

February 3rd, 2017

Dear congregation of Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec,

Last Sunday night, time stopped at Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec when an armed individual chose a peaceful moment of prayer to commit a heinous crime and spread terror. The death of six people has shocked the province and the whole country, as evidenced by the many calls for social harmony and spontaneous demonstrations of solidarity toward Quebec City's Muslim community.

Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCC) wishes to join our voice with others, here and elsewhere, denouncing this terrible act directed against Muslims.

MCC is a Christian organization dedicated to humanitarian relief, community development and peacebuilding. As people of faith, we want to offer our support when other communities of faith become vulnerable due to their beliefs or religious practices.

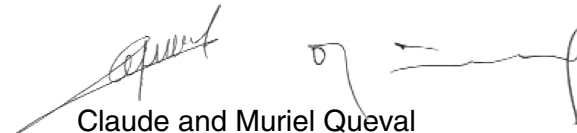
MCC works to build peace and just and fair relationships among diverse communities in Canada and the world. We have fostered friendly relationships with Muslims for many years across the globe, as we work in partnership with Islamic organizations in the areas of humanitarian assistance, trauma healing and interfaith dialogue. In Canada, the employees of MCC Quebec worked with the director and students of a Muslim school on a peace festival in Montréal.

Out of these bonds of friendship with the Muslim community, we express to you our profound grief at this devastating tragedy. We mourn with you the death of your loved ones. MCC offers our sincere condolences to Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec and to the families of the six deceased. Bullets cannot overcome love, since God is love. We pray that Canada will become a welcoming and safe country for all our children.

May God give you His peace.



Don Peters
Executive Director
MCC Canada



Claude and Muriel Queval
Regional Representatives
MCC Québec