



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

- Deut. 4:6



## Report: Christian Witness Council



- 14 Staff persons
- 4 program departments
- 6 partner agencies with governance connections
- Work in 26 countries
- 51 mission workers

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

**Willard:** Good Morning my name is Willard Metzger and I am the chair of the Christian Witness Council.

**Janet:** and my name is Janet Plenert and I am the Executive Secretary of Witness.



## Mandate: Christian Witness Council

- Evangelism and church planting
- International ministries
- Multi-cultural ministries
- Native ministry
- Peace and justice advocacy
- Service ministries

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**Janet:** Our mandate is broad and allows for a great deal of exciting opportunities and challenges. We are responsible to carry out mission work together with area churches and congregations in

Evangelism and church planting

International ministries

Multi-cultural ministries

Native ministry

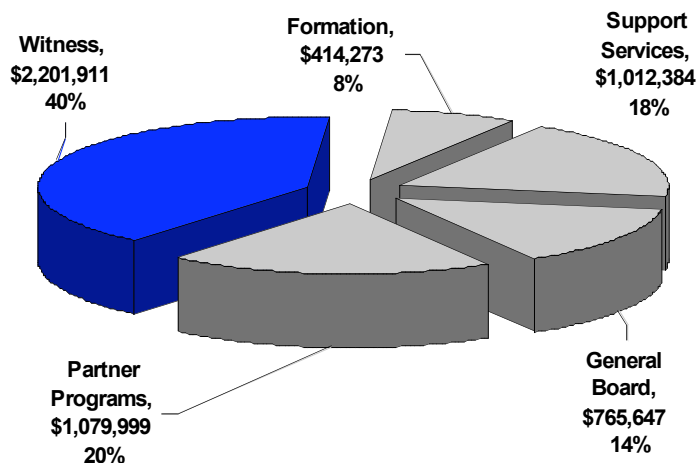
Peace and justice advocacy

Service ministries



# Budget FYE 2009

## Witness Council Report



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### Willard:

Our annual budget represents approximately 40% of the MC Canada gross budget. Adding in partner projects that Witness is responsible for, that percentage rises to 52%.



## Witness Staffing



### **14 persons, 10.2 full-time equivalency**

- 1.9 FTE executive office
- 1.0 FTE Native Ministry
- 0.5 FTE Multi-Cultural Ministries
- 2.5 FTE Congregational Partnerships
- 3.8 FTE International Ministries
- 0.5 FTE International Volunteer Exchange Program

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### **Willard:**

To lead and manage our ministries, Witness has 14 staff people who work the equivalent of 10.2 full time equivalent. One of these people, Hyo Sook YUN, a South Korean, has been serving with MC Canada as part of the MCC International Volunteer Exchange Program. She returns to South Korea this month.



## Witness Related Agencies



- ***Christian Peacemaker Teams***
- ***Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure***
- ***Mennonite Disaster Service***
- ***Canadian Women Mission***
- ***Mennonite Men/Join Hands***
- ***MCC Canada***
- ***Global Mission Fellowship***

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### **Willard:**

Witness has formal relationships with a variety of other partners on behalf of the entire church. These include

Christian Peacemaker Teams

Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure

Mennonite Disaster Service

Canadian Women in Mission

Mennonite Men/Join Hands

MCC Canada

Global Mission Fellowship

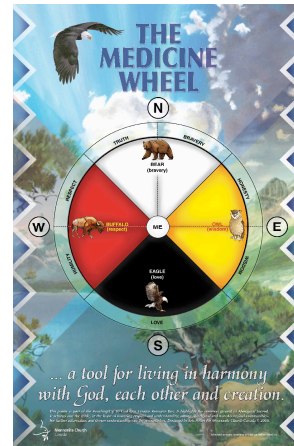


**Janet:**

It isn't easy to conceptualize, plan, design and produce a new collection of resource materials. Over the past 2 years our Native Ministry directors have worked with a team of people to produce a brand new tool for congregations. Called ***Reaching Up to God our Creator***,



# Native Ministries



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## Janet:

this resource box contains a children's book that was especially commissioned for this project, a 6 session curriculum for children and for adults, a poster, and a variety of other materials to help your congregation understand the common ground between the faith expression of Aboriginal peoples and Mennonites. This resource box can be borrowed from the MC Canada Resource Centre.





# Native Ministries



## Partnership Ministries



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### **Willard:**

Working to encourage congregations in their relationships with native peoples is a significant part of the Witness Native Ministry department. A special highlight this year was having Richard Twiss as a speaker for the Manitoba partnership circle. Richard is a Lakota Christian elder, a PhD candidate, and a stimulating presenter. You can see a summary of his presentations on video,

[www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca](http://www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca)

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**Willard:**

thanks to our communications department and the video skills of Hyo Sook. Check out our You Tube channel to see this – and many other - videos.



## Multi Cultural Ministries



Samson Lo



Calgary Chinese Mennonite, recently made a large contribution to MC Canada's Sichuan Earthquake Appeal

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### **Janet:**

As Director of Multi-Cultural ministries, Samson Lo's task is to network, resource, connect and encourage!



## Multi Cultural Ministries



Lucy Roca, MCEC  
Church Planter in  
Sherbrooke, Quebec

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### **Janet:**

Together with area churches, we seek to ensure that we ALL understand Mennonite Church Canada as one church with many members from a wide variety of ethnic, linguistic backgrounds, including many newer to Mennonite Church Canada. And it is exactly the multi-cultural dimension of our church that continues to grow!

Calgary Vietnamese Mennonite Church is planning a new congregation in another part of the city

a new Vietnamese group has started to meet at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford B.C.

a first within Mennonite Church Canada is a Karen speaking group from Burma which is attending services at Living Hope Christian Fellowship, Surrey B.C.

In Sherbrooke, Quebec, Lucy Roca, also a Mennonite from Colombia is planting a Spanish speaking congregation



# Thailand



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## **Willard:**

Thailand: May 18th was a special day for our ministry in Thailand as the Living Water Church in Borabu dedicated a newly constructed church building.



# Thailand



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## **Willard:**

Having a church building of their own gives the believers in Borabu a sense of "home" and rootedness as a community of faith. The Thailand ministry is now starting to expand into a new district.



## China



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### **Janet:**

China: Mennonite Church Canada's long-term presence in China through Mennonite Partners in China (formerly CEE) enabled us to help the church in Sichuan respond to the needs of many earthquake victims in the days following the May 12 quake.



# China



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**Janet:**

Jeannette Hanson, Witness worker, was very involved in obtaining relief supplies that were distributed through MPC partners.





Dan & Yvonne Snider Nighswander



## Global Deacons in Zimbabwe

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### **Willard:**

Becoming a global church happens in many ways, sometimes in long term ways and sometimes in short contributions of solidarity. In mid June, Witness workers Dan and Yvonne Snider-Nighswander went to Zimbabwe to be a presence of encouragement and support to the people of Zimbabwe and especially the Brethren in Christ church during the run-off presidential election. This effort was in collaboration with Mennonite World Conference.



C-460

First Session, Thirty-ninth Parliament,

55-56 Elizabeth II, 2006-2007

**HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OF CANADA**

**BILL C-460**

An Act respecting  
conscientious objection to  
the use of taxes for military  
purposes

FIRST READING, JUNE 13, 2007

C-460

Première session, trente-neuvième législature,

55-56 Elizabeth II, 2006-2007

**CHAMBRE DES  
COMMUNES DU  
CANADA**

**PROJET DE LOI C-460**

Loi concernant l'objection  
de conscience à  
l'utilisation des impôts à  
des fins militaires

PREMIÈRE LECTURE LE 13 JUIN 2007



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**Janet:**

And here in Canada we also seek to be a faithful people living out the gospel of peace. Last year we worked to encourage the writing of Bill C460, An Act respecting conscientious objection to the use of taxes for military purposes. This bill received a first reading in the House of Commons in June 2007, and was reintroduced into this session of parliament in October. It has not received a second reading, so we invited congregations to pressure their MPs to this end.



[www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca)

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**Willard:**

In April Mennonite Church Canada became a supporting organization of the grassroots initiative for a Federal Department of Peace in Canada. This means that we are formally encouraging you as congregations and constituents to contact your local chapter and become involved.



**Janet:**

And the impact of IMPaCT continues to grow! International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together has completed its third event.



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**Janet:**

This year, in collaboration with MCEC, 7 pastors from South Africa, Congo, Burkina Faso, Ukraine and the United Kingdom joined with 8 MCEC pastors for 2 weeks of intense and dynamic conversation about the life and role of the church. But there was plenty of laughter and casual interaction as well. In 2009 MC Saskatchewan is co-hosting IMPaCT.



## Congregational Partnerships



**Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon**

partners with

**Will and Anna Loewen,**  
workers in South Korea



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### **Willard:**

Congregational Partnerships continue to give meaning and vitality for congregations. Nutana Park Mennonite Church is excitedly entering into a new partnership with Will & Ana Loewen in South Korea. They see this as an opportunity to engage their young families in a mission vision. They look forward to using internet technology to be in close and meaningful contact with the Loewens and their ministry.

And as of today we can make an announcement about the new Director of Congregational Partnerships!



## Congregational Partnerships



### Norm Dyck

Pastor of Graysville  
Mennonite Church,  
Carmen, MB

will become the Director  
of Congregational  
Partnerships in  
October



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**Janet:**

**I am please to announce that Norm Dyck, Pastor of Graysville Mennonite Church in Carman Manitoba has been appointed as Director of Congregational Partnerships. Norm brings a lot of passion for the church and a strong desire to network in the body of Christ. He was one of the MCM pastors in the 2006 IMPaCT program. Norm will begin in October.**



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**Willard:**

We didn't get to talk about learning tours, or pandemic preparedness for congregations, or tell some of the many stories from our workers around the world. We didn't even mention the new short term service program the International Ministries staff are working on! But our time is up. Talk to any of our staff this week for more stories and information!