



March 7, 2018

Dear Friend,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of the Christian Interfaith Reference Group (CIRG) of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (NMCLC). Together we aim to facilitate ways for members of our faith communities to know each other, to foster respect and to create opportunities for dialogue and joint action locally and nationally.

The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944 and is the broadest ecumenical body in Canada, representing 25 Christian denominations. The Christian Interfaith Reference Group was created out of the CCC to allow Christian churches to reflect and share information on inter-religious dialogue and to share this information with all member churches of the CCC. The primary activity of CIRG is to be a catalyst for information sharing, education, theological reflection, and relationship building.

The National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee brings representatives of Muslim and Christian organizations into a forum for respectful dialogue on themes of common interest, and for the exchange of and response to faith-related concerns and areas of sensitivity between Muslims and Christians. Active since the early 1990s, NMCLC has sponsored regular dialogue and learning events, consulted on documents and resources and collaborated on social issues. Members share a vision that Christians and Muslims realize the full potential of their relationship – appreciate, respect, support and understand each other – leading to the betterment of our society.

To further our shared goals of promoting understanding and respect, the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee and the Christian Interfaith Reference Group are collaborating on a project to map the diversity of Muslim and Christian communities in Canada, specifically focusing on the following areas:

- Identifying established Christian and Muslim partnerships happening across Canada, whether through dialogues or coordinated social justice activities;
- Identifying religious and cultural centres for Muslim communities in Canada, where we might make connections with Christian congregations or groups interested in forming partnerships for dialogue and action.

The final goal of our project is to compile this information for an online resource whereby Muslims and Christians from across Canada could easily identify where joint collaborations and partnerships exist, or where there are possibilities for cooperation. Furthermore, it would provide a deeper understanding to members of the Christian community of the rich Muslim contribution to the beautiful mosaic of Canadian diversity.

As you can imagine, compiling this information will not be easy. This is why we are contacting your organization to see if you might be able to provide any information relating to the two points listed above, or refer us to any other organization which could assist us in our compilation of this information.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please fill out our online response sheet at www.councilofchurches.ca/mapping-diversity/.

You can also send your responses to Mapping Diversity, c/o Maria Simakova, CIRG secretary, at mappingdiversity@councilofchurches.ca.



Thank you for your generosity of time. On behalf of the Christian Interfaith Reference Group and the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee, we wish you and your community blessings and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gail Allan
Co-Chair, NMCLC

The Rev. Greg Sinclair
Chair, CIRG

Muneeb Nasir
Co-Chair, NMCLC