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# **CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL**

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2015**

**OTTAWA, ON**



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## INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED ACTIONS TO THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year at the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM), delegates will hear Proposers present action items. Originally, four motions, or potential resolutions, were proposed for vote at the AGM. Canadian Unitarian Council's Parliamentarian, William Fulton, has reviewed the four motions using *Roberts Rules of Order, 11<sup>th</sup> edition*, p.104, which states:

*Motions to "reaffirm" a position previously taken by adopting a motion or resolution are not in order. Such a motion serves no useful purpose since the original motion is still in effect...*

This essentially means that every resolution that has been passed by the CUC since 1963 is still in effect. Consequently, new resolutions within these areas are not necessary.

The four proposed motions for 2015 each address areas with previously approved resolutions:

- Abortion Rights (1980)
- Truth and Reconciliation (First Nations Justice - 1995)
- Clean Air, Water and Soil, and
- Fossil Fuel Divestment (Socially Responsible Investment Policy – 1997, Environment - 1999, 2009 and Climate Change Mitigation - 2013)

Resolutions previously passed at CUC AGMs continue to guide our actions as an organization, allowing for new and ongoing projects that support and further their original intentions. In short, while these issues have been identified by the 2015 proposers as particularly valuable areas of concern this year, the CUC as an organization has already voted its agreement, and repeated resolutions are redundant.

### How will we proceed?

Instead of bringing the proposed motions as new resolutions, they will instead be added to the AGM agenda either as business items, to be voted on as action plans, or as amendments to these previous resolutions. The exception to this is the Abortion Rights resolution – in addition to a motion to amend and proposed actions, it also moves to establish a Monitoring Group.

Congregations which have already read and reviewed their position on the proposed motions have provided valuable feedback to the Proposers. Based on this feedback, the Proposers have made changes to their proposals, and delegates will still have the chance to discuss and vote on the action plans at the Annual Meeting.

The Resolutions plenary will take place on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 pm at Algonquin College in Ottawa. This will provide opportunity to further discuss the proposed action plans. The AGM takes place on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Information for delegates is available at <http://cuc.ca/delegate-information-congregations/>. Questions and comments can be addressed to the Resolutions Advisory Committee at [resolutions@cuc.ca](mailto:resolutions@cuc.ca), or to the Proposers of the action plans.



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PROPOSED ACTION:	<b>Equitable Abortion Rights in Canada</b>
PROPOSERS:	<b>Betty Donaldson, Gillian Burton, Jane Fox, Margaret Linton of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association</b> and the requisite 25 individuals who are members of at least three different member congregations located in at least three of the four CUC Regions, as required under Category E of the CUC Resolutions Process.
CONTACT:	Dr. E. Lisbeth Donaldson ( <a href="mailto:edonalds@ucalgary.ca">edonalds@ucalgary.ca</a> ); Margaret Linton ( <a href="mailto:mlinton@trytel.com">mlinton@trytel.com</a> )
DATE:	Updated April 2015

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## Background

1. Unitarian and Universalists have been advocating for universal access to safe and inexpensive abortion services in Canada for more than forty years. In 1980 the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a Resolution promoting wider access, arisen from our principle that affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Affordable and accessible abortion and counselling services are available to some, but not to all Canadian women. The current situation is inequitable.
  - Since 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) struck down Canada's 1969 abortion law, abortion is treated like any other medical procedure, and is thus governed by provincial regulations.
  - Availability and access to abortion services varies across the country, and for some of limited resources, impossible to access. Clinics set up by Dr. Morgentaler have filled some of the gap that hospitals have not provided, but not all provinces and territories have or fund such clinics.
  - Because abortion is an exclusion under reciprocal billing plans, women who must go to another province for abortion services, are obliged to pay up front and then seek to be reimbursed. This is a barrier for many women.

- In Prince Edward Island, no hospitals or clinics provide abortions, forcing women to travel to other provinces at their own expense. According to Health PEI, about 70 women from the province travel to Halifax each year to have an abortion, yet travel costs are not covered. The New Brunswick Morgentaler Clinic reports that every year, between 70 and 80 women from P.E.I. paid for an abortion at the clinic. Women without resources are clearly disadvantaged.
2. Our 1980 Abortion Rights Resolution states, “the Canadian Unitarian Council promote changes in the law to permit that the right to abortion be determined exclusively by the woman in consultation with a physician.”
  3. The 1980 resolution also directed the CUC to affiliate with CARAL (Canadian Abortion Rights Action League) – this organization no longer exists.

The 1980 resolution needs to be updated. Therefore, the following are proposed:

#### **A. MOTION TO AMEND 1980 RESOLUTION:**

**Therefore, be it resolved that: *Sections 1 and 2 be removed and that the 1980 Abortion Rights resolution be amended to:***

***The Canadian Unitarian Council encourages member congregations and individual members to work to ensure that Canada continues to permit the right to abortion to be determined exclusively by the woman in consultation with a physician, and to ensure that abortions are available and accessible to all Canadians at a reasonable cost.***

#### **Action Plan**

*Each delegate is requested to urge his/her society to become involved and agree on a strategy to further this issue. Suggested ways of involvement could include the following actions:*

- a. *To urge members to educate themselves and others in abortion rights, and promote:*
  - *Organizations that support reproductive decisions regarding choice;*
  - *Organizations that provide education, counseling or support in making such choices;*
  - *Organizations that provide comprehensive sexuality education and support services such as counseling and education that is accurate and evidence-based.*
- b. *To disseminate information on “freedom of choice on abortion” in your community;*
- c. *To encourage societies to write politicians and interested citizens to seek support;*

- d. To form a coalition of like-minded religious groups;*
- e. To promote joint efforts with other groups to **advocate for equal access to abortion through appropriate action**;*
- f. To advocate, at the same time, that birth control information be available and free to all who seek it.*

**B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The CUC create a national monitoring group with volunteer members from many congregations, in order to further educate members and thus provide support to congregations to promote choice, within our core UU principles.**

**C. In order to further fulfill the AMENDED resolution of 1980, we propose the following actions and action plan:**

1. The CUC encourage members to work with our governments (provincial, federal, territorial as needed) to ensure that abortions are fully accessible, and are fully funded by provincial health plans no matter where performed in Canada.
2. The CUC affirm a woman's right to have the procedure in a supportive and safe environment such as that provided by private clinics.
3. The CUC urge members to cooperate with governments toward the removal of abortion as an exclusion under reciprocal billing between provinces, so that women do not have pay for out of province services from their own funds; and toward the assumption of all costs for women who have to travel to access abortion services.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS – ABORTION RIGHTS**

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An Action Plan accompanies each proposed motion, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the motion. This is to provide delegates with a clear idea of the resources that might be involved, and how much staff and volunteer time needs to be allocated.

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The Proposers suggest the following actions to support the implementation of their motion, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE</b>
<b>For Proposers</b>	<p>Draft sample letters and announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from the CUC to inform members of provincial and territorial governments that restrict access or do not fully fund abortions.</li><li>• CUUWA proposers will coordinate a process involving the proposers and others members who may wish to participate.</li></ul> <p>Develop supportive strategies that reflect our core principles but that are operational and functional at a local level. These strategies could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulating a statement of how our core principles resonates within decisions made concerning the abortion option;</li><li>• a women's support group, education through Our Whole Lives and other documents and programs;</li></ul>	Proposers, National Monitoring Group, CUC Staff	August 1, 2015

PROPOSED ACTION	DETAILS	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sermons or other service alternatives on International Women's Day.</li> </ul>		
<b>For CUC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review sample letters and announcements, revise and approve.</li> <li>Send letters and announcements to congregations.</li> <li>Form a national monitoring group to sustain relevant dialogue and action.</li> </ul>	President, Executive Director, CUC Staff	September 1, 2015
<b>For Members and Congregations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review sample letters and announcements, revise and approve and send as determined by member or member congregation.</li> <li>Support and promote organizations that work for affordable and accessible abortion and counselling services.</li> </ul>	CUUWA members, National Monitoring Group, CUC Staff	ongoing



## **APPENDIX A**

### **ABORTION RIGHTS – APPROVED at CUC AGM, 1980**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 19th Annual meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council promote changes in the law to permit that the right to abortion be determined exclusively by the woman in consultation with a physician.

#### **Action Plan**

1. Each delegate is requested to urge his/her society to become involved and agree on a strategy to further this issue. Suggested ways of involvement could include the following actions:
  - a. To support the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL)
  - b. To disseminate information on “freedom of choice on abortion” in your community.
  - c. To encourage societies to write politicians and interested citizens to seek individual support.
  - d. To form a coalition of like-minded religious groups.
  - e. To promote joint efforts with other groups to lobby local, provincial and federal politician through personal action, written briefs, marches, demonstrations and public meetings.
  - f. To advocate, at the same time, that birth control information be available and free to all who seek it.

2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Unitarian Council affiliates with CARAL. (Canadian Abortion Rights Action League).



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PROPOSED ACTION:	<b>Right to Clean Air, Water, and Soil</b>
PROPOSERS:	CUC Environment Monitoring Group
CONTACT:	<a href="mailto:environment@cuc.ca">environment@cuc.ca</a>
DATE:	Updated March 2015

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#### **Background:**

1. A healthy environment is inextricably linked to well-being.
2. In order to protect themselves, individuals and communities need to know what pollutants are being released into the local environment and need to have the right to participate in decisions affecting their environment.
3. Environmental conditions respect no borders.
4. Individuals, acting alone, can do little to protect themselves.
5. Past efforts to establish environmental rights at the national level failed, there is now a new movement to establish “clean air, water and soil” and the right to know what pollutants are being released as rights progressively, starting at the Municipal level; then when there is sufficient momentum within a Province move to the Provincial level; finally when established in seven or more Provinces with 50% of the population, move to the Federal level; and
6. As of 02 March 2015 this movement has seen these rights established in, 25 municipal entities (see sample resolution at Appendix B attached) and counting including these: Victoria BC; Vancouver BC; The Pas MB; Montreal QC; Yellowknife NWT; Hamilton Ont. etc.
7. The CUC 2009 Environmental Resolution “**call(s) upon the CUC and its members to provide leadership through collective and individual actions, and to be a strong voice and presence, in confronting environmental issues.**”

**Therefore, in order to further fulfill the previously approved resolution of 2009, we propose the following actions:**

1. The CUC urge member congregations and fellowships and their members to engage, join with and support others in their community in collective/cooperative political activity(s) to persuade first municipal and subsequently provincial and then the federal government to recognize a clean environment as a basic right and to enact, within their jurisdictions, resolutions, by-laws and/or legislation as appropriate to protect the rights for all to clean air, water and soil along with the right to know what pollutants are being released.
2. The CUC Environmental Monitoring Group will survey CUC members in 2016 and again in 2017 to ascertain progress at the community level, and along with other relevant information, communicate progress to members.

#### **ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS – CLEAN AIR, WATER AND SOIL**

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An Action Plan accompanies each proposed motion, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the motion. This is to provide delegates with a clear idea of the resources that might be involved, and how much staff and volunteer time needs to be allocated.

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The Proposers suggest the following actions to support the implementation of their motion, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Promote, Survey and Report	Promote and respond to questions: provide appropriate supporting information, material, and sources; and conduct surveys	Environmental Monitoring Group	Dec 2017
Communicate	Communicate, “urge to participate” to member congregations; and post this action plan on the CUC web site and appropriate supporting information.	CUC Staff/Board	June 2015
Engage locally and respond to survey	Engage with others to enroll municipalities, provinces and territories to enact rights; and respond to two surveys	CUC Members who choose to engage	Dec 2017

**APPENDIX B**  
**RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND SOIL – City of Victoria, BC**

**The City of Victoria in British Columbia approved unanimously on 18 December, 2014 the following motion:**

**Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment**

WHEREAS the David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Tour has inspired many Canadians **to request that the right to a healthy environment be** and requests support for the right to a healthy environment to be enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedom through support of the following motion;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria's Official Community Plan (2012) provides a strong policy foundation to pursue actions and initiatives that contribute toward a healthy environment;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria has the opportunity to be the first jurisdiction on Vancouver Island to endorse the Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment, joining other Canadian cities in re-affirming our commitment to social, environmental and economic sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria endorses the following declaration:  
"All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air;

The right to drink clean water;

The right to consume safe food;

The right to access nature;

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment;

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment.

The City of Victoria has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.

The City of Victoria shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the City of Victoria shall take cost-effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City of Victoria to postpone such measures.

The City of Victoria shall apply full-cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the City of Victoria will consider costs to human health and the environment.

By December 31st, 2015, the City of Victoria will consider objectives, targets, timelines and actions within its jurisdiction to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including options to:

- Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality, preventing the development of pollution “hot spots”;
- Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
- Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- Responsibly increase density;
- Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- Promote the availability of safe foods;
- Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The City of Victoria shall review these objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The City of Victoria shall consult with residents as part of this process.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council forward this resolution to the annual meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and member local governments, requesting favourable consideration by local councils and by delegates at the 2015 annual meetings of these associations.

*Council thanked Rupert Yakelashek for inspiring Council to take action and for taking the lead on this Declaration.*



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PROPOSED ACTION:	<b>Socially Responsible Investment Action - Fossil Fuel Divestment</b>
PROPOSERS:	Environment Monitoring Group
CONTACT:	Forrest Smith, <a href="mailto:environment@cuc.ca">environment@cuc.ca</a>
DATE:	Updated March 2015

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### **Background:**

1. The climate crisis threatens Earth systems through warming, destabilization of the climate, sea level rise, and the acidification of the oceans, of which most of the burden has fallen and will fall on the poorest people in the world, who are least responsible for the crisis.
2. In 2009, the CUC reaffirmed the Environmental Principles and Values of Canadian Unitarian Universalists and called upon the CUC and its members to provide leadership through collective and individual actions, and to be a strong voice and presence, in confronting environmental issues. Those principles and values included:
  - a. Sustainability: Ensuring sustainability of the earth and all life upon it is our first responsibility to future generations and to all the species with which we share the planet.
  - b. Ethical Action: We must adopt practices not only appropriate to our time and place but also that address needs of the future.
  - c. Natural Capital: A sustainable economy must limit consumption to the “interest” produced by the natural capital upon which it depends.
3. If all known fossil fuel reserves are burned, they will produce five times the amount of greenhouse gas emissions required to raise global temperatures beyond 2°C, the level that leaders of 167 countries, including Canada, have agreed represents a threshold beyond which there would be dangerous human-caused interference with the climate system.
4. We have a moral responsibility to Earth, to all beings, and to future generations to do everything in our power to bring about a swift transition from fossil fuels to a sustainable energy economy.

5. A global and growing movement is calling upon universities, pension funds, public entities, and religious institutions to **divest their holdings in the 200 major fossil fuel companies ranked by the carbon content of their fossil fuel reserves as listed at FossilFreeIndexes.com which together control a significant portion of known reserves.**
6. The CUC adopted a **1997 Socially Responsible Investment Policy** (see Appendix C) resolution requiring “the CUC --- in investing the funds of the CUC --- *make all reasonable efforts to avoid the holding of securities issued by corporations and agencies involved in nuclear power, military weapons, tobacco, gambling and all corporations that persist in human rights violations or **persist in non-sustainable environmental practices***”.
7. The CUC has already divested from the top Carbon Underground 200 securities.

**Therefore, in order to further fulfill the previously approved resolutions of 1997 and 2009, we propose the following actions:**

1. The CUC will continue a policy of not purchasing securities of Carbon Underground 200 (latest edition) companies as investments; and
2. The CUC will continue to invest an appropriate investment share in securities that will support a swift transition to a clean energy economy, such as renewable energy and energy-efficiency-related securities; and
3. Notwithstanding the actions above:
  - a. The CUC may acquire and retain investments in Carbon Underground 200 companies, provided it engages in shareholder activism that seeks environmental justice or transition to clean and renewable energy;
  - b. The CUC may purchase the minimal shares of Carbon Underground 200 companies necessary to permit introduction of shareholder resolutions seeking environmental justice or transition to clean and renewable energy; and
  - c. The CUC shall not take any action inconsistent with its fiduciary duty or that is incompatible with the principles of sound investment.
4. That the Treasurer of the CUC report to each CUC Annual General Meeting from 2016 through 2020 on CUC’s progress on the above actions; and
5. That the CUC encourage member congregations and Unitarian Universalists generally, to review their congregational and personal investments with a view to taking action to similarly divest from Carbon Underground 200 companies and to mitigate climate change via supporting shareholder activism designed to end use of fossil fuels, and investment in renewable energy and conservation; and

6. The CUC Environmental Monitoring Group will survey member congregations in 2016 and again in 2017, tabulate the results and communicate to CUC Members reported progress.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS – FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT**

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An Action Plan accompanies each proposed motion, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the motion. This is to provide delegates with a clear idea of the resources that might be involved, and how much staff and volunteer time needs to be allocated.

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The Proposers suggest the following actions to support the implementation of their motion, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
<b>Promote Action</b>	Promote action, respond to questions, conduct surveys and tabulate and report results	Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG)	May 2017
<b>Communicate</b>	Communicate “urge” to action request to members and post this action plan on the CUC web site.	EMG and CUC staff	June 2015
<b>Report CUC Action</b>	Annual progress reporting to AGM	CUC Treasurer	May 2020
<b>Report CUC Member Action</b>	Voluntary participation in 2016 and 2017 surveys.	CUC members who choose to participate.	May 2017



**APPENDIX C  
FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT**

**Canadian Unitarian Council  
1997 Policy  
Socially Responsible Investment Policy**

**Adopted by the Annual Meeting, May 19, 1997**

**Whereas** the UUA's Principles and Purposes to which we in the CUC subscribe as a free and democratic religious community, call of the affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and respect for the interdependent web of all existence,

**And whereas** the by-laws of the Canadian Unitarian Council authorize the Board of Trustees to invest the funds of the CUC as the Trustees think fit,

**We therefore resolve** to recommend to the Board of Trustees of the CUC that in investing the funds of the CUC they make all reasonable efforts to avoid the holding of securities issued by corporations and agencies involved in nuclear power, military weapons, tobacco, gambling and all corporations that persist in human rights violations or persist in non-sustainable environmental practices.

**We further resolve** to recommend to the Board of Trustees of the CUC that they appoint an Investment Committee to carry out the following functions to:

1. advise the Board on investments to secure a just or reasonable return while avoiding undue risk;
2. inform the membership of our societies about investing in a socially and environmentally responsible manner by conducting workshops and submitting newsletter articles;
3. attend shareholder meetings if necessary and vote on issue in a knowledgeable manner and work with the Taskforce on Churches and Corporate Responsibility; and
4. participate at social and environment investment conferences as representatives of the CUC Investment Committee.



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PROPOSED ACTION: **Truth and Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Canadians**

PROPOSERS: CUC Diversity Monitoring Group<sup>1</sup>

CONTACT: Rev. Meg Roberts – [mroberts@uuma.org](mailto:mroberts@uuma.org);  
Rev. Samaya Oakley - [minister@ufon.ca](mailto:minister@ufon.ca); and  
Marlene Blake-Seale – [diversity@cuc.ca](mailto:diversity@cuc.ca)

DATE: Updated March 2015

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### Background:

1. It has been 20 years since the last resolution on Aboriginal issues was adopted by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). In **1995**, material was circulated to congregations for study and response on issues related to Aboriginal peoples.<sup>2</sup> A resolution was then proposed that contained a commitment to work with Aboriginal peoples in their struggles to achieve justice, particularly in relation to land rights, treaties and ending policies of assimilation and attempted extinguishments of Aboriginal rights. It also encourages congregations to establish contact with Aboriginal communities with a view to learning more about the richness of their heritage, and to work with other groups and Aboriginal communities to advance the struggle for justice, and to provide programs for their members about issues facing Indigenous peoples.

This resolution was adopted at the **1995 Annual Meeting**. It allows the CUC to make representation to government on issues of land rights, treaties and assimilation, and to support the development of a new relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canada and encourages continuing direct contact and cooperation between our congregations and Aboriginal groups. (See Appendix E)

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<sup>1</sup> The Diversity Monitoring Group would like to remember and honour the work of Bruce Schwartzentruber, a member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and of the CUC's Diversity Monitoring group, and the original co-mover of the proposal. Bruce died on November 10, 2014. Bruce was passionately committed to justice and equity work, and we honour his memory by continuing this work.

<sup>2</sup> 'Aboriginal peoples' is the term we have used that includes First Nation, Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples. 'Non-Aboriginal peoples' is the term we have used that includes people from cultural backgrounds other than these.

Given that it is the twenty-year anniversary of that resolution, it is appropriate that the CUC again vote on actions to express its commitment to this work.

2. In early 2014, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Board and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) endorsed an *Expression of Truth and Reconciliation* that was presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at their national event in Edmonton, Alberta. Gary Groot, then CUC president, and Rev. Margaret (Meg) Roberts, UUMOC representative, made this presentation on March 29, 2014. Many CUC congregations read the statement at a Sunday service, in recognition of this event.
3. Because of the short timeline from January to March 2014, there was not an opportunity to have this statement come before a CUC Annual Meeting to be voted on by delegates (since that meeting is held in May). In recognition of the Unitarian Universalist principle promoting democratic process, this Action Proposal is brought to the delegates of the CUC congregations at the CUC Annual General Meeting of May 15, 2015, so they have the opportunity to endorse this *Expression of Truth and Reconciliation*, (found in Appendix D) in solidarity with the CUC Board and UUMOC members.

**Therefore, in order to further fulfill the previously approved resolution of 1995, we propose the following actions:**

- 1) The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) with its member congregations endorse and act upon the *Expression of Truth and Reconciliation*, as presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on March 29, 2014;
- 2) The CUC will direct its Board of Trustees and staff, and encourage its member congregations, to take these specific steps to advance the journey towards truth, healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples within our congregations and in society at large:
  - Provide educational opportunities regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system; and
  - Provide educational opportunities about racial equity and intercultural competency.
  - Provide opportunities to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working hand-in-hand with Aboriginal peoples to advance the struggle towards justice and reconciliation.

## ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS – TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

An Action Plan accompanies each proposed motion, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the motion. This is to provide delegates with a clear idea of the resources that might be involved, and how much staff and volunteer time needs to be allocated.

The Proposers suggest the following actions to support the implementation of their motion, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

PROPOSED ACTION	DETAILS	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE
For Diversity Monitoring Group's Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Reflection Guide Task Force	<p>1) To assemble and promote life-span educational materials for our congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system, in consultation with Aboriginal individuals and groups. Materials will be provided for adults; youth; upper elementary; and lower elementary.</p> <p>2) To include in those materials ways congregations and their members can learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, and work hand-in-hand with Aboriginal peoples to advance the struggle towards justice and reconciliation.</p>	Co-chairs of task force and members, answering to the Chair of the Diversity Monitoring Group	<p>2 age groups material – August 2015</p> <p>3 other age groups material – December 2015</p>
For Diversity Monitoring Group	To complete and promote a new Diversity program about inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility and intercultural competency.	DMG Chair and members; CUC staff	Ongoing

<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE</b>
For CUC	1) Communicate this decision to all member congregations. 2) Provide opportunities via the CUC website, Canadian Unitarian newsletter, and other communication vehicles, for congregations to share their experiences about their activities in response to this action proposal.	Executive Director	May 31, 2015  Ongoing
For CUC Board	Provide educational opportunities for the Board of Trustees and staff: 1) Regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system. 2) Regarding racial equity and intercultural competency. 3) To learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working hand-in-hand with Aboriginal peoples to advance the struggle towards justice and reconciliation.	President and Board members	Ongoing
For CUC Staff	Provide educational opportunities for staff: 1) Regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system. 2) Regarding racial equity and intercultural competency. 3) To learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working hand-in-hand with Aboriginal peoples to advance the struggle towards justice and reconciliation.	Executive Director	Ongoing

<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE</b>
For Member Congregations	To take action in response to the three commitments in the statement. Engage with materials, providing feedback on materials used.	President/Board of congregations  Members/Boards/Committees	Ongoing

## APPENDIX D

### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

#### **Canadian Unitarian Council Expression of Truth and Reconciliation:**

We, the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, commit to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people. Today, as we acknowledge and accept our responsibility for truth-telling, healing and reconciliation, we commit to these specific steps to advance that journey:

1. To assemble and promote educational materials for our congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system.
2. To create and promote a new program for congregations about racial equity and intercultural competency.
3. To continue to encourage our congregations and their members to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working together to advance the struggle for justice for Aboriginal people.

To further express our understanding and commitment to change we offer the following acknowledgement that the principles which Unitarian Universalists affirm were transgressed in the Canadian Indian Residential School system and by government legislation.

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person.** This was denied when you were forced to relinquish your cultural identities and denied the nurturance of your families and communities.
- **We affirm justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.** These were violated when parents were forced to give up their children to a school system where so many children were emotionally, physically and sexually abused.
- **We seek to accept one another and encourage each other's spiritual growth.** This was disallowed when your spiritual practices were outlawed and another religious tradition imposed upon you.
- **We support a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.** Although many children received basic education, they were also used for manual labour, living in unsanitary conditions, leading to thousands of deaths from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases.
- **We promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.** The mere imposition of this school system was a clear violation of the use of any democratic process.
- **We affirm the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.** How could this be achieved when government legislation revoked the basic rights of Aboriginal people to govern themselves?

- **We respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.** This principle is integral to Aboriginal cultures. Not only did non-Aboriginals lose an opportunity to learn from your culture, this understanding was all but eradicated from your children's way of life by this school system.

We must learn from these travesties, as well as from the strength, courage, honesty, resilience and success of those who survived the Indian Residential School system.

We have asked our congregations across Canada to read this statement. We want you to know we walk with you.

Finally, we offer this chalice, a symbol of Unitarianism, as a gift. May it light our way to truth, offer its warmth in our healing, and may its fire strengthen our commitment to the process of reconciliation.

Signed by:

Gary Groot, President of the Canadian Unitarian Council

Vyda Ng, Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council

Rev. Debra Faulk, President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada

*Presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on March 29, 2014 in Edmonton, Alberta*



**APPENDIX E**  
**First Nations Justice – Adopted at CUC AGM, May 21, 1995**

In recognition of historic and continuing injustices suffered by First Nations\* peoples in Canada and the current importance of redress, healing, and commitment to working out a new relationship between First Nations peoples and Canada, and

In recognition of Canadian constitutional principles entrenching aboriginal and treaty rights, and the Common Law position that Treaties be negotiated with First Nations as a means of reaching just and equitable settlements of rights to land and self-government, and

In recognition of the need for effective implementation of existing as well as future Treaties, therefore:

The Canadian Unitarian Council commits itself to solidarity with First Nations peoples in their struggles to achieve justice and, in particular, supports:

1. a just and fair settlement of land rights and the rights of self-government;
2. interpretation of existing Treaties in contemporary terms and full implementation of all Treaties in a timely and equitable manner;
3. an effective, fair, and timely mechanism for resolving treaty disputes;
4. an end to policies of assimilation and attempted extinguishments of aboriginal rights; and
5. The Canadian Unitarian Council encourages its members, individually and collectively, in their respective areas to:
  - a. establish contact with First Nations communities with a view to learning more about the richness of their spirituality, traditional teachings, languages, cultures, and the problems they face, and
  - b. work with other groups and First Nations communities to advance the struggle for justice including respect for First Nations religious and spiritual teachings, languages, cultures, and a just and fair settlement of land claims and self government; and

Moreover, the Canadian Unitarian Council:

1. supports indigenous peoples elsewhere in the world, in their struggle for justice, and notes the positive standards set, in this respect, by the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 1993, and
2. urges Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists to provide programs and curricula about issues facing indigenous, including First Nations, peoples;
3. directs the Board of Trustees to create an ongoing national working group mandated to keep this issue before Canadian Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist societies; and to serve as a clearing house for educational resources concerning these issues; in consultation with the Board, prepare briefs, letters or press releases or other material for public release when circumstances warrant; and investigate and recommend joining appropriate coalitions.

*\*First Nations peoples include the Indian, Metis and Inuit peoples.*