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**"In the total  
expanse of  
human life  
there is not  
a single  
square inch  
of which the  
Christ, who  
alone is sov-  
ereign, does  
not declare,  
'That is  
Mine!'."**

**Abraham  
Kuyper**

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CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

### **Chaplaincy Report Stresses Emergency Preparedness**

Edited from report submitted by Dianne Algera, June 2009

Dianne Algera is the Christian Reformed appointee on the **National Advisory Group on Emergency Planning (NAGEP)**—a committee formed after 9/11 to find ways for member churches to better collaborate in emergencies / disasters / pandemics. NAGEP is actively engaged in...

Workshops

Regional Committees

Pandemics: developing a checklist for pandemic planning tailored for congregational use

Roundtable Seminar (2-day seminar at St. John's Convent in Toronto)

Broader Faith-Based Representation: NAGEP is developing an informal liaison with the Ontario MultiFaith Council (OMC).

**The National Emergency Psychosocial Advisory Consortium (NEPAC)** operates under the auspices of Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC - Ottawa) and is a collection of representatives from federal, provincial, municipal, NGO (non-government organizations), FBO (faith-based organizations), psychological, research (university) jurisdictions. PHAC has asked the group to examine emergencies/disasters/pandemics from a psychosocial perspective and make recommendations, produce documents, press releases, etc. for distribution. During the recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus, NEPAC produced a document entitled "Providing Psychosocial Support: Tips for Leaders and Health Care Staff". Seeking pastoral care from a spiritual and religious care provider is one of the recommendations.

**NAGEP DOCUMENT** – NAGEP is developing a document for NEPAC entitled "**NAGEP Code of Engagement**" for denominations, churches and their representatives in providing emergency/disaster response and recovery services.

The **OMC (Ontario Multi-faith Council)** is an agency funded by the Ontario Government to oversee spiritual and religious care in provincial institutions. Recent highlights include...

**PANDEMIC PLANNING** workshops offered by five regional offices in October (Toronto, London, Ottawa, North Bay and Thunder Bay)

**REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME** – The executive had a meeting in May with the Attorney General of Ontario to explore the feasibility of establishing a reintegration program for ex-offenders. Chaplains would work to integrate them back into society in healthy and useful ways by assisting in finding housing, jobs, etc. and through support from the Christian community.

**OMC and QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY** – Queen's Theological Seminary is offering to provide certificate and degree courses from a multifaith perspective.

**LAST RITES** – The last rites committee is continuing to advocate for proper hospital access to provide last rites as per practices of certain faith groups.

**LIAISON WITH NAGEP** – The OMC has agreed to form a liaison with NAGEP and exchange information and open workshops on pandemic/emergency planning to the membership.

The keynote speaker at the **Annual General Meeting** on June 25, was Barbara Hall, Chief Human Rights Commissioner of Ontario. Her comments from a religious perspective were most informative. Also appreciated were remarks from Hon. Kathleen Wynne, M.P.P., Minister of Education and Rev. Bob Oliphant, M.P. I especially recall Rev. Oliphant encouraging us to refer to ourselves as "persons of faith" rather than a specific faith group.

## Biotechnology Reference Group has Global Influence

Edited from report submitted by Dr. James Rusthoven, June 2009

Dr. James Rusthoven is the current chairperson of the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group. Rusthoven's report traces activities of the group from December 2007 to present.

**The Basic Mandate of the Biotechnology Reference Group (BRG)** is to provide mutual learning of ethical and societal issues created by new biotechnologies among members of the group and the churches of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Written products for such learning are circulated by members to their respective denominations for distribution and reflection. The group also holds forums on learning through the invitation of expert speaker and panelists on a regular basis. The group has also worked with government departments and committees in developing policies and guidelines for the regulation and use of biotechnologies.

**Global Consultation, Johannesburg, South Africa:** church representatives, content experts and advocates gathered to share priority concerns over the impact of genetic biotechnologies on various ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

**Genetics Curriculum ("Faith Forum in Genetics"):** dialogue with Oregon Ecumenical Ministries and two faculty members of Pacific University (near Portland, OR) regarding genetic teaching curriculum. Working with that team to establish a formal relationship to develop a Canadian version of the curriculum.

### Specific Areas of Interest:

- **Harvard Oncomouse controversy** (2001-2003)

- **Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC):** active over three years in regular communication with the federal government on various ethical and policy issues. With regret, the committee was disbanded last year.
- Learning about the ethical and societal implications of **nanotechnology**, a new technology that involves molecules and products that are submicroscopic in size.
- **Genetic privacy:** concern about numerous areas that leave Canadians vulnerable to identity theft in the future from information obtained from companies, insurance companies, and government in tissue repositories such as biobanks and information obtained from clinical research.
- **Stem cell research**, in particular the ethical issues around the use of human embryos, the selling of human eggs, etc. Rusthoven was asked by the World Council of Churches (WCC) to help them plan a **symposium on the ethics of stem cell research**.
- An initiative involving **interfaith dialogue on biotechnology** was started by Anne Mitchell, who has been director of the Canadian Institute on Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP)
- **Tenth Anniversary Celebration** of the founding of the Biotechnology Reference Group is being planned for early December.

Rusthoven was asked by the World Council of Churches (WCC) to help them plan a **symposium on the ethics of stem cell research**.

All articles in this issue of "Every Square Inch" have been edited from the reports that were submitted by the Christian Reformed Church representative who has been appointed to the commission or working group. If you would like to read the full, unedited reports, email [avandijk@crcna.org](mailto:avandijk@crcna.org) and Alida will invite you to the Google site where the full reports are posted. To access the site, you will need to set up a Google Account if you don't already have one. Instructions are available for how to do this.

## KAIROS sets Priorities

Edited from report submitted by Louisa Bruinsma, July 2009

Louisa Bruinsma from Edmonton, Alberta serves on the Board of KAIROS Canada. She reports that restructuring has been necessary due to lean economic times—one management and five staff positions were eliminated in June 2009.

Projects this spring include a Church Leaders delegation to the Athabaskan oil sands (May 09) and June 2009 Gathering at University of Waterloo.

KAIROS set Priorities at the February 2009 Board meeting:

1. There will be more relationship between our international work and our work in Canada
2. Highest priority will be given to the following program areas: Indigenous rights, ecological justice, education and grass-roots advocacy, global human rights, and human rights in relation to poverty and injustice in Canada
3. International development work will be more focused in a new CIDA proposal for the 2009-2013.
4. KAIROS will not continue program work on refugee issues.
5. While there will no longer be actual programs related to international debt, trade or corporate accountability, this expertise will inform research, policy and advocacy to the extent possible.

### Church Leaders Visit to the Oil

**Sands: May 21 – 27:** Rev. Bruce Adema represented the CRCNA on this tour (along with nine other church leaders). Bruinsma was involved with the planning of the May 21 ecumenical kick-off evening where Dr. John Hiemstra (political science professor at King's College) was the main speaker. Leaders met with aboriginal, corporate and community representatives in the area and toured the area by helicopter. A public statement was issued which indicated concern for the dramatic rate of oil sands development.

**June Gathering, June 17 – 20** “The End of the World as we Know it – Thank God!” Plenary speakers reflected a diversity of cultures and race. Aboriginal input featured throughout the Gathering, with a campfire on campus kept going with prayers throughout the conference and the scene for closing ceremonies at the end.

Prior to the June Gathering, Kairos sponsored a pre-event conference called “Remembering Us: Voice of the Marginalized and Poor in Canada” on the issue of poverty. Bruinsma writes, “Small group discussions after each presentation contributed to ecumenical dialogue on the issues. I have never seen quite as passionate a crowd!”

**“I have never seen quite as passionate a crowd”**

## KAIROS Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Board of KAIROS—Mrs. Louisa Bruinsma, Edmonton, AB

Program Committees:

Canadian Social Development—Ms. Chandra Pasma, Ottawa, ON

Ecological Justice—Mrs. Janet Wesselius, Edmonton, AB

Education and Animation—Ms. Karen Bokma, Burlington, ON

Global Economic Justice—Mr. Moses Moini, St Catharines, ON

Indigenous Rights—Mr. Harold Roscher, Edmonton, AB

International Human Rights—Mr. Mike Hogeterp, Hamilton, ON

## Hu advocates against Human Trafficking

Grace Hu, newly appointed to the Human Trafficking Working Group, has attended two conference calls so far. That group has made a working plan. Hu is impressed with the giftedness and passion of those in this working group who have done a lot of work on protecting trafficking victims. In September, when Hu returns from spending the summer in Beijing, she plans to start consciousness-raising in terms of the human trafficking problem at her home church, Nelson Community Church, in British Columbia.

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**Transforming Lives and  
Communities Worldwide**

### Our Mission

As people called by God,  
We gather to praise God, listen to him, and respond.  
We nurture each other in faith and obedience to Christ.  
We love and care for one another as God's people.  
We commit ourselves to serve and to tell others about Jesus.  
We pursue God's justice and peace in every area of life.

### Our Vision

The Christian Reformed Church is a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide.

[www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org)

## Canadian Council of Churches: 2009 CRC Appointments

President of CCC — Rev. Bruce Adema, Director of Canadian Ministries, CRCNA  
Governing Board — Rev. Peter Slofstra, Hope CRC, Courtice, Ontario

Commission on Faith and Witness— Dr. Elaine Botha, Redeemer University College

Working groups related to the Commission on Faith and Witness

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Writing Committee

—Rev. Richard Vander Vaart, Dresden, ON

National Advisory Group on Emergency Planning — Ms. Dianne Algera, Port Hope, ON

National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee

— Dr. James Payton, Redeemer University College

The Canadian Christian Jewish Consultation—Dr. Daniel Machiela, McMaster University

Commission on Justice and Peace

—Mr. Mike Hogeterp, CCG, and Mrs. Kathy VanderGrift, Ottawa, ON

Working groups related to the Commission on Justice and Peace

Human Trafficking in Canada— Ms. Grace Hu, British Columbia

The Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network

—Mr. Steve Kabetu, Office of Race Relations, CRCNA

The Biotechnology Reference Group—Dr. James Rusthoven, Ancaster, ON

The Christian Interfaith Reference Group

—Rev. John Tenyenhuis, Rehoboth Fellowship CRC, Etobicoke, ON

Appointments to Standing Committees of the CCC

Finance—Mr. Bert Fluit, Ayr, ON

Personnel—Ms. Doreen Hoogvliets, Human Resources, CRWRC



**Rev. Bruce Adema,  
President of the  
Canadian Council of  
Churches**