

## Finding Home: Belonging, Connection & Community

A diverse group of 150 participants gathered in the Morris Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University, in downtown Vancouver on February 22. First Nations, Métis, immigrants, refugees, seniors, youth, artists, and researchers from community, government, business and educational organizations met together, exploring through dialogue, personal reflection and plenary sessions the meaning of "Finding Home," in themselves, in

"What are you going to do about it? As individuals you can make a difference." IofC in British Columbia was one of the co-sponsors of the day. Shawkat Hasan and Anne Hartnell took part in the day's events and are keen to see how to help more dialogues develop.

*Anne Hartnell and Shawkat Hasan*

*For further information  
on Finding Home™ Workshops visit  
[www.worldviewstrategies.com](http://www.worldviewstrategies.com)*



*(left to right) Tousilum, from the Quw'utsun Tribes, Vancouver Island, Senator Roméo Dallaire and Jessie Sutherland at the Finding Home dialogue.*

community, and in the world. Hereditary Chief Robert Joseph, of the Kwagwiltz people from Vancouver Island, shared his painful experiences of residential school. "Colonization trampled on our entire world view." He encouraged delegates to discover the past, as it affects the present, and felt the Truth Commission on Residential Schools will bring much needed healing.

Senator Roméo Dallaire told of experiences in Africa, in Canada and within himself, "Humanity is in conflict with itself and many people are without homes...frictions are what bring us to war. If we learn to value the human rights of others as much as we value them for ourselves, peace can come."

Jessie Sutherland, innovator of the *Finding Home* initiative, said that "awareness without action is useless and action without awareness is dangerous." There is conflict between the peace-builders which needs addressing. The participants talked in groups about a recent conflict they were part of and identified the core value being undermined. She asked

## Shabbat Shalom!



Have you ever heard of the "New Year of the Trees?" In the Jewish tradition, this is one of the most celebrated events every spring in Israel, when trees are planted in the desert. In Canada, the synagogues join their heartbeats to their brothers and sisters in Israel in the midst of our winter. Money is then sent to contribute to the plantation. But most of all, a symbolic meal is shared after this Shabbat ceremony.

On Saturday, February 3, about 20 of us were warmly welcomed by a Jewish community of Montreal. This happening was part of the "Spiritual gatherings for peace" in which IofC has a leading role. During the whole morning we lived at the rhythm of Shabbat, with songs, prayers and teachings from the Rabbi. Dialogue during the meal led to honest conversations. Each of us left with an open heart, happy for the privilege of such an encounter.

*Estelle Drouvin*

## Did you know that..?

Frank Buchman took part at an Oxford Group (forerunner to *Initiatives of Change*) meeting at the Château Frontenac in Quebec City from May 26 to June 5, 1933, with his delegation and a large number of guests.

The IofC gathering being planned in Quebec City from May 23-26, 2008, will be the 75th anniversary of the 1933 meeting. (*Beyond Borders*, page 161)

## International Week and Canadian Mosaic

Some of the Calgary team participated as an NGO in the International Week on February 7 and 8, organized by the International Student Centre of the University of Calgary (UofC), with a display table featuring our work in IofC. Sara-May Cardy, Alessandro Anifowose (from the IofC Club), Alex Ramirez and Monica Lopez helped to give information and encourage students to join our Initiatives. Approximately 14 interested students signed up for more information and 2 more students offered their help as volunteers for "Canadian Mosaic" a multicultural event to be hosted by the IofC Club @ UofC.

Canadian Mosaic will be held at the University on March 28 with the aim of building bridges between the various cultural groups that make up the University community and the broader community of Calgary as a whole. Participants will be invited to share elements of their culture through group displays. The peacemaking documentary from Nigeria, *The Imam & the Pastor*, will be shown, and speakers and discussion groups are being planned. Music, dancing and ethnic foods will add to the pool of cultural richness and we expect everybody to leave the event with a better understanding of each other.

*Monica Lopez and Alex Ramirez*

## Outreach opportunity

In mid-January, Adalbert Otou-N'guini and Laurent Gagnon had a 30-minute interview at Radio-Canada International to inform the international public about the philosophy of IofC and its implications in African countries. Examples of peace-building efforts in the Great Lakes region of Africa were given to illustrate effective interventions and actions by IofC in this area of conflict. *Laurent Gagnon*

## Calgary's IofC team share in a Muslim gathering

At the Whitehorn Community Centre, the film *The Imam & the Pastor* was shown as part of a Muslim-sponsored monthly study entitled: Second Christians-Muslims Relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—A Global Perspective. Speakers at this community event held in late February included Michael Prior and Keith Newman of IofC, and Prof. Syed B. Soharwardy and Imam Gul Hussain.

*The Imam & the Pastor* film drew applause from the 60 or so Muslims and the handful of Christians at the gathering. Commenting after the film, Professor Soharwardy said: "This is a powerful, powerful movie. No Muslim would have a problem with it. It should be shown everywhere. What I found striking was that Ashafa says, 'I never changed the principles of Islam but I created space for my Christian friend.'"

The film played a pivotal role in engendering discussion in small groups to address two questions. Could Calgary become a beacon of hope in the ongoing dialogue between Christians and Muslims? If so, what needs to change? All want to continue the dialogue and the next steps are being planned.

*Keith Newman and Michael Prior*

### Initiatives of Change

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For more information visit

[www.ca.iofc.org](http://www.ca.iofc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Invitation from Quebec

In May 2008, a major gathering will be held in Quebec City to share the experiences and the lessons learned through the IofC Canadian process. We wish to extend a very warm welcome to you and all our partners. The 400th anniversary celebrations will be majestic. The IofC participation will touch the hearts and the spirits for an inclusive and generous future for all the communities. We need you all!

Lucie Pagé and the Quebec team

**March 23:** 12.30 p.m. Room D287 MacLaurin Building, **University of Victoria, B.C.** Showing of *The Imam & the Pastor* and dialogue initiated by Catherine Morris of Peacemakers Trust in partnership with IofC and UVic Institute for Dispute Resolution. Further details [www.peacemakers.ca/education/ImamPastorDialogue.html](http://www.peacemakers.ca/education/ImamPastorDialogue.html)

**April:** (date to be finalized) **Simon Fraser University, Surrey Campus, B.C.** Showing of *The Imam & the Pastor*.

For information contact [iofc.vancouver@ca.iofc.org](mailto:iofc.vancouver@ca.iofc.org) or phone: 604 575 2685.

### Spiritual Gatherings for Peace, Montreal

**April 12:** 7 p.m. at the Baha'i Temple, 177 Pine Ave.

**May 19:** 6 p.m. at the Sikh Temple, 7801 Rue Cordner, Ville LaSalle.

**May 5: IofC-Canada AGM, Richmond, B.C.** at *The Meeting Place* of Broadmoor Baptist Church, followed by an IofC fundraising dinner. For information on the dinner contact [iofc.vancouver@ca.iofc.org](mailto:iofc.vancouver@ca.iofc.org) or phone: 604 575 2685.

**May 26: NDHR Toronto.** The national launch coordinated by the Native Women's Resource Centre. Their goal in hosting this event is to increase awareness of NDHR, promote community building, and work towards healing within their community. Phone: 416 963 9963 (Toronto).

**May 26: NDHR Edmonton.** For information phone: 780 447 9342 (Edmonton).

### Open Homes, Listening Hearts

**June 10: Quebec City**

Date to be finalized for **Montreal**

**July 5 to August 19: Caux Conferences.**

Theme: *Trust across the world's divides? Dignity for all?* See [www.caux.ch](http://www.caux.ch) for details.

Send news articles and upcoming events for publication in the next Newsletter any time before May 10 to the editor Hilary Kariotis [newsletter@ca.iofc.org](mailto:newsletter@ca.iofc.org)  
Photos of events are welcome too! Hi-res jpg files are preferred.

## National Day of Healing and Reconciliation (NDHR)

The Mayor of Edmonton has announced that on May 26, NDHR will again be celebrated in the city. Some of the IofC team in Edmonton are members of the planning committee for the event and share their reasons for being involved.

Yi Yi Datar, chair, has the deep conviction, based on her own experience, that healing and reconciliation at the individual, family and community level is essential before the broader issues facing society can be resolved. She sees NDHR as an invitation to be part of that transformation.

Jenny Bocock says, "Participation in NDHR is important as it provides an opportunity to build relationships with a very diverse group of people who we would never otherwise meet. So many hurting people need a chance to be listened to and heartfelt apologies need to be made. It is painful to hear what people of my race have done to others."

I think NDHR is an important initiative because it not only helps us face the truth about our history as a nation but celebrates stories of transformation that are helping to create a different future.

See the NDHR website for details of events being planned across the country [www.ndhr.ca](http://www.ndhr.ca). Jack Freebury