



Witness

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## Nominations open for Dunk-tank Candidates:

We are looking forward to the Mennonite Church Canada annual assembly in Winkler, from July 7-11, 2004. One of the features will be the **Friday Festival in the Park**. We are organizing a 4-hour fun event, intended to celebrate faith, family, and friendship.

And we do have much to celebrate:

- It is good to be part of the Mennonite faith-family in Canada. This provides identity, vision and outlets for ministry together.
- It is good to celebrate family and the sense of belonging that gives to us.
- It is good to celebrate friendship, hospitality, and the webs of relationships that being part of this family provides for us.
- It is good to celebrate mission, and the many ways we can be good partners in God's mission around the world.
- It is good to be inspired by each other, by how God is working beyond our church, and how we are a part of that work.

The event in the park will be interesting. There will be games, activities and music for all ages, a stage for information and entertainment, stories from our international workers, a focus on Canadian ministry, food, and "frolic." We are inviting buskers and planning a "giant" evening concert in the park. Some of the more exotic ideas, not yet confirmed, are sky-divers and dunk-tanks. The "buzz" is building about who could be the target of dunk-tank therapy. Whom would you like to dunk? Let us know; we may still be able to facilitate your preference.

We also want to use the festival to focus understanding and support of "churches under pressure." This term refers to churches experiencing significant restrictions, operating in zones of dangerous conflict, and perhaps persecution. We will provide information and insight into how solidarity is possible with churches in difficult situations, and how Mennonite Church Canada is involved in the ministry of solidarity around the world. Churches in our family that come to mind are: Colombia, Cuba, Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and some communities in Canada itself. Ricardo Esquivia, a Colombian leader recently under threat in that country, declared: "The best security I have is in being part of our international faith community."

We invite you to come to the **Friday Festival in the Park**. Be prepared for fun and learning. Maybe you would like to take a dive in the dunk-tank. We await your suggestions.

— Robert J. Suderman, Executive Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada Witness