

**[Enhancing Right Relations Through Use of Indigenous Languages to Name Our Church]**

Proposed by: Quebec Presbytery Living into Right Relations Committee

1) What is the Issue?: In the ongoing effort of the United Church of Canada to engage in Right Relations with the first peoples of Canada, we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to recognize, make known and use the title of 'The United Church of Canada' in the languages of the first peoples within the regional boundaries of its Conferences and Presbyteries (and what may become its Regional Councils).

2) Why is this Important?: Whereas one's language, mother tongue – is crucial to one's identity, both as an individual and as a collective group of people, the recognition and use of said language is perhaps not only a means of communication, but more importantly, an indication of respect.

The loss of mother tongue was one of the results for many First Nations children who attended residential schools.

As a means to acknowledge and to make visible the existence of indigenous people and their languages and to educate the wider church about the indigenous people in their region, and acting upon the suggestion and request of Elder Satewas (Harvey) and Susan Gabriel, the Quebec Presbytery Living Into Right Relations (LIRR) Committee asks that as an example, the Mohawk wording for The United Church of Canada - "Iatekentiokwaieston ne Ionteren'naientakwa ne Kanata." - be included officially with English and French on letter heads and official documents of the church in Quebec.

As another example, Cree is a large First Nations population in Quebec, and that many Inuit people call the city of Montreal their home or otherwise access services there for healthcare and more, the LIRR Committee also asks that the Cree and Inuktitut wording for The United Church of Canada be searched out and considered.

3) How Might General Council Respond?: To study translating the name The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada into local indigenous languages present in a given region of the church, with a view to include them on letterhead and official documents of the courts of the church.

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