



"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"

- Deut. 4:6



Support Services Council

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- 6 members elected by the delegate body
- Ed Janzen, Chair, represents Support Services on the General Board

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The Support Services Council consists of six members elected by you, the delegate body. The 2007-2008 members that you see pictured are:

Dianne Hildebrand Schlegel from Morden, MB

Rita Strickland from St. Catharines, ON whose term ends with this Assembly

Harry Wiens from Altona, MB

Our chair – Ed Janzen from Abbotsford, BC – who also represents Support Services Council on the General Board.

Mark Wurtz from Rosthern, SK

And Bill Janzen from Calgary, AB who is missing from this picture.

I am very grateful for the skill and commitment of these volunteers and I am pleased to report that they are giving wise and discerning leadership to the important ministry of Support Services. I look forward to working with others of you when your opportunity to serve the church in this way arises.



Support Services Council



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- Seven primary areas of ministry:
 - Communications
 - Resource development
 - Assembly planning
 - Information technology
 - Pension plan
 - Human resources
 - Property management

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Support Services' primary ministry is in the seven areas which you see listed on the screen. The list may not look very exciting to you, but it's exciting to us. And we've noticed on the very rare occasion when we don't do our work well that others can get pretty excited about it too!



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- Governance connections to:
 - Mennonite Foundation of Canada
 - Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service

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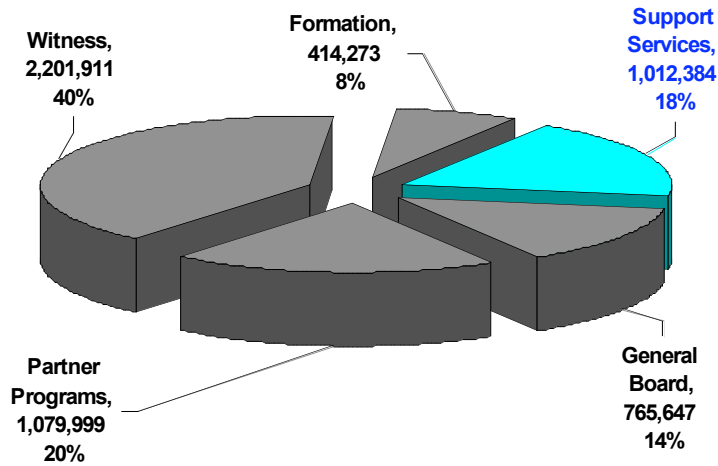
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Support Services is also responsible for MC Canada's relationships with Mennonite Foundation of Canada and Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, which publishes the Canadian Mennonite.

In addition to frequent staff-to-staff conversations, the Council meets once a year with the representatives that we appoint to the governance bodies of MFC and the Canadian Mennonite to exchange concerns and ideas and to maintain good relationships.



Budget FYE 2009 Support Services Council



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Support Services' annual expense budget is just over a million dollars. Almost \$160,000 of this, all of it funded by registration fees and meal and shuttle ticket sales, will be spent on this Assembly and Summit. Another \$174,000 funds half of the cost for each household in MC Canada to receive a subscription to the Canadian Mennonite. And another \$290,000 funds a wide variety of building, equipment, supply, printing and travel expenses.



Support Services Council



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11 staff members = 7.7 full-time equivalency

- *Communications: 2.9*
- *Resource Development: 1.5*
- *Human Resources: 0.8*
- *Executive Office: 2.5*
- *And one half-time volunteer for the past year –
Hyo-Sook Yun, IVEP and video producer
extraordinaire!*

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The remaining \$392,000 funds the salaries and benefits for our 11 Support Services staff. We are very thankful for the dedicated work of these staff. You see their work all the time when you are greeted on the phone at our office or when you read our news releases in the Canadian Mennonite. And you will be particularly surrounded by the fruits of their labours at this Assembly and Summit – from PowerPoints to banners to newssheets to deciding what to do when we had to take a few tables out of this room at the last minute to make room for the A/V equipment.

And now we want to give you just a glimpse into what our staff and council will be working at in the next year.



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Many of you are familiar with Mennonite Church Canada's web site at www.mennonitechurch.ca. This is the best place to go for any news, information or resources from Mennonite Church Canada. In the last year, we really got with the digital generation when we launched an MC Canada YouTube video channel and began distributing our Church Matters radio programs through iTunes. For those who prefer non-electronic forms of communication, please call our toll free number and we will be glad to provide you with paper copies, CDs or DVDs of pretty much anything we produce.

We want to say a particular thanks at this time to Hyo-Sook Yun, an International Visitor Exchange Person from South Korea. Her year of volunteering with us comes to an end with this Assembly and Summit. She has produced many of the 26 videos on our YouTube channel, and we have had very positive responses to her good work. A major task in the coming year will be to determine how much we can continue to communicate in this way without Hyo-Sook's skill and time.



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Green Building Plan

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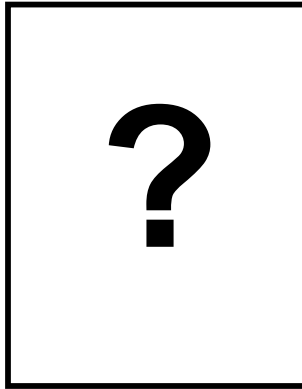
Our main office complex across the street at 600 Shaftesbury Boulevard was built in the late 1980s. It has served us well and we plan for it to continue to serve us for a long time yet. As we maintain this building and the Mennonite Heritage Centre, which houses our archives and gallery, we want to ensure that we are making choices that our good for us and good for our environment. To that end, the Support Services Council invites your donations to the Green Building Fund we have established. This fund will be used for renovations to improve our buildings' performance and reduce their environmental impact. The projects that we will undertake will depend on the donations we receive. We expect that we will start with relatively small and inexpensive projects that still have a high impact, such as installing low flush toilets.



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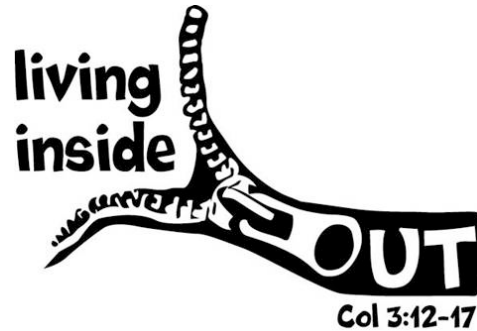
This is Gerd Bartel, Western Director of Resource Development. Gerd needs a friend. Actually, Gerd already has many friends but we think he needs one more – and that is a colleague in the Resource Development department. Al Rempel, former Director of Resource Development, recently resigned from that position to accept a regional minister position at MCEC. If you or someone you know would like to serve the church by inviting and inspiring and giving thanks for the generosity of the churches, area churches, and individual members of MC Canada, please talk to me. Or to Gerd – because he looks a little lonely, doesn't he?



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If you thought that our staff would get a little breather from Assembly planning starting on July 11, think again! Planning for Assembly 2009 is already well underway. A scripture text and theme has been chosen, a logo has been designed – as you can see on the screen – and venues have been asked to submit their final proposals. Please mark your calendars for the next MC Canada annual delegate assembly in Saskatoon, SK on June 5-7, 2009. You can see a list of future Mennonite Church Canada, USA and Mennonite World Conference gatherings on page 17 of the green Program Book you picked up this morning at registration.



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What do these three folks have in common? Well, they all work at MC Canada and that means they – like many of you – are also members of the MC Canada pension plan. And if they are like more than 80% of our other pension plan members, they have their entire retirement nest egg invested in the pension plan's core option.

However, what these three don't have in common is the number of years they have until retirement.

Katharina, our graphic designer, is in her 20s.

And don't let the full head of dark hair fool you – Gordon Janzen, one of our international ministries staff, is in his 40s – his late 40s.

And Jack Suderman, our General Secretary...well, Jack was in his 40s once.

And their different ages means that they really should have different investment strategies. While Katharina has lots of time to ride out the ups and downs in the market, a sudden downturn could leave Jack with a major devaluation of his retirement savings just when he's ready to buy that retirement condo in Bogota. He should probably be investing more conservatively. And Gordon has quite a bit of time to save yet, but he should be planning how he will make gradual adjustments to his portfolio to avoid having to make sudden and potentially costly shifts.

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You can see that with very different needs, it might not be the best thing for these three to all have exactly the same investment strategy. For that reason Support Services Council, which also acts as the Pension Advisory Council, is



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