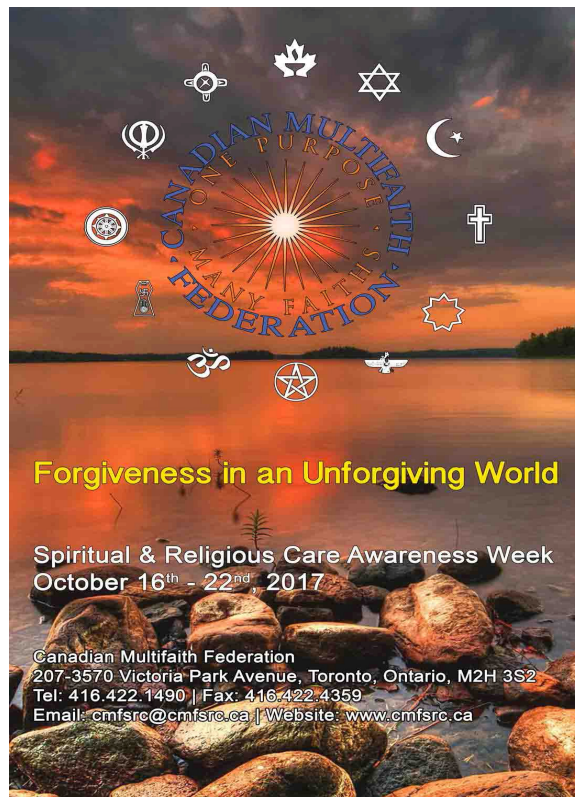




The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF)

(formerly Ontario Multifaith Council, OMC)



PARTICIPANT'S PACKAGE



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Additional items:

SRCAW Poster (*visit our Website: cmfsrc.ca*)

We make a colorful poster available to help you celebrate the work of Spiritual & Religious Care staff. Please post them in public areas in your institution.

Volunteer Certificate (request by email: cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca)

These certificates are designed to support your volunteer programs. A sample copy of the Certificate is provided in the package. Originals are available on request at a minimal cost for shipping.

Faith Symbols & Their Meanings (request by email: cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca)

For ordering The Multifaith Information Manual, Golden Rule Poster, etc.,
Download our Product Order Form (*visit our Website: cmfsrc.ca*)

Multifaith Screening (*visit our Website: cmfsrc.ca*)



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21 April 2017



Introduction Letter from the President



Canadian Multifaith Federation, CMF (formerly The Ontario Multifaith Council) is an organization whose main objective is to advocate on behalf of faith, spiritual beliefs and religious communities on matters of mutual interest and consensus.



CMF initiates and organizes an annual celebration of Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week (SRCAW) which provides an opportunity to recognize the value and dedication of Spiritual and Religious Service Providers of all faiths who work in specialized settings such as, hospitals, long-term care facilities, mental health centres and correctional facilities.



We are asking that consideration be given for SRCAW to be proclaimed throughout Canada during the week of October 16-22 this year. The theme of this year is **Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World**. Regardless of faith, religious and spiritual communities, whether Interfaith or Multifaith, the celebration of SRCAW gives support to those who provide and receive Spiritual and Religious care and is supported through the Human Rights Code.



It is our hope that your response to our request will be positive. We would be most pleased to provide any additional information that is required to enable you to process our request.



Sincerely,



Pandit Roopnauth Sharma
President





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Proclamation - Sample

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS across Canada there is concern about the necessary and important place of spirituality in the provision of care in hospitals, long term care facilities, correctional settings, mental health centres and facilities for people with intellectual disabilities, AND

WHEREAS the need for and work of dedicated, qualified and competent spiritual and religious caregivers in society and particularly in institutions of care needs to be officially recognized and applauded, AND

WHEREAS the multicultural mosaic of Canada demands diversity in the provision of spiritual and religious care and the protection of religious rights, this unique phenomenon, having been recognized and provided for by the Canadian Multifaith Federation, AND

WHEREAS throughout Canada there will be a celebration of SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CARE AWARENESS WEEK during October 16-22, 2017.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the (name of province, municipality, e.g. City of Cornwall) join with other like-minded political jurisdictions in Canada (or the name of the province/region) and declare the week of Oct 16-22, 2017 as Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week and to support all local observances pertaining thereto.



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Press Release - Sample

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 1, 2017)

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week

<Community name> – October 1, 2017

<Name of facility or community> has designated October 16-22, 2017 as Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week. The theme for 2017, “**Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World,**” is to re-enforce our commitment to support and value the services offered by spiritual and religious providers.

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week offers an opportunity to recognize the value of spiritual and religious care and to honour those who provide the care. Spiritual and religious care is about listening, clarifying and offering spiritual direction to those in need. When one is scared, lonely, confused, angry or disillusioned, spiritual and religious care providers offer counsel and support.

Across Canada thousands of dedicated spiritual and religious care providers of all faiths work in specialized settings such as hospitals, long term care facilities, correctional facilities, mental health centres, and facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

During Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week facilities recognize the contributions of staff, families and faith community volunteers in providing the best care possible for clients, inmates, residents, patients, etc. in private, public and government organizations..

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week is sponsored by the Canadian Multifaith Federation. Canadian Multifaith Federation is one of North America’s largest organizations dedicated to advocacy of spiritual care and the protection of religious rights. The activities of the Canadian Multifaith Federation promote an environment of acceptance and respect amongst the diverse communities of Canada. Each year the Canadian Multifaith Federation provides Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week packages to individuals and facilities to help celebrate this very special work.

For more information please contact:

<Press contact for your facility>, <Your facility name><Phone number and email>

Note: For additional information on Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week around the province please visit www.cmfsrc.ca



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What is Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week?

Background

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week celebrates the work of providers of Spiritual and Religious Care, and focuses our attention on the challenging work of these individuals and teams. The Canadian Multifaith Federation provides free materials to help you to recognize the valuable work of your Chaplains and other spiritual care providers during Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week.

Spiritual and religious care is provided in institutions by chaplains, by spiritual and religious care providers, and sometimes by social workers and Native Institutional Liaison Officers. Hospitals, correctional centers, long-term care facilities, mental health centers, and university campuses are among the many places where spiritual care is delivered by professionals and volunteers.

Why do we celebrate Spiritual Care Workers?

Spiritual and Religious Care Providers are among the least well-recognized caregivers in our communities. This is a week in which we reflect on the importance of those who provide Care of the Soul to people in distress.

What do they do?

- When you are scared, lonely, confused, angry or disillusioned, Spiritual and Religious Care Providers will listen, clarify and share your pain.
- A Spiritual and Religious Care Provider, or Chaplain, is a guide who offers spiritual direction in times of crisis, questions and wonderment.
- Your Spiritual and Religious Care Provider or Chaplain offers counselling and support, and when asked, will contact representatives from your own faith group to assist in your care and comfort.
- Your Spiritual and Religious Care Provider serves those of any faith, and those of no particular faith.

How Can People Participate?

You can participate by contacting the Spiritual Care department, or the chaplain, of your local hospital, long-term care facility, prison, school, or community program, and offering your service. The Care of Souls is difficult but rewarding work, and can only be achieved through one human being stretching out a hand, and an ear, to another.

Celebration of Ideas

The Canadian Multifaith Federation provides resources to help you to recognize the valuable work of chaplains and other spiritual and religious care providers during Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week. Let us know if your community organization, institution, faith community or yourself is interested in participating.

In a facility, institution or place of worship

- Prominently use the Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week poster
- Display pictures, literature, brochures and videos
- Sponsor a *Multifaith Spirituality Workshop*
- Celebrate a *Multifaith Meditation* with staff, residents and the community
- Offer a special blessing or service
- Host a tea or brunch for community faith groups
- Ask administrators to send a press release to local media announcing SRCA Week
- Dedicate or re-dedicate worship space
- Create an information display
- Send letters to faith groups inviting them to participate in Spiritual & Religious Care

For staff and volunteers

- Invite administrators and staff to a brief ceremony announcing the beginning of Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week
- Host an Open House - reception in the Spiritual Care Department
- Distribute the *Quiz* to staff, volunteers and residents, award prizes for the winner
- Present letters of appreciation to staff and volunteers
- Present *CMF's Appreciation Certificates* to volunteers

For yourself

- Discover prayer and worship in a new faith community
- Identify and research a faith group in your community
- Visit the CMF Library website (www.omc.ca) and research one faith tradition other than your own

Bibliography

The following online articles are for your reference ONLY. To access these resources please ask the Librarian: cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca

- **No Enemy to Conquer: Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World**, by Michael Henderson, Dalai Lama (Foreword), Baylor Univ Pr., 2009 
“Offering dramatic evidence of the transformative power of forgiveness, No Enemy to Conquer shares the stories of people of diverse faiths and cultures who, despite all odds, found the courage to reconcile with their enemies. Gathering the voices of Desmond Tutu, Benazir Bhutto, Rajmohan Gandhi, Jonathan Sacks, the Dalai Lama, and others, Henderson's masterful anthology is an inspiring step toward a geopolitics of mercy.”
— See extracts @ The Abrahamic Family Reunion. 
- **No Future Without Forgiveness.** by Desmond Tutu, . 2000
“The establishment of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was a pioneering international event. Never had any country sought to move forward from despotism to democracy both  by exposing the atrocities committed in the past and achieving reconciliation with its former oppressors. At the center of this unprecedented attempt at healing a nation has been Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whom President Nelson Mandela named as Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the final report of the Commission just published, Archbishop Tutu offers his reflections on the profound wisdom he has gained by helping usher South Africa through this painful experience.”
- **The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World.** by Desmond Tutu. HarperOne 2015 
“Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chair of The Elders, and Chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, along with his daughter, the Reverend Mpho Tutu, offer a manual on the art of forgiveness—helping us to realize that we are all capable of healing and transformation. Tutu's role as the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission taught him much about forgiveness. If you asked anyone what they thought was going to happen to South Africa after apartheid, almost universally it was predicted that the country would be devastated by a comprehensive bloodbath. Yet, instead of revenge and retribution, this new nation chose to tread the difficult path of confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation.”
- **The Forgiveness Project: Stories for a Vengeful Age**, by Marina Cantacuzino, Jessica Kingsley Publishers; Reprint edition (2016) 

What is forgiveness?

Are some acts unforgivable?

Can forgiveness take the place of revenge?





Powerful real-life stories from survivors and perpetrators of crime and violence reveal



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the true impact of forgiveness on ordinary people worldwide. Exploring forgiveness as an alternative to resentment or retaliation, the storytellers give an honest, moving account of their experiences and what part forgiveness has played in their lives. Despite extreme circumstances, their stories open the door to a society without revenge.

- **On Forgiveness: How Can We Forgive the Unforgivable?** by Richard Holloway. Canongate UK; 2002
In this inspiring work, Richard Holloway tackles the great theme of forgiveness. It is a subject that he explores in the widest context but underpinning this examination is his belief that religion has given us many of the best stories and metaphors for the act. He proceeds to relate forgiveness to such events as September 11th, the Truth Commission in South Africa, and the ongoing conflicts in Palestine/Israel, Northern Ireland and Serbia. On Forgiveness is a discourse on how forgiveness works, where it came from and how the need to embrace it is greater than ever if we are to free ourselves from the binds of the past 
- **How to Forgive in an Unforgiving World** – by John C. Fenn. CreateSpace 2016
Often, Christian teachers make forgiveness sound like we have to somehow be okay with the hurt someone inflicted on us while the offender walks away without a care, but that is not what the Bible says. The Bible teaches that forgiveness deals with both the injury inflicted upon us and the responsibility of the other person to apologize and make things right. But what do you do if they don't do what is right? 
- **The Forgiveness Solution: The Whole-Body Rx for Finding True Happiness, Abundant Love, and Inner Peace.** by Philip H. Friedman , Conari Press 2010
Dr. Friedman believes that at the root of almost all emotional problems is unforgiveness (grievances, judgments and attack thoughts)-- towards others, ourselves, our circumstances, God, anyone or everyone. The Forgiveness Solution is an easy to learn, practical and integrative process whereby we learn to shift and release our perceptions, attitudes, images, energy and distressing feelings (anger, guilt, hurt, shame, anxiety, panic, trauma etc) and simultaneously re-empower ourselves by choosing and deciding to forgive. He teaches us many powerful exercises, tools and techniques that show us exactly how to forgive rather than just talking about forgiveness. 
- **Triumph of the Heart: Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World.** by Megan Feldman Bettencourt, Avery. 2015
Drawing on the latest research and remarkable tales of forgiveness from around the world, journalist Megan Feldman explores how forgiveness, when practiced in the right ways, can save lives, make us happier and healthier, and lead to a better world. 

Veteran journalist Megan Feldman was still smarting over a bitter breakup when she began working on a feature article about a father named Azim who had truly forgiven the man who killed his son. She had found herself totally and completely unable to




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forgive her ex-boyfriend, and yet Azim had managed to forgive his own son's murderer. Forgiveness has long been touted by religious leaders as a moral imperative. But Megan wanted to know exactly what it means from a scientific perspective, and why forgiving those who have wronged you is one of the best things you can do for yourself. In *Triumph of the Heart*, Feldman embarks on a quest to understand this complex idea, drawing on the latest research showing that forgiveness can provide a range of health benefits, from relieving depression to decreasing high blood pressure.

- **Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World.** Khaled Abou El Fadl (VIDEO) – 

- **Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World (VIDEO)** – Shambhala Mountain 

- **THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS** By : Pr. PM Raju, Sharjah City Assembly of God. 

- **The Unstoppable Power of Letting Go.** Jill Sherer Murray [video] 

- **Forgiveness is a Choice: A Step-by-Step Process for Resolving Anger and Restoring Hope.** by Robert D Enright, American Psychological Association (APA); 2001 

A self-help text for people who have been deeply hurt by another and caught in a vortex of anger, depression and resentment. Robert D. Enright shows how forgiveness can reduce anxiety and depression while increasing self-esteem and hopefulness toward one's future. The volume demonstrates how forgiveness, approached in the correct manner, benefits the forgiver far more than the forgiven, and seeks to lead the reader on a path that will bring clarity and peace. Enright is careful to distinguish forgiveness from pseudoforgiveness, and to reassure readers that forgiveness does not mean accepting continued abuse or even reconciling with the offender. Rather, by giving the gift of forgiveness, readers are encouraged to confront and let go of their pain in order to regain their lives.

- **Aggressiveness can be psychobiologically mild: 2. How to achieve Peace,** J. Martin Ramirez. 

- **Part 1: The Mission of Forgiveness – National Presbyterian Church,** Missio Dei: Messages from the Gospels and Acts on God's Work in the World. 2005

- **Forgiveness is Power: A User's Guide to Why and How to Forgive.** by William Fergus Martin. Findhorn Press 2013

In this manual on how to forgive, there are insights and exercises without a preachy message or assumption that people "should" forgive. With chapters that explain what forgiveness is and how to deal with obstacles to it, it also addresses reconciliation with others and one's own self. Practical and accessible, the book does not





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require religious practice or philosophy; it simply shows how to forgive in order to enhance self-esteem, be happier, and break free from limitations that can hold a person back.

- **First We Stopped Throwing Stones: Post-Genocide Rwanda and a Political Theory of Forgiveness** by Lucy Britt, [thesis] 2014
- **Forgive for Good: A Proven Prescription for Health and Happiness Paperback** –, 2003
Based on scientific research, this groundbreaking study from the frontiers of psychology and medicine offers startling new insight into the healing powers and medical benefits of forgiveness. Through vivid examples (including his work with victims from both sides of Northern Ireland's civil war), Dr. Fred Luskin offers a proven nine-step forgiveness method that makes it possible to move beyond being a victim to a life of improved health and contentment.





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Feedback Form

We need your feedback!

In our continuing bid to make this program more useful to you, we would really appreciate your feedback! Please fax or mail this form to us at your convenience.

On a scale from one to five, please tell us which of the products was useful.

How useful was it?	1	2	3	4	5
	Very	2	3	4	Not at All
Poster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certificates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bibliography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Celebration of ideas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Proclamation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Press Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President's Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Overall</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your responses below may be used to improve next year's program, and we may just share your stories with folks.

Can you tell us about any events you arranged or attended celebrating Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week?

Is there anything you would like to suggest which would help us to improve our coordination of the Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week program?

Are there any incidents or anecdotes which you would like to share around Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week?

Thank you for your support.