



**Re-Visioning Community Chaplaincy
Conference/ Conférence
Aumônerie Communautaire: Mission et Perspectives**

Welcome to Acadia,

The Re-Visioning Community Chaplaincy Conference is an opportunity for those of us involved in the restorative ministry of working with those touched by crime to come together and develop a plan for the future. During our time together we will focus on three primary objectives:

- We will celebrate our success;
- We will look at the current challenges and opportunities;
- We will develop a new vision and strategies for our work.

The author of *La Petit Prince*, Antoine St. Exupery once said, ***"A pile of rocks ceases to be a rock when somebody contemplates it with the idea of a cathedral in mind."***

"So what's your great idea?"

Each of us has a unique perspective on Community Chaplaincy. Our conference has a mix of faith partners, front-line chaplains and leaders in complimentary ministries. We have come together with a single purpose which is to re-vision the future of Community Chaplaincy in Canada. For the past year, we have lived on the swirling and shifting sands of change and uncertainty. At this conference, you are invited to pause, reflect and to participate in building something new.

That brings us back to the question for which you alone have the answer, ***"So what's your great idea? "***

In the next two days through working group sessions, workshops, presentations, conversation and a whole bunch of prayer you are invited to put your own ideas on the table about how best to grow this ministry? we call Community Chaplaincy.

In the first working group, you will be asked to share three words you feel best describes what Community Chaplaincy is about. This will be followed by sessions where we hope you will share ideas for moving forward.

If you have arrived at the conference with this idea already worked out, great- get ready to share it! If not, please take time to ask yourself the question, ***"If I could do one thing for Community Chaplaincy (think big here) to make it grow, what would it be?"***

We are not sure what the eventual shape of the building we are creating will look like, but with everyone's involvement in building our community.

Yours in faith- Your Conference Facilitators



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Conference Tentative Agenda

Helping ex-prisoners, their families and others touched by crime has been the hallmark of the work of Community Chaplaincy in Canada for over thirty years.

We live and minister in a period of rapid change and uncertainty. Given all that is happening in our communities it is time to meet as a group to reflect on our work and plan for how we move forward.

The conference program committee has established that the three objectives for our meeting will be to:

Celebrate our Successes

In times of change, it is often easy to forget the positive impact our efforts have had on the men and women we walk with and the communities in which we live. We have asked Dr. Pierre Allard to join us for the keynote on Thursday Evening to lead this part of our reflection.

Examine our Current Challenges and Opportunities

The work of the Community Chaplain has always been on the front lines and therefore, filled with unknowns. This past year has been particularly stressful for a number of reasons. The second objective at the conference is to examine the current state of Chaplaincy in an open and positive way.

This session will be led by leaders in our community, including Harry Nigh, Brian McDonough and Kris Knutson. They will be gathering input from across the country for their presentation.

Plan the way forward

The real work at the conference is to start the process of planning for the future. We will examine the vision for Community Chaplaincy and discuss various models that may provide a path forward so that our work will continue to have a positive impact upon the individuals and communities we serve.

The Outcome

The Conference will provide time for breakout groups to discuss key questions and suggest alternative methods for moving forward. Our time together is just a start of the dialogue but for it to be successful we must develop guiding principles for working collaboratively as a community in the new realities that will shape Community Chaplaincy.

Our Primary Goal

To leave our time together with a common vision for the future and a well-defined series of next steps to make this new vision a reality.



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THURSDAY MAY 30th

All events on Thursday are in the Great Hall unless otherwise noted.

2:30- 4:30 PM Conference Registration

Please Note: Dinner is not provided as part of the conference on Thursday evening. There are a number of restaurants in the Town of Wolfville.

7:00 PM	WELCOME/OPENING
8:00 PM	Keynote– Dr. Pierre Allard Community Chaplaincy: Celebrating our Successes
9:00 PM	Reception



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FRIDAY, MAY 31st

- 8:30 AM Gathering/ Agenda for the Day (*The Great Hall*)
- 8:45 AM Devotions- Judy Allard and Eileen Henderson
- 9:00 AM Community Chaplaincy Today: Opportunities and Challenges
Harry Nigh/ Brian McDonough/Kris Knutson
- 10:00 AM Health Break (*The Great Hall*)**
- 10:30 AM Working Group Breakout 1: (*Breakout Rooms*)
The Three Words that best describe Community Chaplaincy
- Noon LUNCH (*Wheelock Dining Hall*)**
- 1:30 PM Working Group *Report Out* from Breakout 1 (*The Great Hall*)
Finding our Key Words
- 2:15 PM Workshop Session 1 (*Breakout Rooms*)
- Using Research to Advance Community Chaplaincy
 - Peter Worsley and Dwight Cuff (French translation available)
 - Addressing Mental Health Needs with Offenders Returning to the Community
 - Dr. Duncan Veasey
 - Addressing the Needs of Aboriginal Offenders Returning to the Community
 - Don and Joy Nash
- 3:30pm Health Break (*Great Hall*)**
- 3:45pm Working Group Breakout Session 2: (*Breakout Rooms*)
Developing a Purpose Statement (Tagline) for Community Chaplaincy going forward
- 5:30 PM SUPPER (*Wheelock Dining Hall*)**
- 7:00 PM KEYNOTE: OTHER VOICES: (*Great Hall*)
Partnering in Ministry
Ron Nikkel



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SATURDAY, JUNE 1st

- 8:30 AM Gathering/ Agenda for the Day (*Great Hall*)
- 8:45 AM Devotions- Judy Allard/Eileen Henderson
- 9:00 AM Working Group Report Out from Breakout 2
Community Chaplaincy Purpose Statement (Tagline) Review
- 9:30 AM KEYNOTE: Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Funding
Karina Leblanc
- 10:15 AM Ideas and Opportunities for the Future: An Introduction
Tom O'Connor
- 10:30 AM Health Break (Great Hall)**
- 10:45 AM Working Group Breakout 3: (*Breakout Rooms*)
Ideas and Opportunities for the Future
- 12:30 PM LUNCH (Wheelock Dining Hall)**
- 2:00 PM Workshop Session #2 (*Breakout Rooms*)
- Marketing, Branding and other words that you shouldn't use in Polite Company
 - Scott MacIsaac and Mike Walsh (translation provided)
 - Sustainable Funding Approaches: Social Return on Investment
 - Kaylie Thiessen
 - Interfaith Co-operation in Community Chaplaincy
 - Habeeb Alli
- 3:15PM Health Break (Great Hall)**
- 3:45pm Working Group Report Out from Breakout 3: (*Great Hall*)
Ideas and Opportunities for the Future
- 5:30pm BANQUET**
Harry Gardner, President
- 7:30pm KEYNOTE: Other Voices
Keeping Faith in the Midst of Injustice
- Wilma Derksen
- Deogratias Gashagaza



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SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd

- 8:30 AM Gathering and Agenda for the Day (*Great Hall*)
- 8:45 AM Keynote: Re-Visioning Community Chaplaincy
Tom O'Connor
- 9:30 AM *Health Break***
- 9:45 AM The Way Forward: Building the Community
- 11:15 AM *Health Break***
- 11:30 AM Closing Worship and Commissioning Service (*Great Hall*)
Preacher Gavin McCombie
- 12:30 PM *LUNCH and Departure***