

Canadian Interfaith Conversation Executive Committee – Nov. 2024



Pastor Peter Noteboom
General Secretary
The Canadian Council of
Churches

Peter was appointed to a five-year term as General Secretary in May 2018. The responsibilities of General Secretary are to lift up the call for gospel unity, to provide direction and leadership through the development of vision and priorities, to implement the strategic and program plans of the Council, to facilitate Canadian and global ecumenical relationships, and to participate and lead in Canadian Interfaith initiatives. Peter serves as Co-Chair of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation, advocating for religion in a pluralistic society and in Canadian public life. He is also a member of the Interfaith Committee for the Canadian Military Chaplaincy and the Interfaith Committee on the Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada. Peter lives in Toronto with his wife Jeanette. They have two children.



Shaila Kibria Carter
Interfaith Specialist
Islamic Relief Canada

Shaila is a wife, mother, and daughter to one of the first Bangladeshi Immigrants to Canada. A community activist at heart, Shaila started as VP Equity at U of T Student Union fighting for social justice issues and is now Interfaith Advisor of the largest Muslim relief organization in the country, Islamic Relief Canada. Shaila has raised money for Syrian refugees, fundraised for marginalized Black youth, been one of the voices for women, and helped facilitate Muslim–Indigenous partnerships. She is author of the book “Maariyah’s Day”, about a girl’s experience being a Canadian Muslim. Shaila loves working with people of different cultures and religions and strives to build bridges. This has led her to pursue her masters in theology at U of T. Shaila is proud of her interfaith work (serving as CIC Co-Chair since 2022) and CBC Radio 1 freelancing stories about the multicultural tapestry in Canada.



Bruce J. Clemenger
President
The Evangelical
Fellowship of Canada

Bruce became president of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada on June 1, 2003. He had served with EFC since 1992. In 1996 he established the EFC's Ottawa office and became the founding director of the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life. He holds a B.A. (honours) in economics and history, and a Master of Philosophical Foundations in political theory. He is currently working on a PhD in political theory which examines the accommodation of religious, cultural and institutional pluralism within the context of political liberalism. Prior to his work at the EFC, he served with Samaritan's Purse Canada, a relief and development organization. He and his wife, Tracy, and their two daughters live in the Ottawa Valley.



Zul Kassamali
President, 1 Naas

Zul is an individual who has worked tirelessly to overcome prejudices and to right social injustices, not through angry words or retribution, but through positive action. He has over 50 years of experience in establishing, managing and working with not-for-profit, interfaith and other community organizations, sitting on many boards, commissions and councils. Zul has served as President of the Toronto Area Interfaith Council since 2010 and Co-Chair of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation from 2016 - 2022. He and his wife Gulshan ran a family florist business together until 2012 when Gulshan passed. Since then, Zul has increased his community service efforts. He is motivated by the question, "What legacy am I leaving behind?" Zul is Ismaili and loves all things spiritual. He lives in Toronto with his daughter.



Sandra G. Pallin, National
Communication Director
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

Sandra has been National Communication Director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 2012. Prior to that she served one year as Director of Public Affairs for Canada East. She has served on the CIC executive since April 2015. Sandra was born and raised in Toronto and is fifth of nine siblings. She graduated from Brigham Young University Idaho, then served an 18-month mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tokyo, Japan. She graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School (Toronto) and is licensed with the Law Society of Ontario. Her legal practise is in the economic categories of immigration. This has afforded her learning, travel, insight and appreciation for the global family. Her favourite place to be is with family at the cottage in the Kawarthas.



Sherry Marceil
Immediate Past Chair,
Multi-Faith Summit
Council of BC

Although, Sherry Marceil, was raised in North Vancouver, BC, she has been a resident of Delta for more than 30 years. Her educational background is in business management, but she has been self-employed for more than 30 years. She has been married to her husband, Jeff for more than 40 years, and is the mother of 3 grown children. Among the numerous community service projects and positions Sherry has held, is 20 years of service in Scouts Canada, where she made significant contributions in the development of both the youth and adult volunteers. She also sits on the Advisory Board for the John Volken Academy, which is a Therapeutic Community Model Addiction Recovery Program. Sherry has been active in the Interfaith Community for the past decade, where she has provided leadership in such organization as the Surrey Interfaith Council and the Multi-faith Summit Council of British Columbia; she also played a key role in initiating a Women's

Interfaith Council of BC, where she is still the Lead Convenor. Sherry is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has served within local congregations in a number of teaching positions as well as leadership positions within the Children's Primary Organization, the Young Women's Auxiliary and the Women's Relief Society. She also served locally for more than 7 years in the church's Public Affairs. Her desire to develop better interfaith relations and cooperation is a priority and stems from her many years of experience in community service.



Dario Chaiquin, Associate Director, External Affairs, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

As Associate Director of National External Affairs at CIJA, Dario Chaiquin is focused on strengthening allyship and building bridges with local and national organizations across Canada, spanning many faith and ethnic groups. With experience in government relations, Dario is attuned to the political implications for CIJA's advocacy. He also previously worked at the Embassy of Israel in Canada, where he built partnerships between Israeli and Canadian cultural institutions and covered various policy areas from foreign affairs to national security and beyond. An experienced advocate, Dario spent many years working in Jewish and Israeli advocacy, both on university campuses and in community settings. Born in Argentina and raised in Ottawa, Dario speaks English, Spanish, French, and Italian. He holds an M.A. in Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University and a B.A. in Political Science from Carleton University.



Akaash Maharaj
Ambassador-at-Large
Global Organization of
Parliamentarians Against
Corruption

Akaash Maharaj is Ambassador-at-Large for the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). He represents the international alliance of democratically-elected legislators in its work combatting corruption, strengthening good government, and upholding the rule of law. He also leads GOPAC's project on international prosecution of Crimes Against Humanity and its work on reconciliation in post-conflict states. The United Nations selected him to speak for the world's legislators in the General Assembly Chamber, on bringing kleptocrats to justice. Earlier in his life, he was an international athlete for Canada, and was a triple gold medallist at the International Championships of Equestrian Skill-at-Arms. He earned his Master of Arts from Oxford University, and was the first overseas student elected President of the student government in the history of the 900 year-old University. He completed further studies at the Sorbonne Université and the United Nations University.



Andrea Salguero
Director of Public Affairs
Baha'i Community of
Canada

Andrea Salguero is the Director of the Office of Public Affairs of the Baha'i Community of Canada. Prior to joining the Office, Andrea held several advocacy and legal research roles in international and domestic human rights law. She most recently completed a clerkship at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica and previously worked at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Andrea holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A), and joint Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.) / Juris Doctor (J.D.) degrees from McGill University. She is a licensed lawyer in the province of Ontario.



Haseen Khan
Muslim Association of
Newfoundland and
Labrador

Haseen has been a member of the Muslim community of St. John's since 1990 when his family immigrated to NL from Saudi Arabia. He is employed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as Director of Water Resources Management Division, Dept. of Environment and Climate Change. He is recipient of the first Public Service Award of Excellence from the provincial government. Haseen is an executive member of the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANAL), and currently serves as Treasurer. He served as VP from 1998 – 2000 and Interim President in 2000. Haseen represents MANAL on the interfaith in St. John's and NL Religious Social Action Coalition for poverty reduction. He delivers Friday sermon at the Mosque and is MANAL's Marriage Officer and Pastoral Care contact. He has helped establish the Newfoundland and Labrador Food Umbrella Inc. (NLFUI) and is on the Board of Directors. Haseen is a recipient of the Senate of Canada 150 Anniversary medal for his volunteer services to the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.



May Shihadeh
Chair, Victoria Multifaith
Council

May is an activist and community advocate dedicated to upholding the human rights of refugees, with extensive expertise in equality, racism and inclusion, immigration, and refugee laws, including sponsorship agreement holders. Her support for refugees extended to settlement, including housing, employment, healthcare, and education. From 2015 to 2022, she served as one of the inaugural members of the Victoria Counseling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees, fulfilling the roles of a medical interpreter and cultural educator. From 2022 to 2024, she represented the Muslim and Refugee communities on the Greater Victoria Police Advisory Diversity Committee. Since 2020, May has represented the Muslim faith at the Victoria Multifaith Society, and in 2024, she was elected as the society's chairperson. May continues to advocate for refugees, focusing on building bridges, fostering inclusion, and promoting human rights.



Richard Chambers
 Volunteer
 Canadian Interfaith
 Conversation

Richard Chambers previously served as the director of the University of Toronto Multi-Faith Centre for Spiritual Study and Practice. The Centre engages students in questions of religious pluralism. Prior to this Richard served in the national offices of the United Church of Canada. He has graduate degrees in applied ethics and education from Harvard University and theology from University of Toronto. Research interests include moral development with young adults and the role of religion in civil society.



Setri Dzivenu
 Program Coordinator
 Canadian Interfaith
 Conversation

Before joining CIC, Setri served the Commission of Faith and Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches as the O’Gara CFW Research and Program Assistant. He is also a Pastor and Director of Outreach and Administration at Southgate Baptist Church in Edmonton, AB. Born in Ghana, he graduated with a BA Political Science from the University of Ghana and MScR/PhD from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He took several courses as part of M.Div degree program at Carey Theological College, Vancouver. Setri’s religious experience spans across three Christian traditions; Catholic, Reformed and Baptist and his involvement with global ecumenical movements provide him with a unique perspective on ecumenical and multifaith relations. He is passionate about interfaith dialogue, faith-based diplomacy and advocacy.