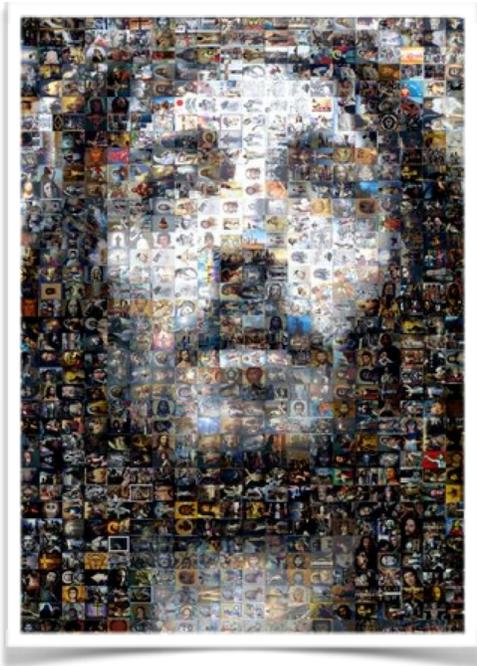


# Sustaining Our Mission

## Reflection #4 Leadership



“Christ has no body now but yours. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

Teresa of Ávila

## Gratitude

Each group, team, council serves us all with courage and faithfulness “creating experiences/situations in which CLC members may take risks for mission, failing, and trying again as “contemplatives in action”

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## Sharing Data & Insights

The National Evaluation working group has collated member responses and suggestions as well as providing a brief summary identifying some key leadership dynamics.



Christian Life  
Community  
CANADA

**Canadian Common Mission** “Rooted in the Trinity, and formed in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Christian Life Community Canada is called, as a body of lay apostolic leaders, to read the signs of the times and prayerfully discern prophetic action to set hearts on fire with Christ’s transformative love and compassion. Through the grace of God, in solidarity with World CLC priorities, CLC collaborates with the Society of Jesus, the universal church and all people of good will, to work for justice on behalf of the environment, the marginalized, the oppressed and for people living in poverty.”

### **CLC members, individually and in groups responded to 3 questions**

- 1. What were/are the graces of our current leadership structure?**
- 2. Are there any ways in which our structure could be made more effective or efficient in serving CLC Canada, its members and others?**
- 3. How do we foster/encourage members to assume leadership in CLC Canada?**

### **From the Working Group**

Reflections were rich and meaningful. The National Evaluation Working Group has taken time to prayerfully consider member reflections and briefly share what inspired us and filled us with hope.

- Many reflections noted that the generous actions of elders in creating and sharing CLC resources led to the growth of members who have organized themselves into collaborative teams that support members in formation for mission. Many members deeply value the original vision of National representation that includes and reflects Canada's diversity. Awareness, discernment, planning/action, evaluation is vital.
- Across Canada there is deep appreciation and affection for members and Jesuit companions who serve CLC in diverse leadership roles- Coordinators, Facilitators, Group Guides, Elders, Formation Teams, Working Groups, Regional ExCos and Coordinating Teams, Regional Representatives, Treasurers, Ecclesial Assistants, National General Council/ExCo. Members generally sense that CLC leaders and leadership teams, present and future, should be better supported through an active and specific commitment to "Cura Personalis."
- The working group was very struck that rather than suggestions for reworking leadership structures/role definitions, many members saw an immediate and critical multiplier effect in redirecting communication and broadening collaborative relationships across Canada.

Our own experience as a collaborative team has been an amazing journey. There have been many moments of joy, sometimes a sense of being overwhelmed by the gift that Christian Life is and is called to be. Our hearts are burning and we can't help sharing the good news!

**The love of our Lord is with us all, today and always!**

## **Leadership Themes**

### **Leadership as Ministry throughout CLC**

- Rooted in the Spiritual Exercises and CLC Charism
- Committed to the Mission and Vision of CLC Canada
- Leadership: as-connection; communicating, coordinating, collaborating
- Priorities developed through on-going discernment (resist organizational culture dominated by administration, governing)
- Fosters the longing to share and participate
- Deep commitment to prayer

### **Leadership Formation throughout CLC**

- Continues to deepen relationship with Christ through the Spiritual Exercises
- Personal mentorship of newer members for leadership
- Actively discerns-personally and communally
- Encourages the creative freedom of leadership
- Personally invites/ develops/supports new leaders (in working/project groups as an example)
- Continues within Circle of Elders
- Collaborates between regions

Increases membership, especially young people

Uses technology more to assist in communicating, coordinating,  
collaborating

## **Leadership-Supporting Processes**

- Clearly defined/more transparent role description and responsibilities
- Better intentionality of smooth transitioning between leaders...commitment to term lengths and transition process
- Minimize duplication especially in the area of communication
- Respect and support for leadership time commitment
- Annual visits from GC members to all regions
- Ensure members feel part of World, National, Regional and local CLCs
- Encourage shared roles