

Building on the Foundation of the **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** Commission

CBWOQ's Response

In 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission completed its six-year investigation into the legacy of residential schools. Their report includes Calls to Action—specific steps we can take toward reconciliation.

Step 48 is a call to religious organizations to publish their plan of compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Here is an outline of the values of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ) and some of our first steps in the process.

Culture is incredibly valuable.

When the Bible describes heaven, people are recognizably from different nations and ethnicities, and they are worshipping God in different languages (Revelations 5:9, 7:9). Diversity continues in heaven. God blesses it.

CBWOQ wants to bless and value Indigenous cultures.

- CBWOQ wants to take care not to overwhelm the culture of others by enthusiasm or by sheer numbers, and especially not by pressure.
- CBWOQ recognizes that there is diversity of cultural practices and beliefs between different Indigenous Peoples as well as within each people group.
- CBWOQ understands that culture is fluid and changes over time. CBWOQ does not expect Indigenous Peoples to be locked in cultural practices of a certain period, anymore than it expects people who live in Plymouth to continue to dress as pilgrims.
- CBWOQ will resist ethnocentrism—the tendency to view others through the lens of one's own culture, with the underlying (and often unrecognized) assumption that your culture is best.
- CBWOQ acknowledges that its own culture, and that of others, has some elements that are godly, others that are neutral, and some

that are contrary to biblical principles. CBWOQ leaves the task of discerning those distinctions to godly people within each culture.

Jesus calls us to cross-cultural connection

He says 'go to all nations' (Matthew 28:19). He says every part of the body is essential and we are called to mutual support (1 Corinthians 12).

- CBWOQ will make gentle overtures of friendship to Indigenous Peoples.

Action steps

The TRC calls all religious organizations to educate their members about colonial injustice and its ongoing impacts. CBWOQ is committed to that process.

- CBWOQ is giving financial support, and Diane McBeth is part of the planning committee, for a First Nations Conference, October 21–22, 2016 in Kitchener, Ontario.
- CBWOQ will host a workshop at our Women's Conference April 22–23, 2016 in Mississauga, Ontario. The ministry also provides bursaries for Indigenous women to attend the conference.
- Diane was also a member of the CBOQ First Nations consultation group, which will report on a new philosophy for partnership with Indigenous peoples.
- CBWOQ will source and provide educational information to our members in the coming months. We will support groups and associations in their efforts.

 *Diane McBeth*
Executive director, CBWOQ

2016 Baptist Women at Elim

September 16-18, 2016

Early bird registration: \$90
(after May 31, \$100)

Balance due August 1, 2016

Shared \$135, Private \$160

Commuter rate with meals

\$155

Saturday only with meals \$80

\$10 Late Fee after August 1, 2016

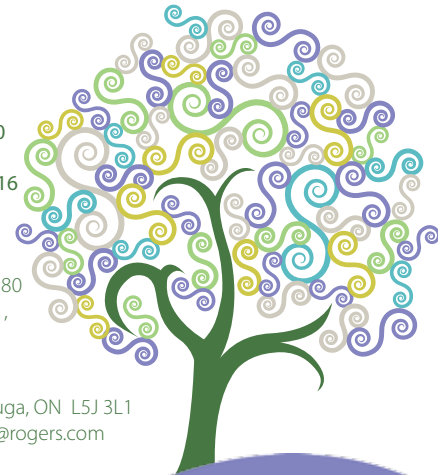
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