



PRESSING FORWARD TOGETHER

CPJ's work is possible thanks to our committed members who have faithfully supported our work. Over the past year, much has changed in our lives, but one thing we continue to be grateful for is this wonderful, justice-seeking community of faith. As we carry on our work throughout the summer months, we are requesting your financial support to continue to act for justice in Canadian public policy.

While we may not be working from the same physical location, we find comfort in knowing that CPJ's staff and board members continue to be united in our commitment to public justice. We are equally encouraged in witnessing CPJ members' steadfast passion and support, learning with us through virtual webinars and conferences, advocating with us in our campaigns, and sustaining our work through financial donations.

As we look forward to the upcoming fall season, there is much to be hopeful for and much work yet to be done. Your continued financial support can help to make this happen. Read on to learn more about what we have in the works! First though, let's reflect on a few highlights over the past months.

SEEKING JUSTICE TOGETHER

CPJ recently wrapped up the "Seeking Justice Together" conference, a virtual gathering of justice-minded Christians in Canada. Hosted with the support of several partner organizations and sponsors, the event was one of the largest conferences in our history, attracting hundreds of people from across Canada. We featured speakers and hosted participants from coast-to-coast-to-coast, both those who are long-time CPJ members and many people who were new to CPJ.

With more than a dozen workshops, we were able to cover an extensive range of topics, exploring the overlaps among poverty, climate justice, and refugee rights through an interconnected, interpersonal, and intersectional lens. Throughout the conference, we strived to better hear and

understand the voices of those most affected by injustices. Here are some of the questions we explored about seeking justice together:

- Can churches become a place of healing for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?
- What are the origins and effects of systemic racism and colonialism in Canada?
- What does it look like to seek justice with people with disabilities, both in the Church and in society-at-large?
- What can we learn from Northern communities about seeking justice together?
- Why is it so critical to combine personal and political action to address the global climate emergency?
- What does it look like to engage in authentic, meaningful solidarity and allyship?
- How do systems, social identities, geography, and politics overlap to create and perpetuate poverty in Canada?

Our keynote speakers included Paul Taylor, Harsha Walia, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, and Romeo Saganash. We were overjoyed to share space with many long-time CPJ members and to welcome new partners and friends to our network. The conference served as a fresh reminder that, while we still have much work to do in the pursuit of public justice in Canada, this work is best done together.

INTERSECTIONALITY IN OUR WORK

Throughout the conference, a key theme was considering the many ways that race, gender, Indigeneity, disability, and sexual identity and/or orientation interact with our three key issue areas. While CPJ has a long history of taking a rights-based, comprehensive approach to our work, we're working to be increasingly intentional and explicit about

pinpointing how intersecting social identities and other factors like geography compound the risk and impact of issues of poverty, refugee rights, and climate change. These factors particularly affect individuals and communities marginalized by current laws, policies, and even dominant social norms across Canada.

Moving forward, CPJ staff are committed to applying an intersectional lens in our policy research and centering the voices of people most affected by these policy decisions. We do so noting that these are the people and communities who are typically excluded from decision-making processes. We are so grateful to each of the brilliant speakers who participated in the Seeking Justice Together Conference and lent their voices and expertise to illuminate various issues of injustice that will serve to deepen and strengthen our work and impact. With your support, we hope to increase our capacity to understand how individuals' and communities' lived experiences of systemic oppression can exacerbate their experiences of precarity, displacement, and environmental degradation, and to develop strategies to correct these injustices.



25 of the presenters from our Seeking Justice Together Conference held May 17-20, 2021.

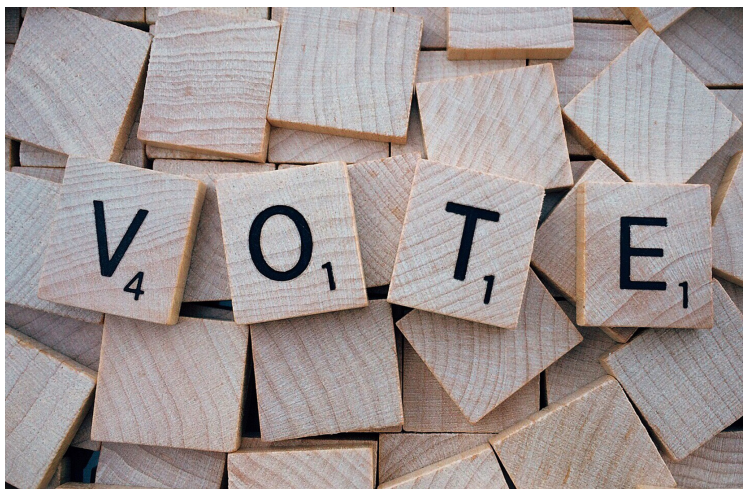
An election is an excellent opportunity for our message of public justice to be heard and amplified. That's why, as we do prior to any upcoming federal election, we will once again be developing an election bulletin highlighting essential questions that citizens can ask when engaging with political candidates. This resource will serve as a helpful guide to ascertain the priorities and plans of potential leaders in government and make it clear to them that matters of justice must not be ignored. As those with the right and responsibility to vote, we will send a message to future government leaders that public policies must be developed to promote justice and the common good.

In the midst of ongoing global health, housing, displacement, and climate crises; the continued legacies of colonialism and racism; and pervasive poverty and precarity that have left millions in Canada vulnerable, a strong commitment to public justice must overtake any tendencies toward austerity, nationalism, or protectionism. Since the onset of this pandemic, CPJ and our members have sent a strong message that a return to "normal" is not good enough—we can, and must, do better.

Our passion for public justice is spurred on by many generous supporters across Canada: supporters like you. With your help now, we will be in a stronger position to do more outreach, more education, and more advocacy as we move into the pre-election season. We are deeply appreciative of those who have donated over these many years and for the new members who have joined us more recently. With your generous gift, we can continue our shared work to strive for the common good and seek justice—together.



—Willard Metzger, Executive Director



CANADA'S NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION

While it hasn't been all that long since we were last at the polls, it's likely that Canadian voters will be casting their ballots in a federal election again soon. As a team, CPJ has already begun preparing to ensure we are ready with resources to address many key election priorities on the minds of justice-seeking people of faith in Canada.