

COMMUNIQUÉ

Toronto, Ontario (26 June 2017) - The Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries has become the **Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning** of **The Canadian Council of Churches**.

Beginning in 2012, the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries, an arm's length agency of The Canadian Council of Churches, began to focus its work on intercultural ministry in Canada and the development of a program called "*Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry,*" which has engaged a growing network of people across Canada.

This reference group, now fully part of The Canadian Council of Churches and its 25 member denominations, will operate in continuing and developing the work of its predecessor institutions and responding faithfully to current Canadian and Global contexts.

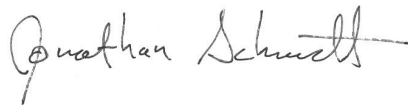
Of the recent change, Forum director Jonathan Schmidt said, "*This is a natural and timely transition that honours the almost 100 year history of what began in 1921 as the Canadian School of Missions. In the early 20th century, we went out into the world. Today, Canadian Christianity is having to discern its calling in increasingly diverse contexts in Canada shaped by the world. Our calling to Shalom, Peace, and Right Relationship requires cultural self-awareness as well as intentional understanding across cultures. The recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the apologies for the Indian Residential Schools are a reminder of this calling.*"

About the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning: The Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning is an ecumenical Christian partnership through which Canadian churches work toward intercultural leadership development and ministry learning in Canada and globally. The Forum has worked with thousands of people over almost 100 years across Canada.

For more information on the **Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning**, visit ccforum.ca.



Karen Hamilton
General Secretary
The Canadian Council of Churches



Jonathan Schmidt
Director
Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning