

WHO WE ARE / WHOM WE SERVE

Christian Brethren Churches in Québec is a legally constituted corporation serving a family of evangelical churches throughout the Province. The Corporation was established in 1942 in order to give legal status to a number of Christian assemblies that recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as their Head and that gather according to what they consider to be New Testament principles.

The assemblies being served subscribe to the same statement of faith and intentionally choose to follow a New Testament pattern in the conduct of their activities. They are directed by a plurality of elders, men who, with the help of deacons and deaconesses, attend to the affairs of the local assembly. Our assemblies favour the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. We recognize that every believer is a priest before the Lord. Thus we encourage each member, male and female, to exercise his or her Spirit-given gifts according to New Testament norms. Being a family of churches, we recognize the interdependence of each assembly in relation to all others. At the same time, we avoid any hierarchical structure featuring a head office for the centralized direction of all activities among us. In lieu of the latter, there exist among our assemblies various ministries in addition to the Corporation, such as *News of Quebec*, *Conseils et services missionnaires* (CSM), *Conférences des anciens, responsables et ouvriers* (CARO), *Programme de formation pour les assemblées chrétiennes* (ProFAC), *Groupe Réseau des assemblées chrétiennes évangéliques* (GRACE), etc. These work together in a complementary fashion for the advancement of our life and witness as a family of churches.

The above serves as a declaration of our identity as a Corporation and that of the churches we serve, being a brief summary of those fundamental and distinctive traits which, in general, characterize us. For a more detailed treatment, please consult the *Memorandum*.

WHAT THE CORPORATION DOES

The Corporation

- 1) limits its responsibility essentially to civil matters or to those where a combined action is considered expedient. It exists to serve its affiliated assemblies, exercising no hierarchical powers over the latter (*Memorandum* 1.1). It serves as a link between its affiliated assemblies;
- 2) approves and recommends to the government candidates to be authorized to celebrate marriages, informing them of their rights and responsibilities and assuring that they function in accordance with such (*Memorandum* 1.4.7.4);
- 3) keeps member assemblies informed of changes in federal and provincial laws affecting them as charitable organizations. In order to better accomplish this task, the Corporation maintains membership in the Quebec Council of Christian Charities;
- 4) responds to questions from affiliated assemblies concerning matters related to the preceding three points;
- 5) serves as a depository for the storage and protection of archival materials related to the *Christian Brethren Churches in Québec* (minutes of the CBCQ, May 10, 2008).