



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
UNITARIEN  
DU CANADA

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**NAME OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION: CUC National Voice**

**PROPOSERS: CUC Board of Trustees**

**CONTACT: [nationalvoice@cuc.ca](mailto:nationalvoice@cuc.ca)**

**DATE: Approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting,  
May 2013.**

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### **Background**

1. As a religious organization, the Canadian Unitarian Council deals with human and social values. Its policies and practices centre on the development and expression of such values among its member societies and to the world. The CUC is democratically governed. Its values and policies are determined through discussion and debate, not through adherence to the word of any individual or any single text. Volunteer monitoring groups fill an important role in ensuring that the voices of Canadian Unitarians are heard with regard to broader issues in our country and the world.
2. Occasionally, issues arise in matters of public affairs which unfold too suddenly and too rapidly for our usual deliberative process to create a timely response. In recent years the desire has been repeatedly expressed for the establishment of a national spokesperson for Canadian Unitarians, in order to ensure that we do not miss important opportunities to speak out in favour of our shared values.
3. A working group was established to address this need. The working group explored the possibility of establishing a new role specifically tasked with representing the Canadian Unitarian Council on matters of public concern. However, available resources would not support a professional staff, or even a single individual. The working group concluded the simplest solution was to work with existing structures.
4. An informal process of communication and consultation currently exists among the CUC's national leaders.
5. The existing CUC structure lends itself to the creation of a team of three, rather than one person, to speak on behalf of the Canadian Unitarian Council in a timely fashion, representing a balance of theological, administrative, historical and governance perspectives.



6. The proposed National Voice team will:
  - Decide among themselves whether an issue requires a statement of response. Others can suggest or ask for a statement, but no one else can demand a response.
  - Determine that the issue is clearly addressed in established policy, the Principles and Purposes, or previously stated CUC positions. The team does not determine values, but expresses them.
  - Consult with monitoring groups or other UU sources having special knowledge of the issues involved, as appropriate.
  
7. The existence of this process does not replace or supplant the necessity of all Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists to maintain an awareness of public issues and to speak out in their own voices. It does not reduce the need for monitoring groups or affect their function.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Canadian Unitarian Council establishes authority for a three member team to craft responses based on our principles and, where appropriate, CUC policies on such public issues. The team will consist of the CUC Board President, the CUC Executive Director, and a representative of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC).
  
2. The statements issued by this team will stand as the immediate response of the CUC to emerging issues. The statements will be released in the name of the CUC and over the signatures of all team members. Further study and existing processes can lead to additional and formal statements.



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## ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS OF RESOLUTIONS National Voice – CUC Board of Trustees

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An Action Plan accompanies each proposed resolution, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the resolution. 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 CUC Board of Trustees proposes the following actions to support the implementation of the resolution, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

PROPOSED ACTION	DETAILS	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE
For proposer of resolution	Consult and create timely statements when necessary and appropriate	President, Executive Director, UUMOC representative	Ongoing
For CUC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communicate statements and decisions to all member congregations, and any other government and media representatives</li><li>• Follow up with any further suitable action</li></ul>	Executive Director and staff	Ongoing
For Member Congregations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communicate statements and actions to congregation and other groups as appropriate</li><li>• Engage in necessary follow-up action</li></ul>	President / CUC Liaison  Committees and individuals	Ongoing