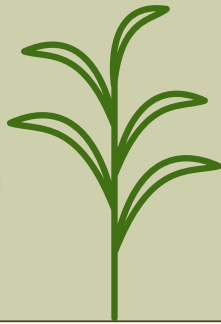


# ORCIE Offerings

January 2024



ORCIE is the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, where Catholic religious are collaboratively increasing their impact on policy change for ecological justice and reconciliation.

On September 15th, 2023 ORCIE was on Parliament Hill with friends from Fridays for Future, For the Love of Creation, KAIROS, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada, Citizens for Public Justice and many more groups for the Global Climate Strike, the biggest in-person rally of the climate movement in Ottawa since the pandemic. The major focus was the urgent need for an oil and gas greenhouse gas emissions cap in Canada, over 2 years overdue!



## Recent social media posts on the release of Laudate Deum, Pope Francis' latest apostolic exhortation

### LAUDATO DEUM

### RETHINKING OUR USE OF POWER...

27. Healthy ecology is also the result of the interaction between human beings and the environment, as occurs in the indigenous cultures and has occurred for centuries in different regions of the earth... The great present-day problem is that the technocratic paradigm has destroyed that healthy and harmonious relationship.

ORCIE BCRÉI

To have hope of addressing the root causes of the climate crisis, leaders of the biggest polluting countries must deliver a fast & fair fossil fuel phase-out and fund it globally. #carryyourfairshare

#endfossilfuels  
#climatestrike



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## MEDIA

### Global Sisters Report National Catholic Reporter



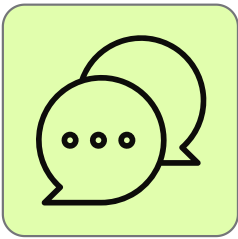
This past summer, one year after the visit of Pope Francis to Canada, Global Sisters Report expanded their coverage of the continuing reconciliation efforts by women religious. ORCIE worked with the author to introduce her to the work of reconciliation being done by women religious across Canada and the plan for one article turned into three.

The first, *A year after Pope Francis' Canada trip, sisters walk long road to reconciliation amid boarding schools' bitter legacy*, highlights Sr. Priscilla Solomon and has a great quote from Sr. Sheila Smith:

"There's a whole debate around 'Can this relationship be reconciled, when there really wasn't a relationship to begin with, when it was a relation of domination?' " she said. "I do believe reconciliation involves our own reconciliation, looking at our own identity and who we want to be in this relationship".

The second article *For Catholic sisters in Canada, reconciliation is a mosaic of action*, includes a section on ORCIE and the third article, *Taking part in reconciliation: Inside the process of life-changing workshops* shares experiences with the Returning to Spirit program.

To read all three excellent articles: [www.globalsistersreport.org/gsr-series/indigenous-boarding-schools/stories](http://www.globalsistersreport.org/gsr-series/indigenous-boarding-schools/stories)



## ON THE HILL

### Learning and Lobbying: New wine and new wineskins

In May of 2023 ORCIE and Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM) organized a successful, multi-day "Learning & Lobbying" series, culminating in meetings in Ottawa on Parliament Hill with MPs and Senators on issues of ecological justice.

Our preparation began with our online education session **SEE: The Problem of Climate Change in the Context of Canadian Public Policy**, a panel conversation with staff from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Climate Action Network–Réseau action climat.

The second step in the process involved 30 religious meeting online for **DISCERN: Levers for Faith Communities**, led by Sr. Sue Wilson, CSJ, PhD – Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. In this session we looked at how our creation-based worldview calls us as people of faith to heal the distorted relationship we have with nature, and to take action with the level of urgency this emergency requires.

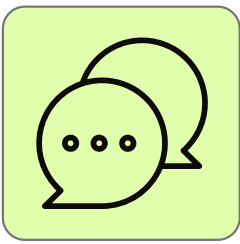
The final step was an in person advocacy training **ACT: What is the focused government action we want to achieve?** by ORCIE's Genevieve Gallant, ahead of visiting 8 MPs, Ministers, and/or Senators on Parliament Hill the following day.

These sessions as well as the excellent debrief can be watched at:

<http://tinyurl.com/learnandlobby>







## ON THE HILL

### Learning and Lobbying: New wine and new wineskins



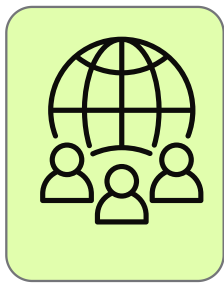
Productive advocacy meetings took place with Senator Rosa Galvez (Quebec), MP Elizabeth May (Green), MP Julie Dabrusin (Liberal), MP Joanne Thompson (Liberal), Sheri Meyerhoff (CORE), MP Peter Fragiskatos (Liberal), MP Damien Kurek (Conservative) and MP Filomena Tassi (Liberal), Minister of Public Services and Procurement.



The day was a great opportunity to attend the House of Commons where we heard London, ON MPs talk about the opioid crisis, and to visit the Senate of Canada for International Women's Day, where ORCIE and women religious were recognized as special guests.







## IN COALITION



Genevieve was a virtual delegate at COP28, the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, from Nov 30–Dec 12, 2023.

Ahead of these negotiations to facilitate international progress on climate action, ORCIE wrote to Catherine Stewart, Canada's Climate Change Ambassador, urging the following focus:

1. Fossil fuel phase out where we cap fossil fuel production, not just emissions. There is no room for new oil and gas fields or coal mines to be opened anywhere in the world.
2. Canada fair share of global effort to limit warming means a strong domestic greenhouse gas emissions cap to cut the sector's emissions by 60% below 2005 levels by 2030, with zero compliance flexibility, offsets, and loopholes.
3. Loss and damage is now the third pillar of climate policy architecture, along with mitigation and adaptation, and should be identified as a form of climate reparations.

## COP28 TOP TAKE AWAYS

- It was a very big deal to have the decision text include specific wording about the transition away from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – are by far the largest contributor to global climate change. Explicitly naming the need for the phaseout of fossil fuels forces the world to recognize we are at the end of an era. COP28 gave us a clear indication of the time-frames: this needs to happen in this critical decade and must achieve net zero emissions globally by 2050. Is it enough? Let's work on limiting the qualifiers and loopholes that allow for ongoing expansion of coal, oil and gas projects.
- Globally and in Canada fossil fuel production is up. Fossil fuel extraction and burning are also associated with many converging and localized social, economic, and environmental harms that are rarely accounted for in climate mitigation scenarios. This is the focus on INTEGRAL ECOLOGY.
- Courage is contagious. During the summit 4 countries joined the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, including Colombia!
- Globally and in Canada, between the provinces like Alberta and B.C., an equitable transition away from fossil fuel production must recognize differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.
- Up next is FINANCE, postponed to COP29 for the adoption of a new climate finance goal (NCQC). This new goal will replace developed countries' current commitment of providing \$100 billion annually in climate finance to developing nations, first agreed to in 2009. The new goal will need to take into account developing countries' needs and priorities, estimated at \$5.8 trillion – \$5.9 trillion up until 2030.



## TAKE THE WIN

Do you know of other Catholic colleges and universities we might challenge to follow suit?

### **ORCIE is proud to have played a role in Saint Paul University's recent announcement that it has divested from fossil fuels!**

In 2023 ORCIE joined 7 campus organizations/unions in a divestment campaign with the fresh 'win' shared publicly at a special event where SPU was recognized as a Blue Community by Maude Barlow and the Council of Canadians.

SPU is joining a growing number of municipalities, schools and faith-based groups that have adopted principles that treat water as a common good, one that is shared by everyone and the responsibility of all, as well as committing to develop action plans to engage with students about these principles through popular education and in tangible ways such as installing new water fountains and refill stations.

SPU is the 7th university and 104th community to take the Blue Community pledge!

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"The Blue Community commitment aligns with SPU's broader social responsibility initiatives, which includes divesting from fossil fuel-based funds and prioritizing investments in enterprises that are socially and environmentally responsible."

SPU Goes Blue: A Pledge for Water Sustainability and Access, January 24, 2024

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ORCIE believes in the importance of a renewed dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We know facing the environmental challenges ahead of us requires improved collaboration and non-partisanship.

**Will you join us for our upcoming Lobby Day March 21, 2024 in Ottawa? Our Learning & Lobbying process prepares small teams to meet with MPs and Senators on Parliament Hill.**

Learning & Lobbying: EMBRACING THE ENERGY TRANSITION:

- Monday March 18: Online webinars
- Wednesday March 20: In-person training on advocacy at St. Paul University with ORCIE
- Thursday March 21: Meetings with MPs and Senators on Parliament Hill

Contact Genevieve for more information!



# JOIN US!

ORCIE invites religious congregations who are interested in joining ORCIE to reach out to Genevieve Gallant, Executive Director  
613-400-1631  
[ggallant@socecojustice.org](mailto:ggallant@socecojustice.org)