

Interfaith Committee
on Chaplaincy in The
Correctional Service of Canada



Comité Interconfessionnel
de l'Aumônerie du
Service Correctionnel du Canada

2014 FALL MEETING

MINUTES

November 3rd – 5th, 2014

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2014—4:00 – 9:00 PM

IFC Board Members: Chattar Ahuja, Louise Blain, David Blakely, Rhonda Britton, Chris Coffin, Riley Coulter, John deVries, Garry Dombrosky (President), Dale Gillman, Helen Hastie, Brian Hawes (Vice-President), Edward Hughes, Bridget MacKenzie (Past President), Glenn McCullough, Catherine O'Brien, Dan O'Hara, Abdul Hai Patel, Roopnauth Sharma, Stephen Siemens, Zushe Silberstein, Wayne Varley, Barry Wood (Executive Counsel)

Guests: Assistant Commissioner Correctional Operations & Programs—Fraser Macauley, Director General of Chaplaincy—Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk, Regional Chaplain—Rev. Deborah Tanasieuk

Recording Secretary: Laura Patrie, Executive Secretary

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Opening Devotion—Rev. Glenn McCullough

Introductions

1. President's Report (part 1)—Garry Dombrosky

President Dombrosky reported that the Executive members met in July and worked through a number of issues. Immediately after the Executive Meeting the issue of our Constitution needed to be worked out as the IFC needed to register for continuance as a Not for Profit Organization with the Federal Government. The deadline of October 17th was indeed met and appreciation for the work of Barry Wood was expressed. The President thanked the members for a successful conference call especially with it being on such a large scale.

There was a discussion regarding Sacred Space and its existence and use, as well as who should be approached regarding any problems with the space.

2. Assistant Commissioner's Address—Fraser Macauley

The Assistant-Commissioner shared both challenges and opportunities. There have been changes planned, but Fraser Macauley insured members that there are positives. He spoke regarding the Commissioner's Directive and the benefits in having Sacred Space defined and included in the Commissioner's Directive as it insures that it will exist and what it will look like.

The Assistant-Commissioner was made aware that there have been numerous complaints regarding no religious services being provided at locations where they previously were. The members were told that the Assistant-Commissioner has not seen the site reviews as they are presently in the

process of being completed, but that this issue needs to be discussed further to identify the gaps and how and why the gaps are occurring.

The Director General informed the IFC members that there is a process in place that allows for delivery of spiritual services from a specific denomination when needed within a 24-hour period when the need is identified.

There were 13 recommendations that came from the site reviews that have been done thus far and as a result they will be addressed.

(5:30 pm—7:00 pm Supper Break)

3. Study of the New MoU—What does it mean to the IFC?

Together, the group reviewed, reflected upon and considered the new MoU, signed in December 2013. Thoughts and concerns were discussed and proactive solutions were examined with the challenge to be creative and bring forth new ideas for solutions. It was suggested that IFC consult with KPC Inc. regarding recruitment of chaplains. With the new model (1 contractor for chaplaincy services), it was discovered that IFC members have become less engaged regarding the recruitment of quality chaplains within their proper denominations. It would be advantageous to discuss with KPC Inc. how this situation can be remedied so IFC members can become pro-active once more in the search for quality chaplains.

4. President's Report (part 2)—Garry Dombrosky

Garry Dombrosky offered words of encouragement to the members regarding the changes in the engagement of IFC. It was presented that in order to be more productive, it may be beneficial to have 1 large meeting of all members once per year with smaller regional working meetings taking place in between.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2014—9:00 – NOON

IFC Board Members: Chattar Ahuja, Louise Blain, David Blakely, Rhonda Britton, Chris Coffin, Riley Coulter, John deVries, Garry Dombrosky (President), Dale Gillman, Helen Hastie, Brian Hawes (Vice-President), Edward Hughes, Bridget MacKenzie (Past President), Glenn McCullough, Catherine O'Brien, Dan O'Hara, Abdul Hai Patel, Roopnauth Sharma, Stephen Siemens, Zushe Silberstein, Wayne Varley, Barry Wood (Executive Counsel)

Guests: Secretary of, and Chaplaincy Services Operations Officer for, Kairos Pneuma Chaplaincy Inc. (KPC Inc.)—Lloyd Bruce, Director General of Chaplaincy (CSC)—Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk, Regional Chaplain (CSC)—Deborah Tanasiecuk

Recording Secretary: Laura Patrie (Executive Secretary)

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Opening Devotion—*Stephen Siemens*

5. a) The New Commissioner’s Directive (CD) 750

CD 750 was examined and discussed with questions and answers clarifying segments and statements leading to an increased understanding of the document. The Regional Chaplain, Deborah Tanasiecuk and the Director General, Richard Burk made themselves available to provide further explanation and definition of terminology within the CD.

b) CD-750-1

This is the Commissioner’s Directive on Religious Accommodation. *CD 530 was identified as an important document to be considered.*

6. Report on Sacred Space—*Louise Blain and Bridget MacKenzie*

The Sacred Space Committee has expanded to include Louise Blain, Bridget MacKenzie, Wayne Varley and Hugh Kirkegaard as a CSC Chaplaincy Management Team liaison.

Members discussed how the new guidelines would be implemented in existing sites that do not presently have any designated Sacred Space.

7. Greetings from the Regional Chaplain (CSC)—*Deborah Tanasiecuk*

Regional Chaplain Deborah Tanasiecuk addressed the members and discussed chaplaincy in the region. There have been adjustments in communication and methodology, but the outcomes are positive. This particular region is a hybrid for the Individual Contractor's Model as well as for the One Contractor Model. She spoke about the enhanced partnership and how her work as a regional chaplain is evolving. She suggested that perhaps there should be 1 member from each denomination as a contact person for individual regions and their regional chaplain. She expressed that she looks forward to the IFC's participation in the site reviews. Statistics were shared regarding the number of regular spiritual services held, the number of special spiritual services held and the number of times that a volunteer has been actively present at an event in prisons in the region.

8. Director General's Report—*Richard Burk*

The Chaplaincy Management Team is working through operational shifts and will continue to do so. There are good examples of successes; Quebec for one has reported a dramatic increase in the number of chaplaincy hours offered in Quebec in the last 6 months as a result of the new model having taken place. There is still opportunity to discuss how we can do things better. The transition to the new model has been a challenge, but there have been positive outcomes. It has been possible to implement change effectively within a 1-week period which is a great example of an effective partnership. This change never could have taken place in anything near that short a time frame with the old model. The question was asked if it is only CSC's responsibility to insure that there is reasonable accommodation for the inmates' spiritual needs. He spoke about the progress made in service delivery following the new model and how the entire chaplaincy budget had to be defended. The improvements in data to defend chaplaincy is an important factor. There is now 100% compliance in reporting which affords the data to defend chaplaincy. Chaplaincy has always been prophetic, it's about speaking light to darkness and hope to disparity. We can now see the light glimmering in the future of chaplaincy and it is cause to celebrate. He voiced his appreciation for the work done by the IFC.

9. Report from Kairos Pneuma Chaplaincy Inc (KPC Inc.)—*Lloyd Bruce*

The contract that is held between KPC Inc. and CSC states that KPC Inc. must meet with the IFC 4 times per year. The relationship between KPC Inc. and IFC is clearly that of quality assurance and must be maintained. Regarding

Task Authorizations (TA)—on April 1st, 2014 the CSC, through Public Works Canada, issued many TAs to the KPC Inc. On September 30th, 2014 the contract came to an end and a number of new TAs were issued in order to continue the contract that had originally begun the October previous. There have been growing pains, but all is on track at this time. As of October 15th, 2014 KPC Inc. employs 100 qualified faith representative chaplains. The floor was opened to questions and an open discussion.

10. Site Review Experience Sharing

Members who have attended a Site Review to date shared their experiences and the learning that resulted from taking part on a Site Review. The selection process presently used to choose the inmates to whom the reviewers speak is being reconsidered and there is a desire to broaden the selection process to include a wider sample selection of inmates. There was a time concern brought to the attention of the committee whereas 2 days would be required to do a proper Site Review at 2 sites (barring there being any extenuating logistical circumstances), only 1.5 days were allotted to do 2 Site Reviews on sites that had extenuating circumstances. This meant that the IFC member was not able to take part in the complete evaluation and could only be partially involved.

11. Business Meeting

i. Reorganization

IFC, Regional Chaplain and the Deputy Commissioner would all be invited to the proposed Regional Meetings.

- **Whereas IFC now operates under MoU, December 2013**
- **Whereas our focus is now on the inmate and their spiritual needs and evaluating the Chaplaincy Service**
- **Whereas our function is now advisory to CSC**
- **Whereas funding has not increased**

Motion: IFC will create Regional Co-ordination Sub-Committees comprised as follows; Pacific Region, Prairie Region, Ontario Region, Quebec Region, and Atlantic Region. A member of the executive will be the regional co-ordinator of the region where they reside. Members of the IFC will be asked to volunteer as regional co-ordinators in regions where there is no member of the executive.

Moved by: Barry Wood

Seconded by: Wayne Varley

All in favour. Motion passed.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2014—9:00 AM - NOON

IFC Board Members Present: Chattar Ahuja, Louise Blain, David Blakely, Rhonda Britton, Chris Coffin, Riley Coulter, John deVries, Garry Dombrosky (President), Helen Hastie, Brian Hawes (Vice-President), Edward Hughes, Bridget MacKenzie (Past President), Glenn McCullough, Catherine O'Brien, Dan O'Hara, Abdul Hai Patel, Roopnauth Sharma, Stephen Siemens, Zushe Silberstein, Wayne Varley, Barry Wood (Executive Counsel)

Guests: Director General of Chaplaincy—Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk

Recording Secretary: Laura Patrie, Executive Secretary

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Opening Devotions—*Helen Hastie*

Housekeeping Items

President Dombrosky asked the members to please volunteer to do at least 1 Site Evaluation in the next 3 years. The Master List of the 3 Year Site Evaluation Plan will be circulated in the group. Contact Dwight Cuff at Dwight.Cuff@CSC-SCC.GC.CA

Organizational contact persons who volunteered for each Regional Co-ordination Sub-Committee are as follows: Louise Blain (Quebec Region), Chris Coffin (Atlantic Region), Glenn McCullough (Ontario Region), Stephen Siemens (Prairie Region), Bridget MacKenzie (Pacific Region).

Members were encouraged to forward any suggestions or thoughts as to reorganization, restructuring and developing of content of future IFC meetings. There was instruction sent out to members to insure they are utilizing the most cost effective manner of travel in order to allow our budget to stretch as far as is possible and allow us to continue the work

11. Business Meeting (continued)

ii. Role of the President

President Dombrosky reminded the members that as of the May 2015 AGM his tenure is half over.

iii. Work Plan

A work plan that was developed by the Executive was examined with the members to allow the whole membership to see what the Executive has done thus far and what it hopes to accomplish in the near future.

iv. Expectations of Members

The issue of Security Identification Tags was discussed and members were advised that the issue is being sorted out—the contact person is the regional chaplain (cc Rick Burk on any correspondence), but that due to elevated security measures it has become a more difficult process.

The question was raised as to how to verify that a member has been through training in order to visit an institution. This item will be added the May AGM agenda.

v. Constitution and By-Laws Update

It was reported that the forms were all submitted and it has been verified that they were received by the proper department. We now wait for approval.

vi. AGM 2015 Ottawa Dates

May 4th and 5th and in Toronto or Ottawa with 2 full working days being the Monday and Tuesday. Members will fly in the day prior to beginning and return on the Tuesday if travel accommodations make it possible.

12. Adjournment

The Fall 2014 Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

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APPENDIX "A"

MOTIONS/ACTIONS

Regarding the AGM Minutes:

- Louise Blain did not say that KPCI asked, but that KPC Inc "suggested" (page 10) that and the report from Quebec had to be amended
- Quebec Region: Louise highlighted that there are some errors in the report which will be corrected and an amended report will be forwarded to the Executive Secretary at Louise's earliest convenience

Motion: to accept the 2014 AGM minutes with corrections (see above)

Moved by: Bridget MacKenzie

Seconded by: Abdul Hai Patel

All in favour

Motion passed

- **Whereas IFC now operates under MoU, December 2013**
- **Whereas our focus is now on the inmate and their spiritual needs and evaluating the Chaplaincy Service**
- **Whereas our function is now advisory to CSC**
- **Whereas funding has not increased**

Motion: IFC will create Regional Co-ordination Sub-committees comprised as follows; Pacific Region, Prairie Region, Ontario Region, Quebec Region, and Atlantic Region. A member of the executive will be the regional co-ordinator of the region where they reside. Members of the IFC will be asked to volunteer as regional co-ordinators in regions where there is no member of the executive.

Moved by: Barry Wood

Seconded by: Wayne Varley

All in favour

Motion passed

Motion: to form a sub-committee to develop the GL750 consisting of the following members: Zushe Silberstein, Abdul Hai Patel, Roopnauth Sharma, Chattar Ahuja and Chris Coffin (chair)

Moved by: Rhonda Britton

Seconded by: John deVries

All in favour

Motion passed

