

Multi-Faith Saskatchewan News

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Published for the multi-faith community in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Youth Visual Arts Project

The major provincial project for MFS each year is the Saskatchewan Youth Visual Arts Project. And this year it has received 40 art submissions from high school students from around the province.

A committee of Krishan Kapila, David Katzman, Frank Armistead, Meenakshi Manocha and Gagan Deep Singh are organizing various aspects of this project.

Out of these submissions, a jury of expert artists will select 15 finalists. The top five will receive monetary awards from \$15 to \$125 each.

Judging by a team consisting of Anne Campbell, Elmer Brenner and Madhu Kumar will select the finalists on April 11.

Earth Day and VAP Awards Presentation

MFS will hold its award presentation for the 6th Annual Saskatchewan Youth Visual Art Project as well as an Earth Day Celebration On Saturday April 22 in Westminster United Church, 3025 13th Avenue, Regina.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. and includes a guest speaker Bert Pitzel of the Archdiocese of Regina on the topic "Care and proper use of our resources for sustainable living." Admission is free.

Donors and sponsors for the VAP and the Earth Day event are: B'nai Brith Lodge #739; Regina Eastview Rotary Club; Elmer Brenner and Dr. Roberta MacKay; Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan; Hindu Samaj of Southern Saskatchewan; Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission; Dunlop Art Gallery; Mackenzie Art Gallery; SaskCulture; Multi-Faith Saskatchewan and Regina Multi-Faith Forum.

MFS applies for funding for Canada 150th Anniversary Project

A working group of Krishan Kapila and Gagan Deep Singh have been working in conjunction with Multi-Cultural Council of Saskatchewan to apply for funds for project to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

MFS sought the support of MCoS because it is a charitable organization and eligible to apply for such funding.

The project will take the form of a video production that will be multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual. It will involve youth and children involved in a variety of languages and songs, concluding with prayers in their own traditions. MFS has invited Regina Multi-Faith Forum and Multi-Faith Saskatoon to participate in as well and support the project.

President reports to Board Meeting

Moses Kanhai, President of Multi-Faith Saskatchewan, reported at the Board meeting March 23 that since attending NAIN Connect in Guadalajara, Mexico last year, he has reported to CLIFF in Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina Multi-Faith Forum. To date, he has not been able to arrange a meeting with Multi-Faith Saskatoon.

He also reported that April 12 is the Lieutenant Governor's Saskatchewan Prayer Breakfast and there will be a table as multi-faith friends at that gathering. Later this month, Moses also hopes to meet with Archbishop Don Bolen to discuss how we can collaborate in our multi-faith work.

MFS applies for operational funding

Donna Nelson reported to the Board that financial information required to make an application for operational funding from SaskCulture was delayed significantly. However, we did finally receive it and the application was submitted on the deadline and we are awaiting a decision on our request.

10 days before year-end, the balance sheet indicates that we have \$4,336 in current assets. There is an accrued liability of \$750 for accounting fees from last year, but no invoice has been received and we were informed that there would be no fee.

Donna also provided a profit loss statement for both MFS and the Visual Arts Project. Near year end, we have an operating surplus of \$413.

With the help of Dr. Brenda Anderson of Luther College to ascertain NAIN grants received and disbursed, Luther College is now paid in full for NAIN grants owing.

Once the semester is over, MFS and Luther College will meet to talk about how we might use the remaining proceeds from NAIN to enhance the work of multi-faith between the college and the community.

Donna recommended that MFS change banks to allow better reporting and to eliminate bank fees. Following a Board motion, this change from BMO to Conexus Credit Union was approved and is in process.

Membership and Revenue Generation

A working group of Donna Nelson and David Katzman is continuing to look at ways of expanding our membership to other communities and individuals around the province. Also they are tasked with proposing ideas for increasing our revenue.

Suggestions in either of these areas are welcome and may be forwarded to Donna or David.

Partnership with Luther College/Reconciliation and Racial Justice

A working group of Amr Henni and Russell Mitchell-Walker are continuing to have conversations with Luther College about collaborating on mutual programs and in working toward Racial Justice. Frank Armistead is looking into the racial justice component of this project.

Multi-Faith News from Saskatoon

Colin Clay reports that the new Ahmadiyya mosque has been completed and is being used. The grand opening will be in the summer.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21 had over 200 people in attendance with a good multi-faith representation. There was a multi-faith program in the evening with a welcome by the Mayor and attendance of almost 100, followed by a meal. Representatives of many faiths spoke at the event.

Baha'i New Year was observed in Saskatoon last Month and Multi-Faith Saskatoon was represented.

Colin reported on many other community events that Multi-Faith Saskatoon folk attended and had good representation.

Archbishop Bolen and Rabbi Claudio held a music event of Leonard Cohen that packed the Cathedral.

Sikh Day Parade in Regina

The public is invited to attend the Sikh Day parade on May 20. It will start at the Gurdwara and proceed to the Legislature and back to the Gurdwara for a program and a meal.

Dosa Mela to be held May 7 in Regina Hindu Temple

The annual fund raising event in Regina Hindu Temple May 7 will feature Indian vegetarian snacks and desserts plus mehendi tattoos. Admission is free. The event will be from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed. For more information call 306.585-1466.

Upcoming Events in Fort Qu'Appelle

Glenn Zimmer of Calling Lakes Interfaith Friendship Forum identified that there will be an Interfaith Prayer during Holy Week.

Qu'Appelle House of Prayer is hosting three evening prayer services at the beginning of Holy Week. These ecumenical services are being led by Rev. Warren Huestis of St John's Anglican Parish, and will be held in the Chapel at the house of prayer. Everyone is most welcome.

- Monday, April 10 - 7:00 pm: Compline ~ A Contemplative Sung Service (relaxing in the presence of God)
- Tuesday, April 11 - 7:00 pm: Taize Prayer ~ Contemplative Service of Meditative Songs and Prayer
- Wednesday, April 12 - 7:00 pm: Holden Evening Prayer ~ Sung Evening Prayer from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The next CLIFF Evening, Co-Sponsored with Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts (QVCA) will be on Friday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts. The topic is "The Seven Oaks Reader" with author Myrna Kostash of Edmonton.

This will be a dramatic reading with guest readers Janet Stoodly, Rick McCorrister and Lois and Ralph Blondeau retelling the fur trade wars and controversial historical events, and mainly, the historical conflict between Metis peoples and Scottish settlers - all of which continue to have effects to this day. All are welcome! Members of CLIFF will travel to Regina on May 6 at 2:00 p.m. to visit the new Mahmood Mosque (opened last November) of the Regina Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Car pooling is being arranged. CLIFF members who wish to attend, are asked to call Qu'Appelle House of Prayer (332.6765) by April 20. This is a special time to receive the hospitality of our Islamic sisters and brothers, and foster our care for one another.

MFS support for Spiritual and Religious Care

Multi-Faith Saskatchewan received the news with deep concern that the recent provincial budget has cut funding for spiritual care in the province's health regions. This came at a time when MFS had a working group examining how it can support spiritual care for people of all faiths and religions in hospitals, penitentiaries and other institutions.

At the annual meeting of MFS last fall, members heard a presentation from Dr. Simon Lasair of the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care, Saskatchewan Region. He appealed to MFS for support in addressing issues of confidentiality to enable non-medical professionals to support hospital patients.

The working group of Colin Clay, Donna Spratt, Gagan Deep Singh, and Mary Brubacher were tasked to propose ways for MFS to engage in the spiritual care process from an inter-faith perspective. This task has now become significantly complicated with the termination of provincial spiritual care funding in health regions.

The CASC Saskatchewan executive sent a letter concerning this decision to the premier, the finance minister, and the health minister, as well as the corresponding critics in the opposition.

CASC is also appealing to MFS members to write letters to the individual MLAs mentioned in the letter below, and to mobilize individual faith communities to make their concerns known as well.

Through its association with the Canadian Multi-Faith Federation, MFS will also be considering how it can observe SRCAW 2017: Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week, October 16-22, 2017, with the theme of Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World.

The task group will also look at how it can participate in this event in the current climate in Saskatchewan.

The Canadian Multi-Faith Federation's Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week offers an opportunity to recognize the value of religious services and spiritual care and to honour those who provide the care. A SRCAW Kit includes resources to help participants create awareness of the profession and to help celebrate this very special work.

Spiritual Care Letter to Saskatchewan Government

Canadian Association for Spiritual Care,
Saskatchewan Region
c/o Brian Mee, BBS, BRE, MA, MTH
Spiritual Care Practitioner
President, CASC Saskatchewan Region
Email: Brian.diane@sasktel.net

March 28, 2017

Honourable Brad Wall,
Honourable Kevin Doherty,
Honourable Jim Reiter,
Government of Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Wall, Mr. Doherty, and Mr. Reiter,

Re: Spiritual Care in Saskatchewan

We are writing on behalf of the Saskatchewan members of the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC). Many of our members were affected by the decision in last week's budget to eliminate all base provincial funding to spiritual care, sometimes mistakenly called pastoral care. For the sake of patient, resident, family, and systemic wellbeing we strongly urge you to reverse this decision.

In health care people experience many stresses and losses: a terminal diagnosis, a stillbirth, disintegration of mental health, the progressing dementia of a parent or spouse, the death of a spouse, parent, or child, or life endangering surgeries. All these experiences have spiritual dimensions. In a system that prides itself on holistic and patient centered care, spiritual care practitioners are the only professionals trained and equipped to care for the spirit.ⁱ Moreover, scientific evidence increasingly shows that professional spiritual care in health care improves patient, resident, and family experiences, in addition to improving medical outcomes.ⁱⁱ By eliminating our services, patients, residents, and families will no longer receive the emotional and spiritual support they need. The system will then need to care for secondary stress related health concerns, simply because patients, residents, and family members did not receive adequate holistic care.

As spiritual care professionals, most CASC members have achieved at least a Masters level education, as well as multiple units of nationally regulated spiritual care training. This education and training uniquely prepares spiritual care professionals to care for the complex emotional and spiritual needs of all people.ⁱⁱⁱ

Finally, Accreditation Canada has mandated that professional spiritual care be part of the circle of care provided by health care institutions in Canada.^{iv} Because most of their work occurs in non-medical settings, community clergy are not an integral part of the medical team. By eliminating our services, your budget is endangering the accreditation of many health care facilities in Saskatchewan.

For the sake of client wellbeing and safety, for the sake of the system's wellbeing, and for the sake of overall fiscal responsibility, we strongly urge you to reverse this budgetary decision announced last week.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Mee, BBS, BRE, MA, MTH
Spiritual Care Practitioner
President, CASC Saskatchewan Region
Thomas D. Powell, BA, MDiv
Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner
Certified Teaching Supervisor, Clinical Pastoral
Education
Treasurer, CASC Saskatchewan Region
Heather Koots, BA, MDiv
Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner
Professional Practice Chair, CASC
Saskatchewan Region
Loreen Rawlyk-Luby, BA, MTS
Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner
Secretary, CASC Saskatchewan Region
Jerry Fitzgerald, RPN
Chaplain
Communications Chair, CASC Saskatchewan
Region
Simon Lasair, BA, MA, PhD
Spiritual Care Practitioner
Marketing, Promotions, and Advocacy Chair,
CASC Saskatchewan Region
Marilyn Fowlie-Neufeld, BA, MDiv
Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner
Ethics Chair, CASC Saskatchewan Region

cc. Honourable Trent Wotherspoon, Honourable
Cathy Sproule, Honourable Danielle Chartier,
Members of the Opposition

Inter-faith resources available

Scarboro Missions has shared the following inter-faith dialogue educational resources that can be downloaded free of charge.

Principles and guidelines for interfaith dialogue: This compendium of concise and handy resources provides insight into the interfaith movement and its treasure chest of wisdom and learning opportunities. This

collection explores the goals, types and stages of dialogue and touches on issues such as interfaith etiquette, listening, peace-building, hospitality, respectful presence and dialogue-versus-debate. These principles and guidelines are useful for those who are new to interfaith as well as for veterans of interfaith work:

<http://www.scarboromissions.ca/interfaith-dialogue/principles-and-guidelines-for-interfaith-dialogue>

Interfaith curriculum and educational resources: Includes online courses, toolkits, best practices, do-it-yourself workshops, activities, multifaith prayer services, how-to-

Communications Person Needed

At the Annual Meeting last fall, the Board approved a change to the constitution to add a position of Communications and Promotions.

Virtually all of our work involves the sharing of information internally as well as to members and the community at large.

A working group of Amr Henni and Donna Spratt welcomes volunteers or suggestions for someone who can fill this position.

manuals, guidelines, games, starter kits, meditations, slideshows, etc.:

<https://www.scarboromissions.ca/interfaith-dialogue/curriculum-resources>

Golden Rule education resources: This comprehensive listing features interactive resources, meditation exercises, videos, multilingual posters, art activities, do-it-yourself workshops, slide programs, discussion questions, Golden Rule websites, books, toolkits, best practices, and school & youth group curricula
<https://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule/educational-resources>

Faith in Canada 150 Summit

The Faith in Canada 150 Millennial Summit, is a gathering of millennials of faith in Ottawa on the eve of Canada's 150's anniversary to discuss the role of faith in public life, religious freedom, and the need for an ever more robust sense of rich pluralism in Canadian life.

The official call for applications for delegates to attend the Faith in Canada 150 Summit have officially opened. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

For more information contact Hannah Marazzi at 613.241.4500 x.512 or go to Website: www.faithincanada150.ca

We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions to this newsletter. Please contact Moses Kanhai, President, Multi-Faith Saskatchewan at kanhaim@accesscomm.ca

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your networks. If you do not wish to be on our distribution list, please contact us at mfsask2007@yahoo.com or Box 32117, Regina, SK. S4N 7L2.

Our Board members are: Moses Kanhai, President; Amr Henni, Vice-President; Russell Mitchell-Walker, Secretary; Donna Nelson, Treasurer; Colin Clay, Past-President; Krishan Kapila, Director; Gagan Deep-Singh, Director; David Katzman, Director; Donna Spratt, Director. www.mulifaithsask.org