



GREETINGS TO YOU ALL FROM MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY



Greetings to you all! I hope you had some time to enjoy the beauty of the summer months.

This summer was the hottest in modern history! We've heard about heat waves across the planet, and of course we know about the fires and flooding that have hit us very close to home.

I was in Bedford during the flash flooding in July, a result of warmer ocean temperatures caused by the climate emergency. Watching scuba divers on a boat in Bedford's Sunnyside Mall parking lot, it was hard not to be

overwhelmed by the feeling that we are not responding urgently enough to this crisis.

As we recognize this urgency, we continue in our efforts in working for social and ecological justice, which are deeply interconnected. We celebrate the growing solidarity and action in communities locally and globally, as we work together to care for the earth and for those marginalized.

Your prayers and support are so appreciated and essential! I hope you find hope and inspiration in the work we are able to be part of. Peace and Blessings,

*~Darlene O'Leary
Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry*





*Embracing Our Neighbour
and Our Common Home*

ACEP PRESENTATIONS ON BASIC INCOME

The Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) was pleased to make presentations to both the Antigonish Town and County Councils calling on them to support a guaranteed livable basic income.

Colleen Cameron and Darlene made the presentations, arguing that the municipalities are seeing the impacts of poverty, food insecurity, and the rising cost of living every day. ACEP co-chair, Wynne Sandler, attended the town presentation, and Sr. Marion Sheridan attended the county presentation.

We shared that more and more municipalities across Atlantic Canada are calling on the federal government to implement a guaranteed livable basic income, so that there is regular, livable,

and dependable income security to help people through this challenging time. We are also seeing growing support in sectors including Community Health Boards and food security groups.

Both the town and county voted unanimously in support of a resolution to send a letter to the Prime Minister and Premier calling for a basic income program. ACEP continues to be part of Basic Income Atlantic Canada, a growing Atlantic region coalition that is supported by the Tamarack Institute.



To learn more and support our consensus statement, go to:
<https://www.big-ns.org/read-and-sign-the-consensus-statement>

BASIC INCOME
NOVA SCOTIA
SOCIETY

HOME ABOUT NEWS TAKE ACTION RESOURCES MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS COVID-19 AND BASIC INCOME

Take Action

TAKE ACTION

PETITIONS

READ AND SIGN OUR
CONSENSUS
STATEMENT

HELP PASS MUNICIPAL
RESOLUTIONS

Read and Sign the Atlantic Canada Consensus Statement

Basic Income Atlantic Canada has reached consensus on a statement describing basic income and why it is necessary for the Atlantic Provinces. This is a useful tool for discussing a basic income and advocating for policy change in our provinces.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT, ENGLISH

CONSENSUS STATEMENT, FRENCH

SIGN CONSENSUS STATEMENT

READ AND SIGN!

BASIC INCOME NOVA SCOTIA, 5516 NORTH STREET, HALIFAX, NS, B3K 1M8,
CANADA 902-220-0344 BIGNOVASCOTIA@GMAIL.COM



BLANKET EXERCISE

Following our Lenten Book Study of Sr. Dorothy Moore's book, *A Journey of Love and Hope: The Inspirational Words of a Mi'kmaw Elder*, we were blessed to have the chance to experience a Blanket Exercise at the Bethany Resource Centre Gathering Room.

The Blanket Exercise is a guided experience, in this case led by Mi'kmaw leader Terena Francis and co-facilitated by Joanne Tompkins, that leads participants through the history of colonization in Canada/Turtle Island from the perspective of Indigenous peoples.

Participants experience this history in a new and experiential way and then have an opportunity to share in a circle what the experience meant to them. It was such

a powerful learning for everyone, for those who experienced it for the first time, and for those who have done the exercise before.

We are so grateful to Terena and Joanne, and to Sr. Dorothy, who joined us for the Blanket Exercise and helped us engage in this history in a way that awakens the essential work of facing the truth and walking the path of reconciliation.



To learn more about
Blanket Exercise click
here:



<https://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>





“CANADA IS BURNING” RALLY

On June 28th, Martha Justice Ministry and friends took part in the “Canada is Burning” rally in front of Minister Sean Fraser’s office in Antigonish, organized by 350.org and partners. Similar rallies took place across Canada.

In the wake of the earliest and worst forest fire season in Canada, which impacted Nova Scotia directly, and what has become the hottest summer in modern history, the rally called on the federal government for an emergency-level response to the climate crisis.



To see photos from across Canada, go to:
[Canada is Burning - June 28 2023 | Flickr](#)





JEM/ORCIE “LEARNING & LOBBYING” EVENT

Martha Justice Ministry was part of the Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM) and Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) Learning & Lobbying sessions in May and June.

These sessions were part of a shared effort by JEM and ORCIE to bring religious congregations more deeply into the policy work on climate justice and into direct lobbying with federal officials.

The first session was a webinar with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives’ Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood and with Climate Action Network Canada’s Caroline Brouillette. They discussed key policy issues in Canada on the climate crisis and key areas for advocacy. The next session was led by Sr. Sue Wilson, CSJ, on how religious congregations can engage more deeply in advocacy and lobbying and why they should.

Later that week, there was an in-person session in Ottawa, led by ORCIE Executive

Director Genevieve Gallant, on lobbying pointers. The following day, two groups including members of religious congregations and staff met with a range of MPs, Senators, and others to discuss our key priorities for climate justice policy.

On June 6th, we held a debrief to share learning from the sessions and lobbying, which helped us to see what worked well, where we can grow, and what might be next steps. We hope to do another Learning & Lobbying event in the fall.



To see recordings of the online sessions, check out the JEM YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@jemgathering3555>

FEDERATION GATHERING – JIMMY’S VISIT

Jimmy Walters, the UN NGO Representative for the Federation, visited Sisters at Parkland during Sisters of Charity Federation Annual meeting held in June in Antigonish and PEI.



You can read more about his visit in Darlene’s newest blog entry here:
<https://www.themarthas.com/martha-justice-blog-detail.php?4>





JPIC/RAC EVENT

On the May long-weekend, Martha Justice Ministry participated in a special joint Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Atlantic and Religious of Atlantic Canada (RAC) event in Halifax. The special occasion was a full day with Sr. Ilia Delio, the renown Franciscan scientist, author, and founder of the *Center for Christogenesis*.



Joanne Tompkins and Sr. Marion Sheridan



Sr. Ilia Delio

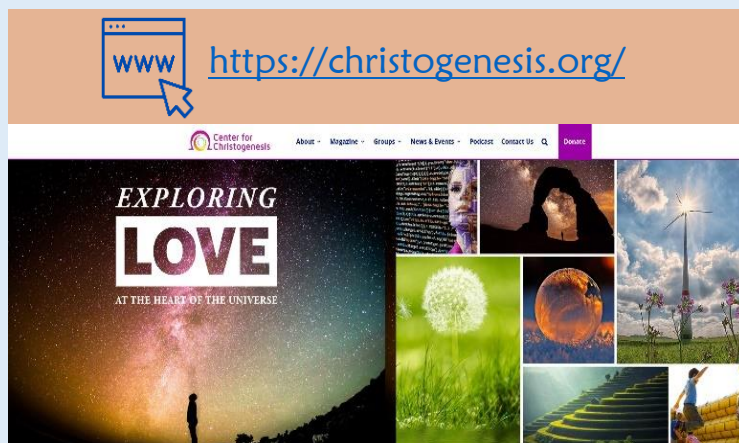
JPIC Atlantic participants gathered on Thursday evening and Friday to check in on the work being done in our communities. We heard from ORCIE's Genevieve Gallant about the work of her office on federal advocacy on climate justice and reconciliation policy. We also had a chance to discuss planning for JPIC Atlantic with Sabrina di Mateo of the Canadian Religious Conference. We worked on a letter to the Atlantic Bishops on climate action and discussed fall and spring meetings.

On our day with Ilia Delio, she shared on her work on cosmogenesis, consciousness

shifts, and the direction technology might take. There were very interesting discussions and reflections in small groups about how we apply these ideas. It was a very enriching time together!



<https://christogenesis.org/>



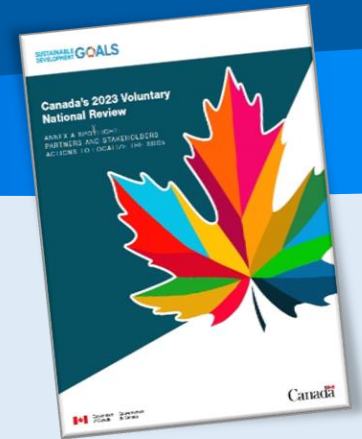


CANADA'S VNR REPORT

Earlier this Spring, the Sisters of St Martha and Martha Justice Ministry participated in the federal government's consultation ahead of Canada's second Voluntary National Review on progress in implementing Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As 2023 is the midway point to achieving the goals, it is important that Canada's report reflect the broad efforts in communities across the country to move the SDGs forward. It is also important to identify where there are barriers to achieving those goals.

At the United Nations High Level Political Forum in July, Canada was one of several countries reporting on our progress. While Canada has made significant steps forward since the development of these goals, Canada and the world are far from achieving these 17 goals and 169 targets. In fact, due to Covid-19 and other factors, there have been setbacks in progress – globally, only 15% are on track. While the news is discouraging, we were happy to see the many good initiatives that Canada has implemented, including national, provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous communities, civil society, and academia.



We were excited that the Marthas and Martha Justice Ministry were named as stakeholders doing important work to implement the SDGs, along with colleagues at the Coady Institute (Extension) and the Tamarack Institute (Annex, p. 6).

We hope that Canada and all countries will renew their commitment to achieving the SDGs and to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

- The Martha Justice Ministry and the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish have been involved in implementing the SDGs since 2015. Major outcomes of their work include education and advocacy initiatives, events, policy briefs, educational resource development, reports, network and coalition development, organizational alignment with the SDGs, and social media engagement. They advance the SDGs through many ways, including as members of the Basic Income Atlantic Canada coalition (SDG 1, No Poverty) and through their New Growers program, which is a farm apprenticeship program mentoring young farmers in organic farming and local food access, now in its 10th year (SDG 2, Zero Hunger). They also advocate for social and ecological justice (SDG13, Climate Action) and protection of land (SDG 15, Life on Land) and water (SDG 14, Life below Water).

To read Canada's report and Annex,
go to:

[Voluntary National Reviews 2023,
Canada | High-Level Political Forum](#)



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL – EVENT FOR KERIAN BURNETT



On July 16th, an event that Martha Justice Ministry sponsored and supported was held at the Antigonish Library Community Room called “Healthcare for All: Kerian Burnett’s Story.”

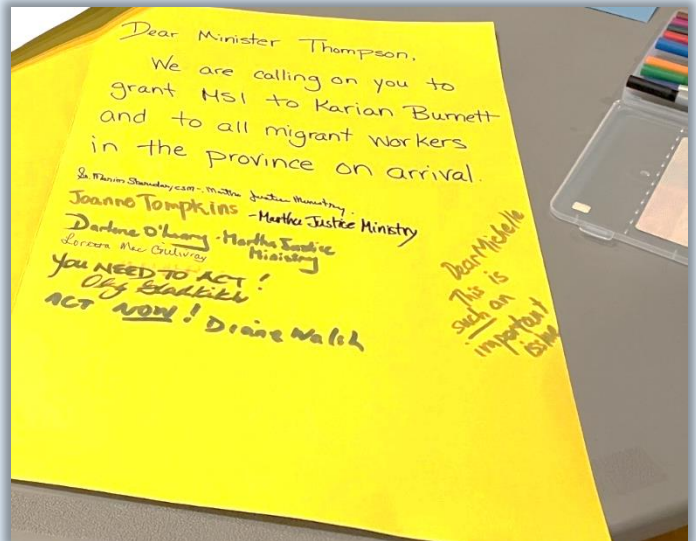
Kerian Burnett is a migrant worker from Jamaica who was diagnosed with cancer and who did not have access to health coverage in Nova Scotia through MSI. The event was hosted by No One Is Illegal, Halifax and supported by Martha Justice Ministry.

At the event, Stacey Gomez from No One Is Illegal talked about the challenging situation facing migrant workers in Nova Scotia and Canada, particularly when it comes to their health. For Kerian, she lost her coverage when she was laid off from her work due to her diagnosis. She fought to stay in Canada so she could receive life-saving treatment.

No One Is Illegal is part of a larger network fighting for the rights of migrant workers who come to Canada each year and are vulnerable to human rights violations due to their precarious immigration status.

We support the regularization of migrant workers, who do essential work in Canada for very little pay and are often mistreated. We also hope that the Nova Scotia government and federal government do what they can to help Kerian, who is unable to pay for the treatment she needs.

We are happy that following the event, Kerian received health coverage, though many migrant workers are still vulnerable.



To learn more, go to:
<https://www.migrantjusticens.ca/kerian-burnett>
<https://www.migrantjusticens.ca/about-us>



MARTHA NEW GROWERS

Martha New Growers are still into their growing season! Check out these photos taken throughout the spring and summer.



Meghan Johnny



Clayton MacLeod



Danielle Speck, chatting with a visiting SC Federation member



David Matheson

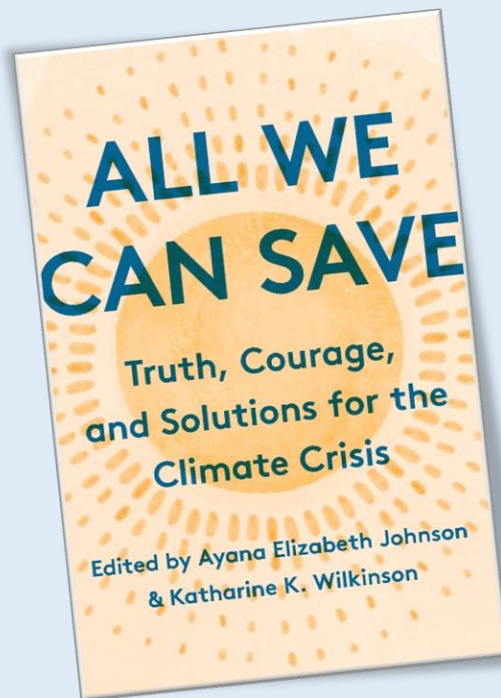
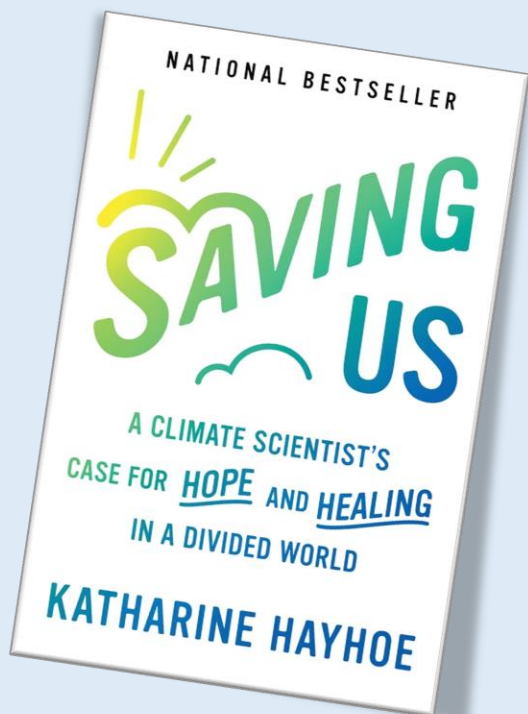


MJM RECOMMENDS

The Martha Justice Ministry library has a range of books on social and ecological justice, reconciliation, and peace topics. We encourage you to read with us!

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World
by Katharine Hayhoe

Katharine Hayhoe is a Canadian climate scientist living in Texas and an evangelical Christian. Her book offers a helpful approach to addressing how religious or ideological differences on the climate crisis often derail us in responding or leave us feeling frustrated and powerless. Through stories, personal experiences, and strong scientific knowledge, Hayhoe provides advice and guidance for us to talk about and work together to address this global emergency.



All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis.
by Ayana Elisabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson (Eds.)

This is a beautiful collection of essays, poems, and reflections from a range of perspectives and experiences of “climate feminism.” They include analyses of patriarchal structures that have fueled the crisis, as well as the often-overlooked experiences and collective empowerment of women and girls around the world working for change, bringing “heart-centred” and “head-centred” leadership and healing.