



# **The Church Council on Justice and Corrections**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**



# 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.

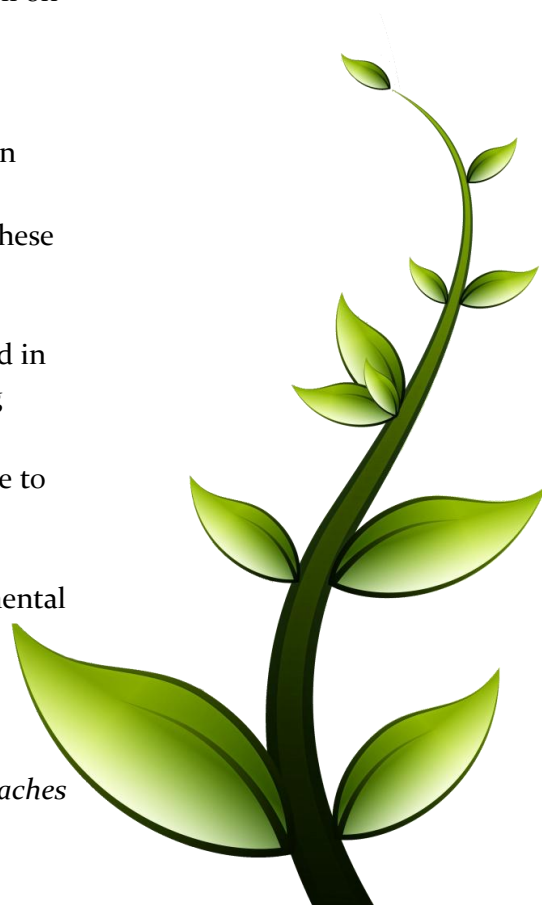
Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in restorative justice and who want to join us as we strive to bring about change in the way Canada handles issues of justice and corrections. We do not expect our legal system alone to be able to do this; the job of justice is also a community 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 Vision: CCJC serves to shine a light on restorative approaches to justice and correction. Optional tagline: We empower communities to explore healing justice*

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

*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 2019-20 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, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

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, Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium, Circles of Support and Accountability Canada, the Collaborative Justice Program, le Conseil des Églises pour la Justice et la Criminologie du Québec (CEJCQ), Correctional Services Canada, Crime Prevention Ottawa, Criminalization and Punishment Education Project, Justice 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

Pamela Dillon, President  
The Anglican Church of Canada

Stuart Lyster, Vice-President  
The United Church in Canada

Steve Hoffard, Treasurer  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Vacant, Secretary

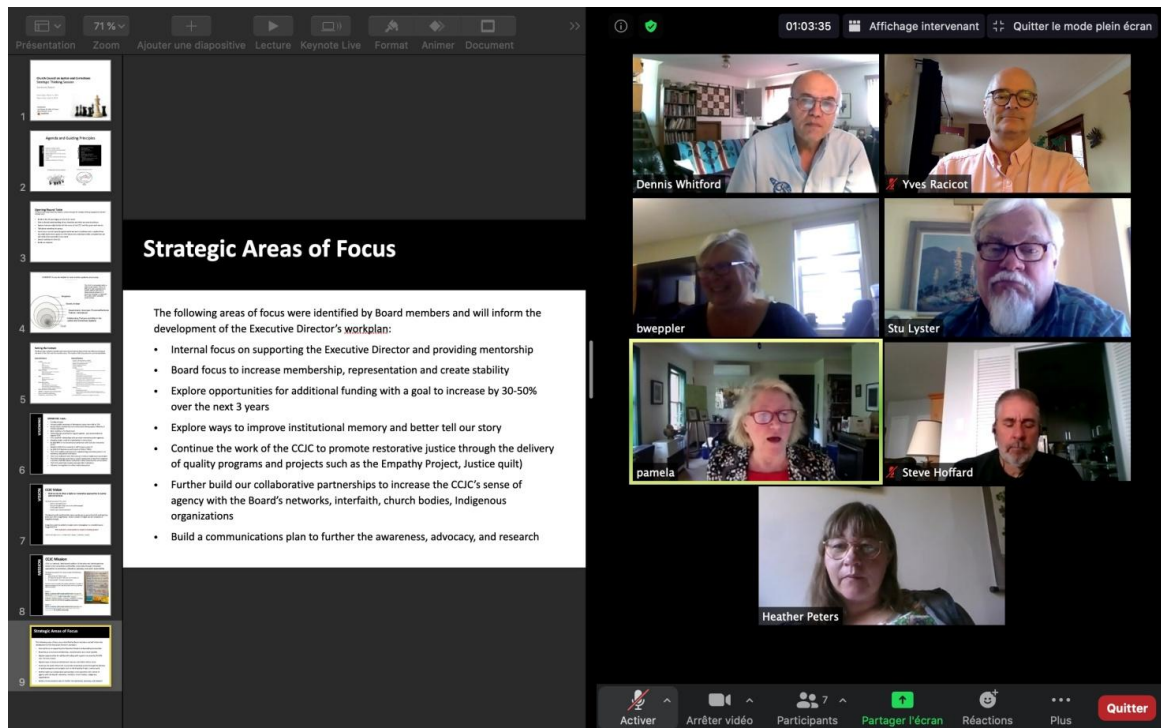
Daniel Cho  
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Heather Peters  
Mennonite Central Committee Canada

Yves Racicot  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dennis Whitford  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Things looked a bit different this year, at our September 2020 Board meeting, compared to last year



Board Members: Dennis Whitford, Yves Racicot, Bonnie Weppler (Executive Director), Stuart Lyster, Pamela Dillon, Steve Hoffard, Heather Peters, Missing: Daniel Cho

Last year: we had people together in a room!



Board Members:  
Randy Klassen, John DeVries, Bonnie Weppler (Executive Director), Steve Hoffard, Yves Racicot



Board Members: Yves Racicot, Stuart Lyster, Pamela Dillon, Dennis Whitford,  
Rebecca Bromwich (missing)

## **CCJC Staff**

Bonnie Weppler, Executive Director (October 2018 to Present)

Danielle Lever, Finance (June 2019 to Present)

Conor Leggott, University of Ottawa Placement Student (September 2019 to April 2020)



## President's Message: Pamela Dillon



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your engagement with the CCJC, in what ever form that takes.

Perhaps you belong to one of our member churches, support us through a financial donation, or touch base with us regularly on our facebook page. How ever you link up, your interest in the work we do around restorative justice is welcome. Furthering the understanding of restorative justice in Canada is at the core of CCJC.

Many years ago, (too many now to remember) I began visiting the Federal Prison in Cowansville as a volunteer with the Chaplaincy Program. My experiences inside have been some of the most important of my life. The question most often put to me is “what do you do in there?” Prison volunteers are a life line for inmates. We are a link to the world outside, a tangible human presence of the community that awaits them upon their release. The chapel circle we create every week brings inmates together who long for the spiritual community of fellow Christians. Our simple circle of chairs filled by volunteers from the outside and inmates, creates a sacred space for fellowship and worship. Into that circle comes the power of redemptive love and transformation, and through the word comes the potential for healing and new life. Hearing the gospel in prison brings into a sharper focus the power of the spirit that calls us into a right relationship with one another, and all of creation.

Covid has affected the prison community in very tangible ways. We can clearly see how our current system of incarceration can have devastating effects on public health when viruses start to circulate. Social distancing is impossible in the prison setting.

Being involved in CCJC as a board member has brought me to a deeper understanding of the power of restorative justice. It has given me an awareness of the worldwide community of partners who work, as we do, for restorative justice to be made known in every corner of the justice system. Thank you again for your support and your interest in CCJC. Thank you for walking with us.

Pamela Dillon  
President  
Church Council on Justice and Corrections  
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Merci de votre engagement envers le CÉJC, quelle qu'en soit la forme choisie. Que vous apparteniez à l'une de nos églises membres, nous soutenez avec un don, ou par l'entremise de notre page facebook, vos manifestations pour le travail que nous faisons autour de la justice réparatrice sont toujours bien reçues de notre organisme qui engendre la compréhension d'une justice de réparation dans les pénitenciers du Canada.

Il y a plusieurs années, trop pour m'en souvenir avec certitude, je commençais mes visites à la prison de Cowansville comme bénévole sous l'égide du programme aumônier, et ses expériences en cet endroit demeurent désormais parmi les plus importantes de ma vie.

La question qui m'est le plus souvent posée est "que faites-vous là-dedans?" Peux sont conscients que le bénévolat en milieu pénitentiaire constitue une ligne de vie pour les détenus, et représente un lien avec le monde extérieur, tout en évoquant la communauté qui les attend suite à leur libération.

Les cercles de prière hebdomadaires rassemblent les détenus aspirant à la congrégation spirituelle de la communauté chrétienne. Ces entourages, qui rassemblent volontaires du monde extérieur et détenus, engendrent une réunion sacrée pour fraterniser et adorer. De ce rassemblement découle le pouvoir rédempteur et de transformation de l'amour, et à travers la parole, naît une capacité de guérison et la possibilité d'une vie nouvelle. L'évangile, dans l'enceinte d'une prison, encourage le maintien d'étroite relation les uns envers les autres, ainsi qu'avec toute la création.

Covid affecte la communauté carcérale de manière très tangible. Nous constatons les effets dévastateurs sur la santé publique se répercutant maintenant au système carcéral, car une distanciation sociale y est impossible durant la pandémie.

Être impliquée dans le CÉJC en tant que membre du conseil soutient et renforce ma conviction quant au pouvoir d'une justice réparatrice. Ainsi, j'ai depuis pris conscience qu'une communauté mondiale de partenaires travaillent comme nous, pour que l'accès à la justice réparatrice se répande par tout notre système judiciaire.

CÉJC vous remercie pour votre soutien, votre intérêt et vos encouragements.

Pamela Dillon  
Présidente,  
Conseil des Églises pour la Justice et Criminologie



## Treasurer's Report: Rev. Steve Hoffard



Audited Financial Reports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020 are included in this annual report. They are presented for your review and need to be accepted or rejected by way of motion. Please feel free to email me any questions before the annual meeting.

Revenue from our church houses remained the same from prior years. Even though we have lost the support of some of the denominations, others have stepped up with one-time increases to bridge the gap. Increased revenue also came from the donations of board members. Thank you for your commitment to the continued viability of CCJC.

Staffing expenses increased as expected but did come in under budget with savings in bookkeeping, the use of less contract labour and not having the summer student we had budgeted for.

Administrative expenses were less than both prior years and our budget, due to the decreased storage costs and less money spent on the website. We experienced considerable savings under meeting expenses due to COVID-19 with some board members attending our last board meeting virtually and fewer staff meetings with partners.

So while this report contains many elements of good news, we still experienced a net loss of \$13,140. While this is approximately \$7000 less than the year before, it still is unsustainable to continue with deficits year after year.

While we had a great year of support from our member churches we can expect, with continually decreasing church budgets, this will not continue. Other religious community donations continue

to decrease and our funding from Public Safety Canada has been decreased by \$2,812 even though we applied for a substantial increase since there have been no increases for at least the past decade. We also have no idea yet what the effect of Covid-19 will have on our revenue this year and beyond. Our expenses have been trimmed as much as they can be.

As a board we have the hard task ahead in planning for a much more sustainable CCJC future.

#### The Church Council on Justice and Corrections: Financials 2019-20

REVENUE	
Donations and Grants	
Supporting denominations	\$31,130
Religious societies	\$1,200
Federal government	\$45,061
Memberships	\$40
Supporters	<u>\$5,663</u>
	\$83,094
Fundraising	--
Interest	\$1,015
Miscellaneous	--
Income from projects (schedule)	<u>\$1,600</u>
	\$87,709
EXPENSES	
Projects (schedule)	\$1,282
Administrative (schedule)	<u>\$97,567</u>
	<u>\$98,849</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR	<u><u>\$ (13,140)</u></u>

## Financial Picture as of March 31, 2020

ASSETS	
CURRENT	
Cash	\$39,039
Short-term investments	\$51,011
Accounts receivable	\$5,612
Prepaid expenses	<u>\$3,708</u>
	<u>\$99,370</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,772
Deferred contributions (note 5)	<u>\$4,500</u>
	\$9,272
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	--
Operating	<u>\$90,098</u>
	<u>\$99,370</u>

## Executive Director's Report: Bonnie Weppler



*Restorative Justice and its Importance: "The model is based on the principle that crime must be viewed as a conflict between two individuals and not between the offenders and the state. It further premises that the enforcement of law and order should be a responsibility of all members of a community (Daly & Immariageon, 1998). It is mainly based on the realization of forgiveness, reparation, healing and reintegration in the search for justice." (<https://lawaspect.com/restorative-justice-importance/>)*

## ALMOST TWO YEARS LATER ...

I stepped into the position of Executive Director on 18 October 2018. I will admit that I was nervous. I don't have a background in criminology (I have my MA in Conflict Studies) but I have excellent administration skills and I thought those were what was really needed for this position. I had also completed three International Institute for Restorative Practices: Introduction to Restorative Practices; Restorative Responses to Adversity and Trauma; Restorative Leadership Development: Authority with Grace. This past July, I participated in IIRP's Listening Circle on Racism.

I have met a lot of people including some former staff and board members; visited Grand Valley Institution for Women; gone to quite a number of symposiums, meetings and events (when we could attend such activities!); participated in countless webinars and podcasts on different topics; worked with two bookkeepers and some students; liaised with different organizations and faculties at Saint Paul University, the University of Ottawa and Carleton University; became a member of the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice, Ottawa Restorative Justice Network, Restorative Ottawa Community Collective.

In September 2019, I reported the following to the Board:

- Communication
  - The Facebook story that got the most interest was one call: If You Won't Do Restorative Justice Right, Don't Do It, with 998 views! Our second most popular posting came via one of our Board members, Rev. Stuart Lyster: Long Table Annual Dinner, Emma's Acres.
  - Our monthly newsletter is sent to approximately 1140 people.
  - Our Annual Reports, from 2007 to 2018-19 are posted on our website: <https://ccjc.ca/publications/>. The 2019-20 Annual Report will be posted by mid-October.
- Finance
  - The auditor was in the CCJC office in July 2019 and the audit was fairly easy.
  - At a Public Safety June 2019 roundtable, it was made known that the funding cycle would move from three to five year cycles.
  - In September 2019, we hired a new bookkeeper; she is knowledgeable and efficient which has resulted in cost savings. One of her first big projects was to file for our HST/GST rebates which hadn't been done by the former bookkeeper. Once that was done, we got a wonderful "Christmas present" of almost \$20,000!!! As I wrote to the Board in October 2019: Under my watch, and with the new brilliant bookkeeper, this will not happen again!
- Projects
  - The Empathy Project underwent editing for chapters 8 to 12 as suggestions were made by the chaplains at Grand Valley Institution. In November 2019, the chaplains and facilitator led their second pilot of the Empathy Project. As a follow-up to the Empathy Project, and given some of the media about youth getting in trouble with the law, the next iteration of the Empathy Project will be for youth.

- The Justice Storytelling Quilt continued its travels through Canada: Meeting Points Conference (August 2019); Orientation Week at Saint Paul University (September 2019); University of Ottawa Law Student Event (September 2019); Conflict Symposium at Saint Paul University (October 2019); Concilio Prison Ministry's celebration of 50 years of continuous ministry within federal prisons in Atlantic Canada (Wolfville, NS, November 2019).
- CCJC received funding from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada to start the digitalization of The Justice Storytelling Quilt, something which will make the Quilt so much more accessible.
- In 2022, CCJC will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Some kind of recognition will celebrate this significant milestone.

In March 2020, I reported the following to the Board:

- Communication
  - We learned that our Facebook followers come from Canada, USA, Brazil, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Belgian, France, Singapore, India, Australia, Norway, Germany, Taiwan, Honduras, Bermuda, New Zealand, Qatar, Slovakia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ireland, Ghana, Israel, Ivory Coast, South Korea, Italy, China, Mexico, Colombia, Philippines, Armenia, Tunisia and Oman! Wow!
  - Major updates were made to the History section of the website.
- Finance
  - In February 2020, CCJC was notified by Public Safety Canada that our funding grant would be cut by about six percent since PSC had welcomed a few new organizations to this funding opportunity. Other organizations also incurred varying cuts.

### **THANK YOU!**

- 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
- To Conor Leggott who, as a placement student, produced a legal paper for CCJC: *How to push Restorative Justice into the Mainstream: Justice System Perspectives*
- To CCJC's awesome Board members:
  - 2019-20: Rebecca, Pam, Verena, John, Stuart, Dennis, Steve, Yves, Randy. You brought your competencies and interests and commitments to the Board table.
  - 2020-21: Pam, Stuart, Steve, Dennis, Yves, Heather, Daniel. You are a smaller Board this year, but that doesn't stop us from doing great work in the Restorative Justice realm!

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!

Malgré le manque de subvention le CEJCQ reste actif avec des activités précises tout en collaborant avec l'Aumônerie Communautaire de Montréal tout au long de l'année. Dans la grande région de Montréal nous essayons de poursuivre notre mission en lien avec les organismes communautaires.

En septembre nous avons collaboré avec la corporation Entrée Libre pour une soirée de prière au cimetière St-Vincent de Paul où sont enterrés plusieurs ex-détenus. Quelques membres du CEJCQ se sont joints à moi pour se souvenir de ces personnes oubliées. Marie Beeman une fière bénévole du haut de ses quatre-vingt et quelques années avec plus de 50 ans d'engagement pour ses frères détenus ne rate jamais cette soirée. Nous faisons aussi mémoire des détenus décédés dans les autres régions du Canada. Comme la journée du détenu du 10 août est dans la période des vacances, nous la soulignons lors de cette première rencontre de l'automne.

Lors de la semaine nationale de la justice réparatrice nous avons exploré le thème du jardin. Chaque personne et chaque organisme était appelé à nous partager ce qu'il y avait dans leur jardin personnel et collectif. Encore une fois à L'Oratoire St-Joseph de Montréal nous avons eu l'ouverture de la semaine. Plus de quatre mil personnes ont entendu les homélies portant sur la justice réparatrice lors des différentes célébrations de la journée. Après la messe principale, nous nous sommes retrouvés à la salle Pichette pour un repas où les participants (victimes, bénévoles et offenseurs) partagent la même table. Occasion de faire connaissance ou de retrouver des participants d'années antérieures. La centaine de participants était très attentif aux témoignages donnés par la victime, l'offenseur et le membre de la communauté lors du face à face. Par la suite les dix tables d'invités furent inspirées pour un collage sur un grand carton, de ce qu'était pour eux leur jardin, de quoi ils voulaient le garnir pour le rendre plus agréable. Les partages se sont multipliés et déjà il était temps de retourner au pénitencier, aux maisons de transition ou à la maison. Les gens étaient invités à continuer leurs réflexions et à revenir partager le vendredi soir suivant pour la clôture de la semaine chez les pères dominicains. Soirée mémorable qui nous a permis de partager nos expériences de jardins intérieurs. L'acte final de clôture fut animé par un groupe autochtone du CFF avec le grand tambour. Nous avons vraiment ressenti l'unisson entre tous les participants; grand moment de réconciliation avec nous-même et les autres.

Lors d'une rencontre de CA, nous nous sommes demandé s'il valait la peine de continuer compte tenu qu'il est toujours difficile de fonctionner sans subvention. Nous avons décidé que oui car l'humain est toujours au cœur de notre action.

Laurent Champagne  
Président CEJCQ

514-978-8881 [acmontreal@hotmail.com](mailto:acmontreal@hotmail.com)



Hello readers of the CEJC / CCJC newsletter!

Despite the lack of funding, the CEJCQ remains active with specific activities while collaborating with the Community Chaplaincy of Montreal throughout the year. In the greater Montreal area, we are trying to pursue our mission in conjunction with community organizations.

In September we collaborated with the Free Entrance corporation for an evening of prayer at St-Vincent de Paul cemetery where several ex-prisoners are buried. Some members of the CEJCQ joined me to remember these forgotten people. Marie Beeman a proud volunteer in her eighties with over 50 years of commitment to her fellow prisoners never misses this evening. We also remember the inmates who died in other parts of Canada. As the Prisoners' Justice Day (August 10) is in the vacation period, we mark it at this first meeting of the fall.

During National Restorative Justice Week we explored the theme of the garden. Each person and each organization was called upon to share with us what was in their personal and collective garden. Once again at L'Oratoire St-Joseph in Montreal we had the opening of the week. More than four thousand people heard the homilies on restorative justice during the various celebrations of the day. After the main mass, we met in the Pichette room for a meal where the participants (victims, volunteers and offenders) share the same table. It's an opportunity to meet together and meet participants from previous years. The hundred or so participants were very attentive to the testimonies given by the victim, the offender and the member of the community during the face-to-face. Subsequently the ten guest tables were inspired to create a collage on a large cardboard, about what their garden means to them and what they wanted to garnish it with to make it more pleasant. Many people shared and then it was time to return to the penitentiary, halfway houses or home. People were invited to continue their reflections and come back the following Friday evening for the closing of the week with the Dominican fathers. It was a memorable evening which allowed us to share our indoor garden experiences. The final closing act was led by an indigenous group, with a big drum, from the CFF. We really felt the unison between all the participants; a great moment of reconciliation with ourselves and others.

At a CA meeting, we wondered if it was worth continuing, given that it is always difficult to operate without a grant. We have decided that it does because people are always at the heart of our action.

## We are so very grateful to all of our donors!

Thank you to our supporting denominations and the board members that your denominations provide: 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 with our Justice Storytelling Quilt.

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! Kop Khun!  
Dankie! Sukria! Dziekuje!  
Kitos! Danke! Efharisto! Mahalo! Arigato! Takk! Obridgado! Spasiba!

## 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>

Email us: [info@ccjc.ca](mailto:info@ccjc.ca) or [bwepppler@ccjc.ca](mailto:bwepppler@ccjc.ca)

Phone us: 613-563-1688

Visit us: 223 Main Street, Room 353 Laframboise, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 1C4

**The Church  
Council on  
Justice and Corrections**



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