

Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Meeting of the Executive
Thursday, April 25, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

Vision of the Commission by which we evaluate progress based on:

- Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place
- Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
- Building Communications

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. David Lambie	Chair
Monique Moser	Member
Rev. Joëlle Leduc	Member
Paul Stanfield	Member
Patricia Lisson	Member
Judy Coffin	Corresponding Member, Administration and Communication
Rev. Pierre Goldberger	Member
Rick Sheffer	Member
Sabrina Di Stefano	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary

REGRETS/ABSENT

Robert Patton	Member
Susan Gabriel	Member

1. **Opening Devotions** – Dave read the Scripture passage John 20:19-31, and sang hymn 185 (*Voices United*) “You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen”. David ended opening devotions with a prayer from *Nos voix unis*.
2. **Circle Time of Sharing** -
3. **Minutes of April 4, 2019**

2019-04-25_79 MOTION (P. Lisson/J. Leduc) That the minutes of April 4th be approved as corrected.
Carried

Wording change: “It was suggested that YAYA staff person be asked to attend every third meeting.”

4. **Agenda**

2019-04-25_80 MOTION (M. Moser/J. Leduc) That the agenda be accepted as amended. **Carried**

Addition: Consistoire Laurentien Financial statements under 1c

5. **Correspondence**

- a) April 12, 2019 Michael Blair, General Council Office re *Living Partnership Through Pilgrimages: A Gathering For People To People Pilgrim Leaders* on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris, ON. The program will run from 10:30 on Friday until 4 pm on Saturday. (*for action - 5*)
- b) April 2019 David Clinker, Mount Royal United Church re request for funding to assist with French ministry project (*for action – 2b*)

<i>Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place</i>

6. *Business arising*

1. **Property and Finance**

- a) **2019-04-25_81 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/P. Lisson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accepts the 2019 Amendment to 2012 Good Samaritan Fund agreement (“GSF 2012”) between the United Church of Canada Foundation – la Fondation de l’Église Unie du Canada (“UCCF”) and Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council (“NRC”) as successor to Montreal Presbytery of the United Church of Canada (“MP”). **Carried**
- b) **2019-04-25_82 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/J. Leduc) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receives for information the Q1 Income Statements (see appendix A). **Carried**

Edge Presentation – Patricia highlighted that Property and Finance committee recently viewed a presentation by the EDGE Network and feel it is urgent for the Regional Council to create property strategy.

2019-04-25_83 MOTION (P. Lisson/P. Stanfield) That the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive mandate the Property and Finance Leadership Team to create a property strategy, using Edge as a resource, in consultation with the visioning of Communities of Faith, feeding the creation of a vision of ministry for the Regional Council. **Carried**

2019-04-25_84 MOTION (P. Lisson /P. Stanfield) That the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive create a timeline to receive an interim report on property strategy from the Property and Finance and Leadership Team after six months, with regular updates, and a full report in one year. **Carried**

2019-04-25_85 MOTION (P. Lisson/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive ensure that reporting on property strategy be included in the Report Book for the Inaugural Meeting on May 25th 2019. **Carried**

2. Fund Granting Leadership Team – Rick reported that at its last meeting, the Fund Granting Leadership Team discussed how it would handle granting in the short term, i.e., over the summer months and second, how it will begin reviewing granting programs that are currently in place, to see if there is a more efficient way for the granting process to take place, i.e. one application and one team to review applications and designate which funds would best suit the application. Fred Braman is preparing a mandate for this committee, and Peter Bisset, Patricia Lisson and Renata Sutherland are going to create an application and evaluation form. The next meeting will be on the 14th of May. There will be a Zoom at 11 a.m. for current granting teams to learning about the new process; anyone one interested in learning about the granting process is also welcome. All information will also be made available in French.

Request from Mount Royal – It was noted that the application could be received by the *BHAL-JUN 발전 Fund*, up to a maximum of \$10,000. It was suggested to advise the applicant to seek funding from *Chasing the Spirit* through EDGE Network, *Erskine and American Fund*, etc. Sabrina will follow up with Mount Royal to gather more information, in particular to questions concerning accountability, and report back to the Executive on May 9th.

3. **Pastoral Relations** – Sabrina

2019-04-25_86 MOTION (P. Lisson/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council

Executive receives the request for change of pastoral relations, effective July 1st 2019 from Beryl Barraclough, Designated Lay Minister, on April 16th 2019 for information and refers to the Pastoral Relations Minister for next steps. **Carried**

2019-04-25_87 MOTION (P. Lisson/J. Leduc) that having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocation that the named ministry personnel is in good standing, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the request of Merging Waters Pastoral Charge and approves the provisional call to Ryan Fea, Ordinand, beginning July 1st 2019, full time, with the following terms for Category A, Cost of Living Group (COL) 4: salary (housing included) \$ 56,741.00 per annum, basic telephone \$600 per annum, Continuing Education and Learning Amount \$ 1,415 per annum, and all other terms according to The Manual. **Carried**

2019-04-25_88 MOTION (P. Lisson/P. Goldberger) that having received the properly completed form and confirmation that the named ministry personnel is in good standing, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the request of Rennies United Church and retroactively approves the appointment of the Rev. Mher Katchikian, Ordained Minister, beginning July 1st 2018 and ending June 30th 2019 half time, with the following terms for Category F, Cost of Living Group (COL) 2: salary (housing included) \$ 27,166 per annum, basic telephone \$700 per annum, Continuing Education and Learning Amount \$ 700 per annum, as well as travel and other considerations \$14 300 and all other terms according to The Manual. **Carried**

2019-04-25_89 MOTION (P. Lisson/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council accepts with regret the request for a change in pastoral relations and retirement of the Rev. Mher Katchikian, Ordained Minister, effective July 1st 2019 and gives thanks for his ministry among us. **Carried**

SouthWest United Church

2019-04-25_90 MOTION (P. Lisson/M. Moser) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive appoints the Reverend Birgit Neuschild as Liaison working with SouthWest United Church, Verdun. **Carried**

Mount Bruno and Richelieu Valley United Church

2019-04-25_91 MOTION (P. Lisson/J. Leduc) The Quebec Presbytery Consistoire du Quebec, at a meeting of its Executive held on December 4th 2018, during which it approved the Joint Needs Assessment Report from the Mount Bruno and Richelieu Valley United Church but neglected to declare a Vacancy as requested; that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive declare a vacancy for a fulltime (40 hours) or a part-time (30 hours) minister (ordained, diaconal or designated lay minister) effective immediately. **Carried**

2019-04-25_92 MOTION (P. Lisson/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive appoints the Reverend Jennifer Mountain as Liaison working with Mount Bruno and Richelieu Valley United Church. **Carried**

2019-04-25_93 MOTION (P. Lisson/J. Leduc) that having received the properly completed form and confirmation that the named ministry personnel is in good standing, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the request of Knowlton Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge and approves the appointment of the Rev. Steven Lawson, Ordained Minister, beginning July 1st 2019 and ending June 30th 2020 part-time (20 hours), with the following terms for Category F, Cost of Living Group (COL) 2: salary (housing included) \$ 30 541.50 per annum, basic telephone \$681.36 per annum, Continuing Education and Learning Amount \$ 707.50 per annum, and all other terms according to The Manual. **Carried**

4. Governance

Archives

2019-04-25_94 MOTION (P. Stanfield/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive appoints Joan Benoit as the representative to the Archives Consultation in London June 16-18, 2019. **Carried**

Nominations Leadership Team – suggested composition of the Executive (see appendix **B**)

MOTION (/) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the composition of the Executive

Discussion: This will come back to the May 9th Executive Meeting.

5. Governance Policy Handbook

MOTION: (/) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the amended Draft Governance Policy Handbook – not ready

<i>Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs</i>

6. Living Partnership through Pilgrimages – Correspondence a)

Discussion: A number of young adults were mentioned for Rosemary to contact to see if anyone is available to represent the Regional Council at the *Living Partnership through Pilgrimage* gathering at Five Oaks.

<i>Building Communications</i>

7. Inaugural Meeting- draft agenda, see appendix **C** – Rosemary asked that feedback re draft agenda be sent directly to her in time for further discussion at next meeting on May 9th. It was suggested that an early start time be considered, that time be allotted for concerns to be addressed from mics on the floor, that existing Leadership Teams express their concerns in their reports in the Report Book, and that the President (should case arise) be able to be nominated from the floor.

8. Communications – The newsletter continues to go out regularly, registration is up and running and the website is still being worked, hopefully to be launched before next Executive meeting.

7. New Business

9. Bill 21

2019-04-25_95 MOTION (P. Lisson/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive support the statement from religious groups (see appendix **D**) **Carried** (P. Goldberger abstains)

2019-04-25_96 MOTION (P. Lisson/J. Leduc) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive circulate a press release in response to Bill 21 (see appendix **E**). **Carried**

Discussion: Patricia will provide the final version at next meeting on May 9th.

2019-04-25_97 MOTION (P. Stanfield/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council Executive receives the financial report from Consistoire Laurentien. **Carried**

Opening worship for next meeting – J. Leduc

Closing Prayer – Dave closed the meeting with prayer

Next meeting dates –

- Thursday, May 9th 10- 2:00 Lachine, bring your lunch

8. *Adjournment*

2019-04-25_98 MOTION (J. Leduc) that the meeting be adjourned at 2:36 p.m. **Carried**

Rev. David Lambie
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

Appendix A	Nakonha:ka Regional Council Q1 Income Statements	Pages 132- 135
Appendix B	Suggested composition of the Executive	Page 136
Appendix C	Inaugural Meeting draft agenda	Page 137
Appendix D	Statement from religious groups	Page 138
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Appendix A

	Mission Support from UCC	Mission Support from F&E	Total	Mission Support from UCC	Mission Support from F&E	Total
Schedule 9 - Union United Church (Montreal)						
50% share of Minister's salary & benefits for 2019	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - Union United Church (Montreal)	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
Schedule 10 - Contingency						
General Contingency	0	0	0	5,000	20,000	25,000
Personnel Emergency Fund	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Total - Contingency	0	0	0	5,000	25,000	30,000
Schedule 11 - Mission Support						
Auberge Madeleine	0	250	250	0	1,000	1,000
Bishop's University/Chaplain Chaplaincy	0	750	750	0	3,000	3,000
Camino de Emaus de l'Église Unie	11,063	3,938	15,000	44,250	15,750	60,000
Comite d'Aide aux Réfugiés	3,000	3,000	6,000	12,000	12,000	24,000
Concordia Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre	500	500	1,000	2,000	2,000	4,000
Église Unie Saint-Pierre et Pinguet	4,925	1,575	6,500	19,700	6,300	26,000
Harrington Harbour	0	1,875	1,875	0	7,500	7,500
McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy	0	3,125	3,125	0	12,500	12,500
Montreal City Mission	8,750	21,250	30,000	35,000	85,000	120,000
Mount Royal U.C. C.O.C.L.A.	3,125	3,125	6,250	12,500	12,500	25,000
Rennie's U.C.	0	4,500	4,500	0	18,000	18,000
Saint Columba House	8,625	29,125	37,750	34,500	116,500	151,000
Sainte Genevieve U.C. ORA Loss and Living	0	3,000	3,000	0	12,000	12,000
Southwest Mission	4,375	4,375	8,750	17,500	17,500	35,000
Union Montreal Outreach Ministry	0	3,750	3,750	0	15,000	15,000
The United Theological College	0	1,000	1,000	0	4,000	4,000
West Island LGBTQ2 Centre	0	4,250	4,250	0	17,000	17,000
Kanesatake United Church	0	3,750	3,750	0	15,000	15,000
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Mission Support	44,363	93,138	137,500	177,450	372,550	550,000

**Schedule for Financial Statements
For the Three-Month Period ended March 31, 2019**

Schedule 1 - Staff Expenses

Executive Minister/Assistant (Including Benefits)	17,236	0	17,236	37,500	0	37,500
Salaries	38,755	19,919	58,674	150,200	61,500	211,700
Benefits (United Church & Government) (26.3%)	10,187	5,057	15,244	38,000	14,500	52,500
Other Staff Costs (GCO 1.5%)	587	294	881	3,000	0	3,000
Meetings/Hospitality	82	0	82	500	0	500
Continuing Education	75	0	75	500	500	1,000
Travel	905	0	905	4,000	3,000	7,000
Cell Phone	80	0	80	800	500	1,300
Other	249	0	249	0	0	0
Staff Expenses	68,156	25,270	93,426	234,500	80,000	314,500

Schedule 2 - Office Expenses

Rent (Including Utilities)	8,316	0	8,316	26,000	0	26,000
Photocopier	1,713	0	1,713	3,000	0	3,000
Telephone	674	0	674	3,000	0	3,000
Supplies	1,215	0	1,215	6,000	0	6,000
Postage/Courier	67	0	67	2,000	0	2,000
Archives Maintenance	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
Other	-1,860	0	-1,860	0	0	0
Total Office Expenses	10,125	0	10,125	41,000	0	41,000

Schedule 3 - Finance & Archives Expense

Accounting & Review	797	0	797	15,000	0	15,000
Bank Charges	234	0	234	2,000	0	2,000
Archives (Honorarium)	3,000	0	3,000	12,000	0	12,000
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Finance & Archives Expense	4,031	0	4,031	29,000	0	29,000

Schedule 4 - Committee & Meetings Expenses						
Region AGM	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000
Other regional meetings	711	0	711	4,000	0	4,000
Other meetings	0	0	0	4,000	3,000	7,000
Total Committee & Meetings Expense	711	0	711	16,000	3,000	19,000
Schedule 5 - Clusters & Networks Support						
Clusters & Networks Salaries/Consultant Fees	0	0	0	0	48,500	48,500
Education & Students Support	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Pastoral Relations Support	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Other Support	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Clusters & Networks Support	0	0	0	9,000	48,500	57,500
Schedule 6 - Youth & YAYA, LLWL Training Support						
Youth & YAYA Activities Additional Support	0	1,380	1,380	0	3,000	3,000
LLWL Renewal Support (Eastern Area)	0	0	0	0	1,500	1,500
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - Youth & YAYA, LLWL Training Support	0	1,380	1,380	0	4,500	4,500
Schedule 7 - Communications & Information Technology						
Internet	71	0	71	4,000	0	4,000
Web Site Development	2,281	0	2,281	4,000	0	4,000
GCO IT Support	956	0	956	4,000	0	4,000
IT Equipment	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Other	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Total - Communications & Information Technology	3,308	0	3,308	20,000	0	20,000
Schedule 8 - Transformation & Facilitation						
Consultants Fees	0	0	0	0	30,000	30,000
Other Support	0	3,000	3,000	0	20,000	20,000
Total - Transformation & Facilitation	0	3,000	3,000	0	50,000	50,000

Schedule 9 - Union United Church (Montreal)
50% share of Minister's salary & benefits for 2019

Other	0	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
Total - Union United Church (Montreal)	0	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000

Schedule 10 - Contingency

General Contingency	0	0	0	0	5,000	20,000	25,000
Personnel Emergency Fund	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Total - Contingency	0	0	0	0	5,000	25,000	30,000

Schedule 11 - Mission Support

	Mission Support from UCC	Mission Support from F&E	Total	Mission Support from UCC	Mission Support from F&E	Total
Auberge Madeleine	0	250	250	0	1,000	1,000
Bishop's University/Chaplain Chaplaincy	0	750	750	0	3,000	3,000
Camino de Emaus de l'Eglise Unie	11,063	3,938	15,000	44,250	15,750	60,000
Comite d'Aide aux Refugies	3,000	3,000	6,000	12,000	12,000	24,000
Concordia Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre	500	500	1,000	2,000	2,000	4,000
Eglise Unie Saint-Pierre et Pinguet	4,925	1,575	6,500	19,700	6,300	26,000
Harrington Harbour	0	1,875	1,875	0	7,500	7,500
McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy	0	3,125	3,125	0	12,500	12,500
Montreal City Mission	8,750	21,250	30,000	35,000	85,000	120,000
Mount Royal U.C. C.O.C.L.A.	3,125	3,125	6,250	12,500	12,500	25,000
Rennie's U.C.	0	4,500	4,500	0	18,000	18,000
Saint Columba House	8,625	29,125	37,750	34,500	116,500	151,000
Sainte Genevieve U.C. ORA Loss and Living	0	3,000	3,000	0	12,000	12,000
Southwest Mission	4,375	4,375	8,750	17,500	17,500	35,000
Union Montreal Outreach Ministry	0	3,750	3,750	0	15,000	15,000
The United Theological College	0	1,000	1,000	0	4,000	4,000
West Island LGBTQ2 Centre	0	4,250	4,250	0	17,000	17,000
Kanesatake United Church	0	3,750	3,750	0	15,000	15,000
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Mission Support	44,363	93,138	137,500	177,450	372,550	550,000

Appendix B**Executive Models****TRADITIONAL MODEL**

1. Chair, Past Chair, Chair Elect (3)
 2. Key Committee Chairs: Finance, Pastoral Relations, YAYA, Visioning, Church Extension, Social Justice, Nominations (7)
 3. Indigenous Network Representative. (1)
 4. UCW representative (1)
 5. Member at large from each founding presbyteries. (4)
- Total of 16

We can reduce this number by having YAYA, Social Justice and Nominations come by invitation or request. Should we include Le Table also?

OPEN MODEL- based on person's ability to see and bring to fruition a vision of our new regional council in operation.

1. Chair, Past Chair, Chair Elect
2. 3 members of the current executive (1/3 including past chair)
3. 7 members at large who will be chosen to reflect the diversity of founding presbyteries, order of ministry, laity, female, male, LBTQ2, younger and older, UCW.

THIRD OPTION

1. Chair, Past Chair, Chair Elect (3)
2. 3 members of the current executive (1/3 including past chair) (3)
3. Parliamentarian (1)
4. Voting Treasurer (1)
5. Indigenous Network Representative (1)
6. UCW representative (1)
7. 4 members at large who will be chosen because of their vision for the region and to reflect the diversity of the region – founding presbyteries, order of ministry, laity, female, male LBTQ2, younger and older.

Note that 3,4 and 5 could be current members which would allow for 6 members at large.

Appendix C

Inaugural Meeting Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Saturday May 25, 2019 at St Lambert United Church, St Lambert QC "Au commencement... Tiotahsawahkwen... In the beginning..."

FRIDAY 1:00	Begin Set-up at the church – tech team, office space, book/display
9am-1:30pm	WE GATHER
9:00-9:45	Registration and 'Coffee Hour' Community time
9:45-10:00	Welcoming music
10:00	In the beginning... (Worship liturgy lead by YAYA)
10:15	Welcome to the land – Satewas Harvey Gabriel (include worship liturgy... rising eastern sun?)
10: 45	Call to Order, Enabling Motions, intros *welcome from St Lambert congregation *Candidates for Ministry Introduced
11:00	Sharing and Storytelling (Table Groups) (7min) Table group introduction (10min) EM's Annual Story (13min) Table group sharing: My community of faith this past year (5min X4) Stories of our Past: Quebec-Sherbrooke (Charlotte), Consistoire Laurentian (Darla), Montreal (Ian), ***Mohawk Community (Robert) (10min) Table group sharing: Response on what you have heard.
12:00	LUNCH provide for consuming on the lawn (we hope) Choir practice in hall COM participants rehearsal Leadership Team Fair and Nominations
2:00-2:15	Gathering music with Liturgy moving us into...
2:00-5pm	TO SHARE IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH
2:15-3:00	Communicating with General Council -Orientation to the New Church Structure -Moderator's Message by video -GC report and question period
3:00-3:30	Finance Report and Motions (2019 budget, auditors)
3:30-4pm	Break
4-5pm	Co-Creators as God recreates and recreates and recreates -Worship liturgy weaved through *Nominations Report, Motion for Report Book with all inclusions *Governance Document *Future Meetings *Enabling Motions to be effective rise of COM *Covenanting with new Executive and Leadership Teams, Installation of NEW President *Grace/liturgy moving us into...
	AND TO PRAISE GOD FOR THE JOURNEY.
5:00	SUPPER
5:30	Choir Practice
6:00	Assemble participants for COM
6:30	Celebration of Ministry (with communion)
8:30	Reception
9:00	Clean up!

Appendix D

t i-- Original Message -----

Subject: Statement from religious groups and PC (email draft)

From: "Ehab Lotayef" <lotayef@gmail.com>

Date: 4/23/19 12:18 pm

Cc: musabbir@cma-amc.ca, "sameerzuberi" <sameer.zuberi@gmail.com>, "hindo10" <hindo10@hotmail.com>

Dear friends;

After the official announcement of the groups and individuals who were invited to present in front of the NA committee on Bill 21 I suggest a 2 tier action plan.

1. Issue a statement (target Wed) as below signed by the listed organizations and send it to the political parties and the clerk of the committee, and also to the media. **Please confirm that you agree to add your name.** It will be in French, of course.
2. Hold a press conference (target Monday) by the organizations that signed the statement to propagate the same message in the public sphere. **Please confirm that you are on board with the idea of the join press conf.**

Thx.

Musabbir Alam, Ehab Lotayef, Hanadi Saad & Sameer Zuberi

Statement

It is unacceptable to exclude religious organizations from Bill 21 hearings

The undersigned religious and religiously affiliated organizations are shocked and deeply concerned about their exclusion from the hearings around Bill 21.

It is incomprehensible that a committee deciding on a law directly affecting religious practices excludes religious organizations from its hearings.

We believe that we should be given ample time to explain our position and express ourselves to the committee members.

We request that the National Assembly's Committee on Institutions extend the program of consultations and public hearings on Bill 21 to allow all interested religious and religiously affiliated organizations to be adequately heard.

Organizations invited to sign:

World Sikh Organization
Board of Rabbis
Canadian Muslim Forum
National Council of Canadian Muslims
Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Canadian Muslim Alliance
United Church of Canada
Catholic Diocese of Montreal
Anglican Diocese of Montreal

Appendix E

Le Project de Bill 21

de l'Église Unie du Canada croit que le projet de Bill 21 va restreindre indûment les droits et libertés fondamentaux des Québécois et Québécoises et s'oppose à ce que soit cantonné à la sphère privée la liberté de religion des fonctionnaires des secteurs public et parapublic.

29 Avril 2019 (Montréal, Québec) : // de l'Église Unie du Canada croit que le projet de Bill 21 va restreindre indûment les droits et libertés fondamentaux enchâssés dans la Charte Québécoise des droits et libertés de la personne et de la Charte Canadienne des droits et libertés. Nous nous inscrivons en faux contre toute atteinte ou toute tentative de restriction des droits et libertés des Québécois et Québécoises.

Nous tenons à réitérer qu'en tant que chrétiens protestants, nous sommes en faveur d'un modèle de société démocratique, inclusif et ouvert, qui ne soit pas réducteur et n'élimine pas de la sphère publique commune et des institutions toute forme de signes des diverses cultures religieuses. Nous estimons en effet, que les cultures religieuses – elles-mêmes en processus de diversification tout comme la société Québécoise- font partie du patrimoine culturel et de la texture de la société Québécoise et de ses valeurs humanistes.

Nous estimons que, loin de vouloir oblitérer toute forme de trace de culture ou d'appartenance religieuse, il est préférable, plus fécond et enrichissant d'apprendre à vivre avec les différences dans une pluralité respectueuse et ouverte à la fois sur l'autre et sur le monde.

En tant que Québécois et Québécoises, face à tous ces défis, nous affirmons que notre foi n'est pas diminuée quand nos frères et sœurs Juifs, Sikhs, Musulmans, Chrétiens d'autres dénominations et autres, pratiquent leur propre foi. De même notre identité culturelle n'est pas amoindrie parce qu'une autre personne vit sa propre culture.

Nous nous opposons à ce que la liberté de religion d'un-e employé-e de l'État soit cantonnée dans la sphère privée, comme une tare que l'on doit cacher. Nous croyons plutôt que les religions sont appelées à contribuer à des débats et à des enjeux de société avec toutes les autres voix de la société québécoise.

Pour notre part, nous nous engageons à continuer de cheminer avec tous nos citoyens et citoyennes vers un Québec plus ouvert, plus inclusif, où les droits fondamentaux de tous et toutes, de même que la démocratie sont respectés et où le dialogue interculturel nous amène plus loin ensemble pour bâtir notre avenir. Nous faisons appel à la raison et à l'accommodement, caractéristiques intrinsèques de notre histoire démocratique québécoise et appelons le gouvernement à faire un débat qui ne soit pas qu'électoraliste ou basé sur des suspensions ou des lieux communs.

Pour plus d'information ou pour une entrevue, veuillez communiquer avec : **Une église protestante profondément enracinée dans la société québécoise.**

Region fait partie de L'Église Unie du Canada, laquelle a de profondes racines dans la société québécoise. Bien qu'elle soit l'église protestante ayant le plus de membres au Canada, ses racines dénominationnelles sont au Québec depuis des siècles en tant que minorité religieuse. Au fil de son évolution, elle a choisi une route œcuménique, interreligieuse et interspirituelle; elle croit profondément, défend et pratique l'égalité des sexes, incluant l'ordination des femmes depuis 1936, l'égalité des personnes gais, lesbiennes et bisexuels ainsi que les droits humains, aussi bien dans l'Église que dans la société, dans la sphère privée et dans la sphère publique.

The Region of the United Church of Canada (UCC) believes that the proposed Bill 21 will unduly restrict the rights of employees of the public and semi-public sectors to freedom of religion.

April 29, 2019 (Montreal, Quebec): The Region of the United Church of Canada believes that the proposed Bill 21, An Act respecting the laicity of the State, will unduly restrict the fundamental rights and freedoms set in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Charter of the Rights and Freedoms. We strongly denounce any infringement upon or any attempt to limit the rights and freedoms of all Quebecers.

As Protestant Christians, we are in favour of an inclusive and open, democratic society, which will not reduce or eliminate from the sphere of common public institutions, signs of our diverse religious cultures. Indeed, we consider that religious cultures are reflective of the changing Quebec society and are an important part of our collective cultural heritage. According to us, it is important to embrace and acknowledge in the public and semi-public sectors the richness of our diverse cultural and religious reality, enabling us to live together in an inclusive society.

As Quebecers, we assert that our faith is not diminished when Christians of other denominations or our brothers and sisters who are Jewish, Sikh, Muslims and from other beliefs openly live their faith. As well, we believe our cultural identity is not diminished because another person lives or demonstrates his or her culture.

We oppose the concept that the freedom of religion of an employee of the State is limited to the private domain, as if it were a defect, which must be hidden. We believe that members of diverse religions are called to contribute to Quebec society and have a right to express their voices, along with all other stakeholders in our society.

For our part, we make a commitment to continue to walk with all our fellow citizens towards a more open, more inclusive Quebec. We will continue to support democracy and the fundamental rights and freedoms of all and strive for intercultural dialogue that brings us closer together as we build our common future. We appeal at this time for reason and mutual respect, which are intrinsic characteristics of our democratic history in Quebec. We call upon the government for a more measured discussion based on this common heritage and not directed by a political agenda or suspicion.

For more information or for an interview, please communicate with: xxxxxx

The Region of the United Church of Canada is a Protestant church profoundly rooted in Quebec society. Although, it is the Protestant church with the largest membership in Canada, denominationally, we have been a religious minority in Quebec since 1925.

In the course of its evolution, the UCC chose an ecumenical, interfaith approach to its spirituality and profoundly believes and defends gender equality, including the ordination of the women since 1936, the equality of the persons regardless of their sexual orientation, as well as their fundamental rights in the Church, society, and in the private and public spheres of society.