

Interfaith Committee
on Chaplaincy in The
Correctional Service of Canada



Comité Interconfessionnel
de l'Aumônerie du
Service Correctionnel du Canada

2015 FALL MEETING MINUTES

November 2nd – 3rd, 2015

TORONTO, ONTARIO

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2015

PRESENT:

IFC Board Members: Chattar Ahuja, Louise Blain, Chris Coffin, Riley Coulter, John DeVries, Garry Dombrosky (President—IFC), Dale Gillman, Brian Hawes (Vice-President—IFC), Ted Hughes, Dan O’Hara, Helen Hastie, Bridget MacKenzie (Past-President—IFC), Glenn McCullough, Catherine O’Brien, Abdul Patel, Ted Seres, Roopnauth Sharma, Zushe Silberstein, Wayne Varley, Barry Wood (Executive Advisor—IFC)

Guests: Don Head (Commissioner—Chaplaincy, CSC), Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk (Director—Reintegration Services Division, CSC), Rev. William (Bill) Rasmus (National Manager—Operations/Chaplaincy)

Recording Secretary: Laura Patrie (Executive Secretary—IFC)

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Opening Devotion, Introductions

1. PRESIDENT’S OPENING REMARKS—*Rev. Dr. Garry Dombrosky*

President Dombrosky opened the 2015 Fall Meeting by relating to the members his experience at the IPCA meeting, which he recently attended in Australia. He noted that whereas Canada used to be a world leader and example of what chaplaincy in institutions should look like, it is no longer a model for other countries and is now in fact lagging behind its counterparts.

2. COMMISSIONER’S ADDRESS—*Commissioner Don Head*

Topics covered and discussed included:

- The Road to Mental Readiness (R. to M. R.)—the Commissioner’s initiative in combating the occurrence rate of PTSD among penitentiary workers in Canada which at present is 2.5 times the occurrence in the Canadian military personnel
- Commissioner Head would like to see this initiative added to the IFC’s agenda in the future
- The next R. to M. R. training could include a few seats for IFC members

- The holistic approach must be used when seeing to the needs of the offenders
- Monthly conference calls with the Regional Chaplains need to be reinstated since there is no longer any contact or communication

CONTRACT UPDATE—*Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk, Director—Reintegration Services Division, CSC and Rev. William (Bill) Rasmus, National Manager—Operations/Chaplaincy*

- a) **How does this new contract affect:**
- chaplains**
 - inmates**
 - IFC site visits**
 - IFC generally**

Director Burk elaborated on the above topics. At present, C.S.C. has a Standing Offer of 1 year and 5 possible option years with Bridges of Canada for institutional chaplaincy services to commence April 1, 2016.

Continued dialogue with the Commissioner is encouraged.

3. RESPONSE—What does the new contract mean for the IFC

An open discussion among the members, the Director and Commissioner ensued.

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT—Rev. Dr. Garry Dombrosky

The members learnt more about the IPCA meeting in Australia during a Power Point Presentation.

Small group discussions were held on varying IFC topics and then shared in group (see below 5. a).

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2015 AGM MINUTES

- a) **Comments from the Regional Coordinators**
Regional coordinators commented on the results of any Regional Meetings that have taken place since the AGM and about plans for future meetings.
- b) **Report from the Religious Accommodation Committee voted in at the last meeting**
Due to technical difficulties there was no formal report available on behalf of the Religious Accommodation Committee at this meeting.

c) Discussion re: 2016 AGM elections

MOTION: to appoint Abdul Patel and John deVries to form a Nomination Committee for the 2015 AGM elections

MOVED BY: Barry Wood SECONDED BY: Dale Gillman

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION PASSED

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2015

PRESENT:

IFC Board Members: Chattar Ahuja, Louise Blain, Chris Coffin, Riley Coulter, John DeVries, Garry Dombrosky (President—IFC), Dale Gillman, Brian Hawes (Vice-President—IFC), Ted Hughes, Dan O’Hara, Helen Hastie, Bridget MacKenzie (Past-President—IFC), Glenn McCullough, Catherine O’Brien, Abdul Patel, Ted Seres, Roopnauth Sharma, Zushe Silberstein, Wayne Varley, Barry Wood (Executive Advisor—IFC)

Guests: Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk (Director—Reintegration Services Division, CSC), Rev. William (Bill) Rasmus (National Manager—Operations/Chaplaincy), Lana Lewis Swim (Vice-President—Bridges of Canada), Dr. Thomas Beckner (Consultant—Bridges of Canada)

Recording Secretary: Laura Patrie (Executive Secretary—IFC)

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Opening Devotion—*Bridget MacKenzie*

- 6. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER—*Rev. Dr. G. Dombrosky***
- 7. BRIDGES OF CANADA PRESENTATION—*Lana Lewis Swim, Vice President— Bridges of Canada and Dr. Thomas Beckner, Consultant— Bridges of Canada***

The history and background of Bridges of Canada were given as well as the founder’s story, the varied work that Bridges of Canada is involved in and in what areas the organization hopes to continue developing in the future.

8. QUESTIONS FOR BRIDGES OF CANADA

Guests addressed questions from the floor.

**9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT—Rev. Richard (Rick) Burk, Director—
Reintegration Services Division, CSC
(See above **Contract Update 2 a**)**

**10. REPORT ON SACRED SPACE—Issues with Sacred Spaces—
Bridget MacKenzie, Past-President—IFC**

**11. REPORT ON CD750—Rev. William (Bill) Rasmus, National Manager—
Operation/Chaplaincy, CSC**

CD750 has now been promulgated and suggestions for strengthening the CD have been received. The previous MoU contains items that should be in the newest version. There were significant challenges with the new MoU as there were gaps allowing for grievances.

ACTION: Chris Coffin will receive a copy of the new document CD750-1

12. FINANCIAL REPORT—Laura Patrie, Executive Secretary—IFC

A financial report was delivered as well as an update as to security screening processes.

13. REPORTS FROM SITE REVIEWS

Regional Coordinators submitted their individual site reviews and offered suggestions for times and locations of future meetings.

As a solution to the inability of a volunteer IFC member to be at every site review, Laura Patrie offered to volunteer her time to act as an IFC representative when needed. She was thanked for her offer.

MOTION: to appoint Laura Patrie to act as IFC representation at any Site Review at which a regular IFC member is not able to attend

MOVED BY: Dan O'Hara SECONDED BY: Roopnauth Sharma

**ALL IN FAVOUR
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION: to accept the 2015 AGM Minutes as presented

MOVED BY: John deVries SECONDED BY: Louise Blain

**ALL IN FAVOUR
MOTION PASSED**

14. REVIEW OF MOU—*Barry Wood, Executive Advisor—IFC*

15. PLANS FOR SPRING AND FALL MEETINGS 2016—when, where

The 2016 AGM will be held in Ottawa April 25-26, 2016 and the Fall Meeting will again be held in Toronto, Ontario. Rotating in this fashion should allow us to remain within our budgetary constraints.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the 2015 Fall Meeting at 11:45 am E.S.T.

MOVED BY: Chris Coffin

SECONDED BY: Catherin O'Brien

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION PASSED

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APPENDIX "A"

(MOTIONS/ACTIONS)

MOTION: to appoint Abdul Patel and John deVries to form a Nomination Committee for the 2015 AGM elections

MOVED BY: Barry Wood SECONDED BY: Dale Gillman

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION PASSED

ACTION: Chris Coffin will receive a copy of the new document CD750-1

MOTION: to appoint Laura Patrie to act as IFC representation at any Site Review at which a regular IFC member is not able to attend

MOVED BY: Dan O'Hara SECONDED BY: Roopnauth Sharma

ALL IN FAVOUR

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: to accept the 2015 AGM Minutes as presented

MOVED BY: John deVries SECONDED BY: Louise Blain

ALL IN FAVOUR

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MOTION PASSED