

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO TASK FORCE REPORT

A big thank you to Task Force members Marguerite Jack, Justina Heese, Irene Bartel, Waltrude Gortzen, Mylene Melancon, Liz Koop, Ruby Harder and Pamela Klassen (Resource) for their faithful dedication to the task of trying to discover how Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) can *Bridge the Gap and Enlarge the Tent*. (See summary in separate document.)

This Report represents a milestone in our journey to discern the future of our sisterhood. As an Executive we are encouraged by the many comments of those responding to the Survey as well as of Task Force (TF) members. We appreciate the recommendations of the TF and recognize the challenges identified.

In our Executive meetings of early March we identified two main actions that should be addressed in the near future. One is the definition of membership. The second is how to ensure regional representation on the Executive. Recommendations on both are provided below.

1. Definition of membership. At present Membership is defined in the Constitution (2002) as follows: “All groups affiliated with a Provincial Women’s Conference are members”. Two points. First, Provincial Women’s Conferences in British Columbia (BC) and Manitoba (MB) have been dissolved, though in BC a ‘women’s ministry’ has been established by Mennonite Church BC. Second, the definition assumes women need to be part of a “women’s group” to be a member. We honour all existing and future “women’s groups”, but we also want to be open to the participation of women of all backgrounds whether or not connected to a formal group. Flowing from this desire is the following motion:

Motion: It is moved that the definition of membership be changed from “*All groups who are affiliated with a Provincial Women’s Conference are members*” to “***All women who are part of a Mennonite women’s organization or participate in a Mennonite congregation in Canada are welcome.***”

2. Representation on Executive. At present we are missing provincial/regional representatives on the Executive. For the reasons mentioned above, we are recommending that the Executive be empowered to appoint representatives from areas when there are no regional women’s organizations or Women’s Ministries.

Motion: It is moved that the last clause of Article 4a defining membership of the Executive Committee in the Constitution be amended from “... *and the Provincial Presidents*” to “...***and Leaders of provincial/regional women’s organizations or Area Conference women’s ministries. The Executive Committee may appoint a representative in consultation with the Area Conference when there is no provincial/regional member organization or women’s ministry.***”

Annual Meeting and Workshop, July 1, Calgary, Alberta

Please join us for a time of celebration of who we are and where God is leading.