



Faith & the Common Good

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Accreditation: Photo provided by Michelle Singh

We Have Faith in Our Future

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day, with the help of caring Canadians like you, Faith & the Common Good works to support our multi-faith network in contributing toward a sustainable, equitable Canada. We do so through our various programs, initiatives, and many partnerships. 2019 was a year of preparation for transition. Michelle Singh joined our team as Deputy Director and was mentored by Lucy Cummings to step into the Executive Director role in 2020. As well, new faces joined us on the Board of Directors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Randal Goodfellow, our Board Chair for the past four years, and welcome Tom Urbaniak as the new Chair. We also want to extend our deep appreciation to Garth Schmalenberg, a longtime member of the Board, who stepped down this year. 2019 was also a year in which we renewed our organization's vision and mission and our strategic goals, so in a sense, this Annual Report looks back at what we accomplished in 2019 and also looks forward.

Entering 2020, the shock of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis continues to be an urgent reminder to us all of the critical need for stronger, healthier communities. It is a foreshadowing of the trauma that awaits us if we delay action on the climate crisis. The global, Anti-Black Racism Movement that followed on the heels of the pandemic shined a spotlight on the urgent need to address yet another crisis – that of ongoing, centuries old, systemic racism and inequalities within our communities and in our neighbourhoods. All three crises are inextricably connected. Much of what we accomplished in 2019 – from advocating for climate protection, and documenting how faith buildings provide affordable community space, to piloting how faith communities can act as vital local anchors during extreme weather emergencies – focused on efforts to build more prepared and resilient neighborhoods. We are proud of what we have achieved together and value your continued investment and support of FCCG as we move through the challenges of the pandemic and shift our world towards a more just, sustainable, and fulfilling one for all. We invite you to read on. Enjoy!



**Faith & the
Common Good**


MICHELLE SINGH


LUCY CUMMINGS

STRATEGIC GOALS

VISION

Working together for the common good to build a more resilient and sustainable Canada.

MISSION

Harness the power of diverse faith and spiritual groups through education, capacity building and collective action to build more resilient and sustainable communities.



Interfaith Partners for Sustainable Communities



STRATEGIC GOALS: 2019-2023

BUILD

Capacity via Diversity

HARNESS

Sustainability

STRENGTHEN

Communities



IMPACTS

90

Partner Institutions

60+

Workshops, Webinars and Events held across Canada

700

Active Faith Communities

20

Faith Traditions Represented

—

4025

Interfaith connections in FCG database

46

Blogs and Newsletters sent to FCG programs

—

21

Green Audits

11

Greening Sacred Spaces
Certificates

7

OakvilleReady Hubs established

17

Community Gardens

15%

Increase in Social Media Followers in 2019

19

Media articles in podcast, print and web



Photo Accreditation: Green Economy Canada @ 2019

GREEN ADVOCACY

RAISE YOUR FAITHFUL VOICES FOR CLIMATE

Faith & the Common Good is mandated to support our network in working collectively to raise awareness and encourage action to ensure that all living beings, including future generations, have access to clean air and water, toxic-free living environments, and a life-supporting climate.

OUR ACTIONS



Published Blogs and Articles on the importance of Climate Advocacy for Faith Groups



Signed petitions to ensure climate action is a focus for all parties, with Environmental Defence and other environment NGOs



Social Media Campaigns #FaithInOurFuture and #OneEarthOneVote to encourage Climate Action



Attended Climate Strikes around Canada

Federal elections in October 2019 presented a unique time to work together to generate new political momentum in Canada on behalf of our shared Earth. We cannot remain silent nor isolated when the web of life which sustains us is declining as never before in human history. More than ever, we have a responsibility to help create a national path forward by collectively witnessing both the destruction that we are complicit in as well as the positive, local actions being taken by diverse communities across Canada to walk more gently on the planet.



Photo Accreditation:
Left: Photo by Katrine Handley-Derry,
Middle: Photo by Michelle Singh, Right:
Photo by Lisa Kohler

PROGRAM LAUNCHES

GCCM CANADA



Launched in 2019, [GCCM Canada](#) is a global coalition of 650+ Catholic member organizations, with over 75 trained Laudato Si' Animators, dedicated to turning Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' into action for climate justice.

COMMUNITY SPACE, FAITH PLACE

Faith & the Common Good formed a partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario NonProfit Network, Cardus, The National Trust For Canada and the City of Toronto to evaluate the impact of faith-building closures. Its 2019 survey looked at how faith building are used by community groups across Ontario. Surveying communities around Ontario with over 200 responses, [the program shows](#) the importance of faith buildings for community.



OAKVILLE READY

The [OakvilleReady pilot project](#), as funded by the Oakville Community Foundation, established neighbourhood extreme weather resiliency hubs. These Hubs are located in Faith Based Organizations, whom act as engagement and care anchors.



Photo Accreditation: Photo by Agnes Richard



Photo Accreditation: Photo by Katrine Handley-Derry



Photo Accreditation: Photo by Lisa Kohler, Shaare-Beth El Congregation

GREENING SACRED SPACES

Outdoor Greening Program



We would like to thank TD FEF for funding this gardening project.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Greening Sacred Spaces

Photo Accreditation:
Top: Photo of Eglinton St. George's United Church provided by Donna Lang
Middle: Photo provided by GSS Ottawa
Bottom: St. Luke Palermo for Culture Day 2019

Pollinator populations and biodiversity in general is declining rapidly across the world, and planting native species gardens is a solution to this conservation issue that many can contribute to. Communities that participated in our Outdoor Greening program have helped provide new pollinator habitats around Ontario.

In Toronto, the Church of the Messiah made significant efforts to improve their soil, one of the hardest jobs to undertake as urban gardeners. Holy Cross Parish introduced new native pollinator species into their garden, building up their garden with local species and strengthening ties to the community. Finally, at Eglinton St. George's United Church, a small and committed group of gardeners, actualized their vision of a community vegetable garden where people could reap the bounty of creation.

In Ottawa, we visited 15 faith communities, supported two new gardens and educated over 10 new communities on the benefits of a sustainable and ecological garden. Five faith communities received native plants from Wild Pollinator Partners. These gardens, animated by beautiful local pollinators, have an added benefit to their congregations and neighbours alike.

In Halton, the Shaarei-Beth El Congregation greened their outdoor sacred space by planting a pollinator garden. The installation was paired with a day of education activities for 100 Hebrew school students and parents, connecting the importance of pollinators to the Jewish teachings during Sukkot. The garden supports local pollinators to make sure they have a place to thrive.

17



Active Faith Community Gardens as part of FCG Outdoor Greening Program, but many more on-going gardens in all communities with more to come.

26



gardening volunteers that made this new habitat a reality.

234



perennial wildflowers planted in total this year.

GREENING SACRED SPACES



CELEBRATING FAITH ROLE MODELS

Every year, through the Greening Sacred Spaces Awards, FCG recognizes faith groups, including St. Brigid's Catholic Church, that have achieved excellence in greening their sacred spaces and engaging the broader community in the care of the environment. Awards were presented to two additional chapters.

HALTON-PEEL

The Anglican Church of the Incarnation has a vision for living and working carefully with Creation that spans many years of planning. Members embrace principles of ecological justice, with the understanding that the world's most vulnerable suffer the most from, and are the least able, to adapt to climate change impacts. Early in 2019, the church celebrated the launch of its geothermal heating and cooling system. Since then, they are averaging a 22% reduction in energy costs. Check out their video. In the summer of 2019, talented summer students created an animated video for the church to use in educating others beyond their congregation about the call to environmental stewardship.

YORK

The Jaffari Community Centre. A proud member of ClimateWise Business Network, the Centre's sustainability journey demonstrates how passionate people can impact the way a community acts on climate change. Started seven years ago by a few like-minded women, the Eco team led an initiative to reduce waste by eliminating Styrofoam cups and single-use plastics at community events. Now, the Centre can serve over 3000 community members while generating less than four bags of garbage. The Eco team is now a fully integrated eight-member Eco Board, working to improve the Centre's overall sustainability method. The Centre is also participating in FCG's Energy Benchmarking initiative.



Photo Accreditation:
Top: St. Brigid's Catholic Church @ 2019.
Middle: Photo By Katrine Handley-Derry, Halton-Peel 2019 GSS Awards.
Bottom: ClimateWise Business Network @ 2019.

Greening Sacred Spaces

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

ENERGY BENCHMARKING

Understanding how we use our energy, is the first step in reducing it. Launched in 2017 for the GTHA, our Energy Benchmarking Program is helping faith communities take practical and economical climate action by lowering their energy use and emissions. 80 Ontario based faith communities committed to Energy Benchmarking by the end of 2019.

Our educational tools have helped faith communities improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint. These resources include a [DIY guide](#) and also a '[10 easiest win' sheet](#)'. Feedback from our survey states that there is 95% satisfaction with the program and with the local animator's assistance in helping faith communities read their benchmarking reports and learn how to access their energy data.

The 3-year Benchmarking Program grant ends September 15, 2020.



Check out [Energy Benchmarking](#) resources as well as [certification resources](#) to help 'green' your faith buildings.



Photo Accreditation: Photos provided by Stephen Collette

KEY PROJECTS OF 2019



FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS CONTINUES TO INSPIRE CHANGE

In partnership with the United Church of Canada, FCG continued to build **Faithful Footprints**, a program that offers grants and support for churches to measure their energy use and reduce their climate pollution.

Partnering with Purpose Construction in the Prairies, and Ecology Action Centre in Atlantic Canada, over 120 United Churches have joined the program, committed to reducing their carbon footprint and finding greener alternatives for a healthier, more resilient and sustainable community.



The United Church of Canada



WATERLOO STORYTELLING PROJECT

Organized by Divest Waterloo, the Waterloo Storytelling Project brought together Indigenous theatre creators Debajehmujig Theatre Group (Debaj) in a week-long community-wide learning opportunity about climate justice. The project culminated in Maamawi, a co-created theatre show that incorporated the stories that Debaj heard in Kitchener/Waterloo region with traditional teachings about our relationships with each other and with the land led by the Indigenous storytelling experts and a local advisory circle lead by Amy Smoke and local Indigenous theatre artist and community animator Heather Majaury.

In September an Interfaith Climate Justice Panel Discussion was held, in partnership Interfaith Grand River and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Over 100 faith leaders and community members attended to learn and share about faith communities role in creating sustainable future.



Divest Waterloo

FCG IN THE NEWS

You don't save what you don't love: Margaret Atwood's take on the climate crisis (January 2019)

Round the Block Podcast – Episode 2 with Kendra Fry (January 2019)

Exploring Montreal's Sacred Spaces and Creative Places (February 2019)

A Call to Faith Leaders: Dianne Saxe (March 2019)

A Call to Faith Leaders: Give it up for Lent (April 2019)

A call to Faith Leaders: Speaking to the Heart (April 2019)

Faith-Arts Centres Creating Healthy Hybrids (April 2019)

Ontario Morning Podcast - Monday May 27, 2019 (May 2019)

A foundation that others build upon (May 2019)

Why it matters 9,000 churches and religious spaces will close over next 10 years (May 2019)

This Is What We Lose When Churches Go Out of Business (May 2019)

One third of faith buildings in Canada could close their doors in the next 10 years (June 2019)

What we can do about Climate Change (July 2019)

Faith in the fight for sustainability (July 2019)

Canadian Catholics mobilizing in response to the climate crisis (August 2019)

Building Resilient Communities in Hamilton (August 2019)

O Greenest Church (August 2019)

Ten ways to green your church without breaking the bank (September 2019)

A Call to Faith Leaders: How Indigenous faith leaders have a role in climate protection (October 2019)

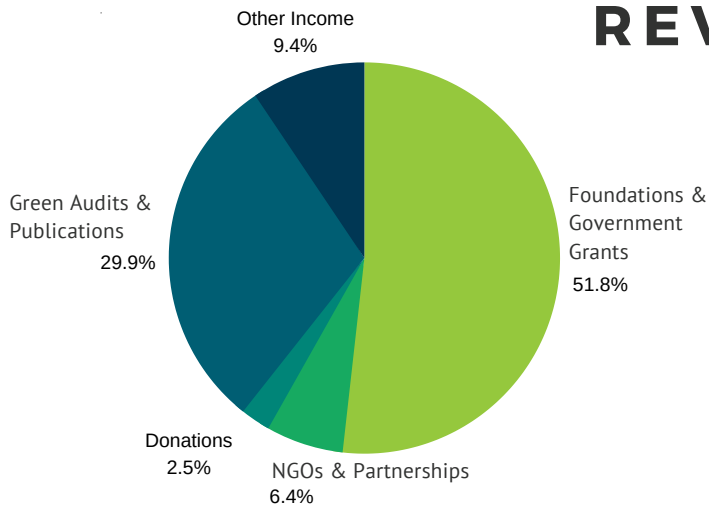
This election, vote to protect the planet and our future (October 2019)

'It's become my passion': Stained glass expert sheds light on window restoration project at Alliston church (October 2019)



FINANCES IN 2019

REVENUE



Foundations & Government Grants	299,067
NGOs & Partnerships	36,939
Donations	14,290
Green Audits & Publications	172,876
Other Income	54,404
Total	577,576

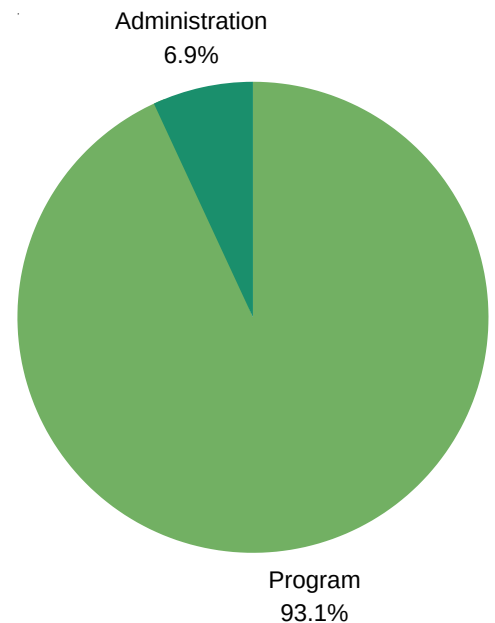
EXPENSES

PROGRAMS

Program Salaries	230,586
Program Costs	224,651
Green Audits	15,437
Travel	4,195
Communications	4,231
Total Program Costs	487,165

ADMINISTRATION

Admin Salaries	20,204
Rent and Insurance	8,413
Telecommunications	1,310
Professional Fees	6,236
Total Admin Costs	36,163



TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 523,328

NET UNRESTRICTED ASSETS \$ 77,948

FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD

FCC's accomplishments are made possible by the passion and dedication of a talented, hard-working and terrific team of staff, animators, board members, and volunteers in many cities and regions around Canada.

We are truly thankful to have such a wonderful team.



2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paige Souter (Board Director), Chris Hrynkow (Board Vice-Chair), Tom Urbaniak (Board Chair), Michelle Singh (Deputy Director), Randal Goodfellow (Past Board Chair), Lucy Cummings (Executive Director), Garth Schmalenberg (Past Board Director), Juliet Dhanraj (Board Director), Azim Shamshiev (Board Director), Not present: Janet Speth (Board Director)

HELP US BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Online via Faith & the Common Good's Canada Helps Webpage

<https://www.faithcommongood.org/donate>

By Cheque, made payable to Faith & the Common Good

@ Centre for Social Innovation, 192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 300

Toronto, ON. M5T 2C2 Canada

Faith & the Common Good is a registered Charity. All donations are eligible for a tax receipt, Charity Registration # 82827 6121 RR0001

CONTACT US AND GET INVOLVED

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www.faithcommongood.org

