



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

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020-2021**



# 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 corrections.*

*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 2020-21 fiscal year member denominations included the Anglican Church of Canada, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada. While the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were not able to maintain their membership in CCJC, both organizations have continued to be very supportive of CCJC and interested in the work of CCJC. For this, we are grateful.

CCJC holds various affiliations and memberships and collaborates with secular and Government agencies working for compassionate change in the systems of justice and corrections. Our partners include the Canadian Collaboration on Child Protection, 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 (ORJN), Prison Fellowship Canada, Public Safety Canada, Restorative Ottawa Community Collective (ROCC), 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

Daniel Cho, Secretary  
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Heather Peters  
Mennonite Central Committee Canada

Yves Racicot  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dennis Whitford  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

### CCJC Staff and Students

Bonnie Weppeler, Executive Director (October 2018 to Present)

Danielle Lever, Finance (June 2019 to Present)

A huge thank you to our students who worked so very hard for CCJC:

- Sarah Omari, University of Ottawa. Sarah is working on the Youth Empathy Project (May 2021 through August 2021)
- Melissa Das, Carleton University. Melissa worked on the Youth Empathy Project (June 2020 to April 2021)
- Alison Gondosch, University of Ottawa. Alison wrote a paper: *Restorative Justice for Black Offenders at the Sentencing Level* (May 2020 to September 2020)
- Conor Leggott, University of Ottawa. Conor wrote a paper: *How to Push Restorative Justice into the Mainstream: Justice System Perspectives* (September 2019 to April 2020)

This was the last picture taken of the Board of Directors (November 2020). I'm expecting that everyone's hair is significantly longer given the lack of hair cutting services during the pandemic!



Top row: Yves Racicot, Stuart Lyster, Dennis Whitford

Second row: Bonnie Wepler, Pamela Dillon, Lise Clement (consultant)

Third row: Daniel Cho, Steve Hoffard, Heather Peters



The last time we had people together in a room was September 2019!



Here's hoping that we will be able to meet together in March 2022. I am looking forward to that. Virtual communication has got us through the last year but I want to be in person with our Board!



## President's Message: Pamela Dillon



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your engagement with the CCJC, in whatever 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. However 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, 2021 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 2020-21

##### **REVENUE**

##### **Donations and Grants**

Supporting denominations	\$28,956
Religious societies	\$200
Federal government	\$42,249
Memberships	\$50
Supporters	<u>\$3474</u>
	\$74,929

Fundraising	--
Interest	--
Miscellaneous	--
Income from projects (schedule)	<u>--</u>
	\$74,929

##### **EXPENSES**

Projects	\$848
Administrative	<u>\$87,384</u>
	\$ 88,233

<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$(13,303)</u></u>
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## Financial Picture as of March 31, 2021

ASSETS	
CURRENT	
Cash	\$26,636
Short-term investments	\$51,011
Accounts receivable	\$7,805
Prepaid expenses	\$1,008
	<u>\$86,460</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,721
Deferred contributions (note 5)	\$4,500
	<u>\$9,221</u>
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	--
Operating	<u>\$77,239</u>
	<u>\$86,460</u>

## Executive Director's Report: Bonnie Weppler



*The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

Who would have known?!

It's been a most unusual year and a half, to say the least. COVID-19 arrived and everything changed.

The pandemic has been very hard for a lot of people. There have been job losses and economic instability, increased family conflicts and divorces, difficulties when trying to work *and* teach children at home. We missed seeing our friends and family ... or anyone really! A lot of people suffered from mental health issues during the pandemic. We pray for everyone who experienced and continues to experience difficulties.

I try to look for positives when there are difficulties. We were forced to innovate and adapt. A number of my friends love working from home because they don't need to follow the 9 to 5 schedule. People set up phone trees to reach out regularly to others. There was more family time. I saw a lot of people out walking and I suspect that exercise helped to pass the time at home. More people took up hobbies including cooking and baking. The number of virtual church services grew exponentially, which allowed those who are sick, travelling or curious to see how different churches/congregations do church. .

With fewer cars on the roads and certain businesses shut down, the environment had a chance to heal. We've read stories about the blue sky in Delhi (unheard of previously) and improved air quality in other countries. Climate change slowed down a bit. Nature and animals have been less stressed due to less noise and human movement. Birds also win: with fewer office lights left on, fewer birds have been killed by office windows. Health care workers and other essential workers have been heroes.

This pandemic has allowed us to think about how we want to live moving forward. Do we want to go back to the busyness of our former lives? Some will and some won't.

"Paraphrasing Winston Churchill, we should let no crisis go to waste. We each should take this opportunity to find ways to use the lessons we are learning, putting them to use improving ourselves, our family lives, our businesses, our specialty, and life for our fellow citizens." (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7453222/>)

### **BACK TO THE OFFICE**

I returned to the office in early February 2021. I am often the only one on the third floor, however, more of the university staff is slowly returning. Recently, there were four of us on the third floor: it seemed like a mob!

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

- Communication
  - April 2020 to July 2020 Newsletters were sent out.
  - Annual Reports from 2007 to 2019-20 (excluding 2017-18) can be found on our website: <https://ccjc.ca/publications/>
  - CCJC has 433 Facebook followers
- Finance

- As we learned from Public Safety Canada in February 2020, our new five year funding was reduced from \$45,069 to \$42,249 (2020 to 2025). This drop affected a number of organizations as Public Safety Canada welcomed a few new organizations to their fold.
- CCJC is so very grateful for the denominational contributions. As shown in the table on page nine, the denominations contribute almost \$29,000 to CCJC.
- Our \$50,000 GIC will come due in August 2021.
- From April 2020 to March 31, 2021, we have received donations totalling \$3674 which is about half the amount that we received in the 2019-2020 year. These donations came from Board Members and other supporters.
- We have engaged McCay Duff to complete our 2020-21 review engagement.
- Projects
  - The Justice Storytelling Quilt:
    - Bible texts were created to match up with each square on the Quilt.
    - Dahlia Kurtz, a former CFRA radio personality, interviewed me about the quilt: <https://omny.fm/shows/580-cfra/listen-now-the-justice-storytelling-quilt-is-bring>
    - Because of the pandemic, the Justice Storytelling Quilt was not been able to travel anywhere this year. Hopefully, once the pandemic is over and when there are events again, there will be lots of requests for the Quilt to travel. The Quilt has been bored sleeping inside the suitcase for the last year!
  - The Empathy Project:
    - There are still two or three chapters undergoing revisions in the Empathy Project – Facilitator Guide. These revisions will be done in 2021 and a launch will be held.
  - Empathy Project for Youth
    - A student has been reviewing and editing the text already created for the Empathy Project for Youth. A second student is in place to create case studies for the chapter topics, starting April 2021.
  - National Restorative Justice Week 2020
    - The Quilt was presented virtually at the Restorative Justice Symposium: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgWWLvepexY>
    - CCJC created an article on the Justice Storytelling Quilt. This article was sent to various media agencies

## 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!

L'année dernière a été vraiment calme. Nous sommes en attente, pas d'argent, pas de personnel. Le Covid 19 vient de tuer le CEJCQ mais l'Aumônerie Communautaire de Montréal continue le travail auprès des contrevenants et des victimes en collaboration avec le CSJR.

Good day to the readers of the CEJC/CCJC newsletter.

The last year was really quiet. We are on hold, no money, no staff. Covid-19 will kill CEJCQ but Aumônerie Communautaire de Montréal will continue the work with offenders and victims in collaboration with le centre de services de justice réparatrice (CSJR).

This is the news from Québec.

Laurent Champagne  
Président CEJCQ  
514-978-8881 [acmontreal@hotmail.com](mailto:acmontreal@hotmail.com)

## Thank you!

Thank you to our supporting denominations and the board members that you provide: you are the core of CCJC.

Thank you to those denominations who are no longer a part of our Board but who continue to support CCJC in different ways. We are thrilled that you are still interested.

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

Thank you to those who show interest in and support CCJC whether as members and donors, partners and friends, students and volunteers.

Thank you to those who recognize CCJC as a resource and contact us: we appreciate it.

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.

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

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

