

## Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network (MC Canada PIN)

It is now six years since MC Canada passed its [resolution](#) on Palestine and Israel, in response to a call from Palestinian Christians. Our network's mandate—to help the church implement the resolution through prayer, education, and advocacy—is as urgent and relevant as ever as Israel's military occupation and oppressive control of Palestinian lives continues to deepen.

Under the guidance of International Witness, we do our work through regional church working groups (also named PINs) in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Eastern Canada. (We are seeking representation in Saskatchewan.) The chairs meet quarterly for consultation, mutual encouragement, and planning of common initiatives. The following are highlights of our activity since 2019, when we last reported.

**Partnership with Bethlehem Bible College, West Bank.** Building on past connections, MC Canada in 2020 committed to an intentional relationship with BBC through mutual learning exchanges and volunteer opportunities. In 2021 the PIN organized and promoted two Zoom encounters to orient MC Canada members to BBC's ministries. As Covid restrictions lift, we are now working with International Witness to sponsor two tours of BBC faculty in Canada in 1922-23, on themes related to a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

**Speakers' bureaus and webinars.** Pre-Covid, our regional PIN members visited more than 50 congregations to conduct workshops or preach. The MC Alberta PIN helped organize a readers theatre event on a Palestinian-Israeli theme (also to be presented at Gathering).

During the pandemic we promoted webinars by partner advocacy groups, and we helped plan and lead others. In fall of 2021, with ecumenical partners, we sponsored a two-part webinar on Christian Zionism. The MCEC PIN also hosted two online discussions of a podcast produced by one of their members. The MC BC PIN organized an online

vigil for the UN Palestine solidarity day. In March and April of 2022, four PIN members were invited to host a six-session online Xplore course at Canadian Mennonite University on "Palestine-Israel: Is this Settler Colonialism?" featuring Palestinian, Jewish, and North American speakers.

**Communication tools.** From the beginning, we have disseminated **prayer requests and announcements** through the national and regional church offices. In the last three years, we have developed an online **presence** at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>; three regional church websites also host PIN pages. A monthly **email Update** reaches over 250 subscribers, offering prayer concerns, news, and calls to advocacy.

**Advocacy.** In 2019 the MC Manitoba PIN started a monthly "Write-a-letter-Wednesday" action calling politicians or corporate leaders to press for human rights and international law in Palestine and Israel. This has provided the themes for the PIN *Update*. PIN groups in Manitoba and MCEC have also met with MPs to express concerns.

**Networking.** As mandated by our resolution, we are working with local and national groups --whose goals overlap with ours. These include Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and secular groups, as well as local Palestinian associations. We collaborate locally at public peace/justice rallies and educational events. We are currently involved in the ecumenical Canada Stand Up for the Rights of Palestinian Children campaign. These ecumenical and interfaith relationships have brought us joy, and we trust they extend the witness of our church.

**Learn more:** For more detail, please visit the MC Canada web page above, where you can also sign up for our monthly Update. The page also includes contact information on our regional PINs—which are always open to new participants.

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