comes in to talk through how crime has impacted their lives. Learners have an opportunity in the final session to express their remorse – some write letters, poems or create works of art or craft. Members of the community are invited to support and bear witness to these symbolic acts of restitution.” (<https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/sycamore-tree/>)

Stacey and I are working together to ensure, as much as possible, that those who participate in the Empathy Project then also participate in the Sycamore Tree. As Stacey noted, “it would be easy to say things like, ‘just as you learned previously in the Empathy Program’” while highlighting points in the Sycamore Tree.

As for the Justice Storytelling Quilt, the Quilt rested for the first part of the year but then travelled to various locations in Quebec for November’s Restorative Justice Week. The Quilt will continue to travel in 2019 including to three events in Ottawa: the Meeting Points symposium in August; as part of Saint Paul University’s September’s Orientation Week; and to the Informal Conflict Resolution Symposium in October. In early November, the Quilt will head to Wolfville, Nova Scotia to help Concilio Prison Ministry celebrate 50 years of continuous ministry within federal prisons in Atlantic Canada.

CCJC was privileged to receive funding from The Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada; these funds are earmarked for the digitalization of the Justice Storytelling Quilt on our website. This digitalization will allow so many more people to access and hear the important stories shared through this valuable restorative justice resource.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication has been one of my key priorities as Executive Director. In the 2017-18 Annual Report, then Executive Director, Melanie Younger, wrote that “my aim has been to position CCJC as an educational hub for current news, events and issues at the forefront of Restorative Justice in Canada and beyond”. I have tried to do the same through posts on CCJC’s Facebook site and with our monthly newsletter. Further, as highlighted earlier, I have attended a lot of different meetings and events, motivated by my desire to meet as many people in this sector as quickly as possible.

Our communication vehicles, especially our monthly newsletter and Facebook, enjoy very healthy and active constituencies. Our newsletter is sent out to over 1100 subscribers. Sign up today and/or encourage a co-worker, family member or friend to subscribe:

<https://ccjc.ca/stay-informed/>

Three hundred and eighty-three people follow CCJC on Facebook and our two most popular posts reached 998 people and 979 people.

THANK YOU!

- To Melanie Younger for her many contributions to CCJC and for keeping the office running until 12 October 2018
- To Liz Shoniker who used one of her teaching practicums to help upgrade and standardize the Empathy Project chapters
- To those who show interest in and support CCJC whether as members and donors, partners and friends, students and volunteers
- To those who recognize CCJC as a resource and contact us
- And especially to each 2018-19 Board member: Rebecca, Pam, Verena, John, Stuart, Dennis, Steve, Yves, Randy. You brought your competencies and interests and commitments to the Board table

CCJC is stronger because of you!

Le Conseil des Églises pour la Justice et la Criminologie du Québec (CEJCQ): Rapport du Président Laurent Champagne

Bonjour aux lecteurs de la lettre de nouvelles du CEJC/CCJC!

Cette année, le CEJCQ s'est concentré sur la semaine nationale de la Justice Réparatrice en novembre dernier. Nous souhaitons renouer avec l'œuvre maîtresse de 2005 réaliser à travers le Canada : la Courte Pointe de la Justice Réparatrice. Nous avons donc exposé l'œuvre tout au long de la semaine chez les pères Dominicains à Montréal où passent des centaines de personnes chaque semaine. Elle fut aussi utilisée lors de l'ouverture de la semaine à l'Oratoire St-Joseph de Montréal comme catéchèse pour sensibiliser le grand public et faire revivre des moments émouvants pour certains des participants qui l'ont réalisé dans des pénitenciers du Québec en compagnie de victimes. À la clôture la Courte Pointe nous a inspirée pour fabriquer des mandalas représentant notre état d'âme lors de cette rencontre où plus de quatre-vingt personnes (détenus, victimes, bénévoles) se sont rassemblées.

Compte tenu de notre situation financière précaire, aucune subvention, nous nous limitons à bien réaliser cette activité en collaboration avec les partenaires de l'Aumônerie Communautaire de Montréal.



The Justice Storytelling Quilt and Estelle Drouvin (Coordinator, le centre de services de justice réparatrice) with Laurent Champagne / *Mme Estelle Drouvin (coordinatrice, le centre de services de justice réparatrice) et M Laurent Champagne à côté de la Courte Pointe de la Justice Réparatrice*

Greetings to the readers of the CCJC newsletter!

For 2018, the CEJCQ focus was on Restorative Justice Week in November. We wanted to reconnect with the 2005 masterpiece, the Justice Storytelling Quilt.

We were able to exhibit the Quilt at a number of places throughout the week: l'Église Chrétienne de St-Laurent (formerly known as l'Église des Frères Mennonites St-Laurent); the Dominican Fathers Monastery in Montreal, where hundreds of people spend time each week; and at the opening of Restorative Justice Week at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, to raise public awareness about restorative justice. The exhibit at the Oratory was particularly moving as a number of victim and offender participants who had worked together to create the Quilt blocks in Quebec penitentiaries were in attendance.

At the closing, with more than 80 people in attendance, we were inspired by the Quilt to make mandalas. Our mandalas represent the state of our minds during this gathering.



Given CEJCQ's precarious financial situation (we receive no funding or grants) we limited ourselves to exhibiting the Quilt well and in collaboration with our partners from Community Chaplaincy of Montreal.

Connect with CEJC: <https://www.facebook.com/cejcq/>



Treasurer's Report: Steve Hoffard

This report was presented to CCJC's Board of Directors in September 2019.

Audited Financial Reports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019 are included in this annual report. They are presented for your review and need to be accepted or rejected by way of motion. This year we will have the advantage of having the auditors attend our meeting so you will be able to ask any questions before accepting or rejecting the audited statements.

The last fiscal year was not a bright one for us financially. Decreasing revenue and increasing labour costs have dug into our reserves. Bonnie has done a great job of streamlining operations and reducing any expenses that could be reduced, but at the same time denominational and religious society support is shrinking and needs to be addressed.

The success of the Restorative Justice Symposium in November 2017 (fiscal year 2017-18) makes the fiscal year 2018-19 look much bleaker so it is more helpful to look back to 2017 as a comparative year. As the auditor commented: In 2017-18 CCJC benefited from being able to allocate a significant amount of salary expenses to the Symposium. Those direct costs being covered by the Symposium certainly helped with being able to generate a surplus in the 2017-18 fiscal year. As mentioned, CCJC didn't organize the Symposium in 2018-19 and, as a result, the overall activities between the two years definitely have significant differences.

In 2017 our revenues were \$93,266 and expenses were \$90,010. This still doesn't paint 2019 as a banner year but gives a more accurate comparison.

I will also be asking you to pass a deficit budget knowing this type of planning is not sustainable in the long term. However, Bonnie has been working on a fundraising plan which will hopefully alleviate some of our financial pressures.

I will also be asking you to pass the four recommendations in the auditor's Draft Management Letter regarding Credit Card Review of Expenses; Approval of Expenses Over \$1000; Use of PayPal; Outstanding GST/HST Returns. If these are approved by the Board, where our Internal Financial Control Policy is lacking, we will update it.

When our Public Safety Canada funding comes up for review this year we will be asking for a substantial increase, but we cannot depend on that alone; we need to find ways to increase our revenue before our reserves are depleted.

CCJC no longer has a Finance Committee so it falls on all board members to plan for a more sustainable CCJC future.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections: Financials 2018-19

REVENUE	
Donations and Grants	
Supporting denominations	\$31,130
Religious societies	\$2,700
Federal government	\$45,061
Memberships	\$890
Supporters	<u>\$2,590</u>
	\$82,371
Fundraising	--
Interest	\$2
Miscellaneous	--
Income from projects (schedule)	<u>\$750</u>
	\$83,123
EXPENSES	
Projects (schedule)	\$6,757
Administrative (schedule)	<u>\$96,669</u>
	<u>\$103,426</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR	<u><u>\$(20,303)</u></u>

Financial Picture as of March 31, 2019

ASSETS	
CURRENT	
Cash	\$82,836
Short-term investments	--
Accounts receivable	\$29,584
Prepaid expenses	<u>\$2,008</u>
	<u>\$114,428</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$6,690
Deferred contributions (note 5)	<u>\$4,500</u>
	\$11,190
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	
Operating	<u>\$103,238</u>
	<u><u>\$114,428</u></u>

We are so very grateful to all of our donors!

Thank you to our eight supporting denominations: you are the core of CCJC.

Thank you to Public Safety Canada: you enable us to run an office and work on valuable projects.

Thank you to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada: you gave us the power to further our reach.

Thank you to the religious societies: you are true justice partners.

Thank you to our members: you commit to standing with us.

Thank you! Merci! Gracias! Xie Xie! Hvala!

Kitos! Danke! Efharisto! Mahalo! Arigato! Takk! Obridgado! Spasiba!

Kop Khun! Dankie! Sukria! Dziekuje!

Keep in touch!

There are a number of ways that you can keep in touch with the activities of CCJC.

Website: <https://ccjc.ca/>

Become a member: <https://ccjc.ca/become-a-member/>

Volunteer: <https://ccjc.ca/volunteer/>

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter: <https://ccjc.ca/stay-informed/>

Follow us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ccjccanada/?eid=ARBfPIaiNIpQl7wmc8oaBwd2zsNVu7gFGVOvC2wEaOeq9YBxLKaOp5crZ6tjy2lQ4b_wWysoMahC5NiC

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Phone us: 613-563-1688

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**The Church
Council on
Justice and Corrections**



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