



Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF)

(formerly Ontario Multifaith Council, OMC)

Quick Facts About CMF:

Spiritual & Religious Care Chaplaincy Services

- We are the oldest Multifaith Canadian organization that has been officially serving spiritual and religious needs and demands for 46 years in public sector institutions.
- We are not just a municipal or provincial body, rather we are a national federation with a growing network of supporters across Canada.
- We are a model in religious and spiritual care, in terms of being the longest provider of chaplaincy services, resources, tools and best practices to people of faith or no-faith.
- We are the only organization that had over thirty faith groups sign a joint memorandum to provide Chaplaincy services in public institutions in the ministries of Health, Social Services and Long Term Care.
- Our funding by the Provincial Government from 1971 to 2013 helped us serve, via chaplaincy, in many facilities and these services helped directly in crisis intervention, which avoided human rights and civil litigation..
- Since 2013 with no funding from the Provincial government we still get requests from these public institutions for services, resources, tools and advise regarding best practices in religious accommodations.
- Our chaplaincy model is not just from archival records, rather it is currently in practice and in demand in institutions.
- And among other instances of our excellence in spiritual & religious care practice, our Chaplains serve in Ten Homes of the City of Toronto. This service contract with the City of Toronto dates back to 1990s.
- We provide a special service to screen potential chaplains and spiritual service providers, viz., Multifaith Competency Screening Certification.
- Our Spiritual and Religious Awareness Week is proclaimed across Canada that annually celebrates the hard work of chaplains and spiritual care volunteers.
- CMF's thirteen Regional Multifaith Committees, did enormous work in the institutions and in sustaining the spirit of Multifaith Chaplaincy.
- Based on our Multifaith composition of our Board and the Regional Committees, we are seen as authoritative source of information on Faith matters by all levels of Governments, Educational Institutions and Employers.

3570 Victoria Park Avenue, Suite # 207,
North York, Ontario, M2H 3S2

Phone: (416) 422-1490; Fax: (416) 422-4359
www.omc.ca omcsrc@omc.ca

• **History of CMF**

In 1970, the Government of Ontario initiated a partnership with the Faith Groups of the province to develop a method whereby a high quality of spiritual and religious care would be consistently available to those in Government-funded and -operated institutions in the province. The Ontario Provincial Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy (OPIFCC) was formed in March 1972.

In order to ensure the effective operation of the new service and good communication between the Government and the OPIFCC, Chaplaincy Services Ontario (CSO) was created. This centralized office ensured that the goal of coordinated and consistent delivery of spiritual and religious care was attainable.

In the late 1970s, co-ordination of chaplaincy services in each region of the province was provided for by the appointment of Regional Co-coordinators as staff persons of CSO. This division into regions included the formation of Regional Interfaith Committees under the auspices of the OPIFCC. These committees were responsible for providing advice and support to the Regional Coordinators, screening Chaplain candidates, and conducting assessments of spiritual and religious care programs within local institutions.

The unique partnership between the Government of Ontario and Faith Groups was affirmed on December 3, 1992 with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement. At that time the name of the OPIFCC was changed to the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care (OMCSRC) and the Regional Interfaith Committees were renamed Regional Multifaith Committees (RMCs).

The OMCSRC began the process of incorporation in 1997 (incorporated in June, 1998) and restructured its mode of operation. Two full-time and one half-time Regional Coordinators were assigned to the OMCSRC to serve as resource staff to the RMCs.

Since its inception, the OMCSRC has expanded its membership to reflect the increasingly multifaith character of our province.

In 2012, the Ontario Multifaith Council (OMC) was informed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) that its contract to ensure adequate and appropriate spiritual and religious care for people in care by the Province of Ontario was ending on March 31, 2013. As this contract comprises the core funding for the organization, the OMC Board of Directors took immediate action to ensure the continuation of the organization and its work to provide a valuable service to public, not-for-profit, academic and private sectors and the general public. A transition team was formed with the mandate to define operations for the next year and to set the stage for refocusing the organization. In 2015 the name of Ontario Multifaith Council was changed to The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF). The main office continues to be operated by CMF staff.

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