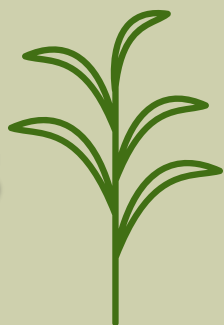


ORCIE Offerings

October 2024, Issue #4



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.

SEASON OF CREATION

ORCIE Unites with Hundreds to Demand a Just, Fossil-Free Future at Ottawa-Gatineau Climate March

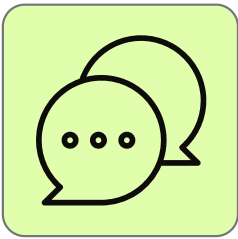
On the Season of Creation Action Day, September 21, 2024, ORCIE participated in the Gatineau-Ottawa Climate March alongside friends from Fridays for Future and various partner organizations, including Citizens for Public Justice, the Laudato Si Movement, For the Love of Creation, as well as individual parishioners from St. Joseph's, St. Mark the Evangelist, and Canadian Martyrs Parish.

The focus of the march was to call out six organizations—Ottawa City Hall, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Canadian Gas Association, the Province of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and Export Development Canada—that are obstructing effective climate policy, spreading misinformation, and funding the detrimental fossil fuel industry.

The climate rally brought together hundreds of voices in Ottawa, demanding a just, thriving, fossil fuel-free future for all!



twitter.com/eco_socjustice
facebook.com/eco_socjustice

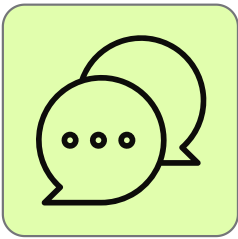


ON THE HILL

ORCIE and Partners Held Meeting with Minister Guilbeault, Encouraging Canada's Climate Ambition and Inspiring Future Collaboration Amongst the Minister and Faith Leaders

After months of ORCIE's dedicated efforts to arrange a meeting with Minister Guilbeault, the opportunity finally came on August 28, 2024. ORCIE, together with KAIROS and Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), met with Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, and his Senior Advisor, Jennifer Lash. The zoom meeting aimed to encourage Canada to adopt more ambitious climate targets, explore the mutual benefits of closer collaboration, and establish ongoing relationships with the Minister and his team to advance shared goals of decarbonization and a just transition for workers. This meeting follows from a November 2023 letter, spearheaded by ORCIE, and signed by 13 church leaders and faith organizations calling for an urgent meeting to dialogue on how Canada can strengthen its climate commitments.





ON THE HILL

Representing ORCIE, Sue Wilson thanked the Minister for the work on recent climate regulations and called for deeper emissions reductions, a cap on oil and gas emissions, and increased international climate finance. CPJ's Maryo Wahba highlighted the "Give It Up for the Earth" campaign, while KAIROS' Cheryl McNamara shared the success of Climate Action Weeks and the "100 Faithful Climate Conversations" initiative. These presentations emphasized faith communities' strong desire to collaborate more closely on climate justice.

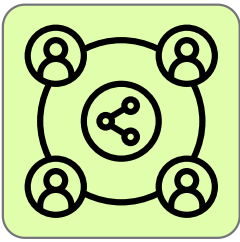
Minister Guilbeault was highly receptive, recognizing faith groups as valuable allies in the push for climate policy. However, he acknowledged the challenges posed by fossil fuel lobbyists and legal limitations on regulating natural resources. He outlined ongoing government efforts, including consultations on 2030 climate targets, new regulations on plastic production, and initiatives to empower Indigenous communities to lead climate adaptation projects. The meeting concluded with a request for an in-person gathering with church leaders. The Minister responded enthusiastically, stating, **"It would fill me with joy. I'm sure we can make this happen!"**—signaling continued dialogue and collaboration.

A letter was sent to the office of Minister Guilbeault at the beginning of October, requesting an in-person meeting. ORCIE is eagerly awaiting a response, though it acknowledges that the Minister's preparations for COP 29 in November may delay the scheduling. Meanwhile, ORCIE and its partners will continue to actively monitor and follow up on this matter!

ORCIE  BCRÉI

“I have deep appreciation for the work you do. I agree you are allies to people like me in the government, who are trying to move the needle on climate and justice issues.”

— Honourable Steven
Guilbeault



COLLABORATION

Update: ORCIE's Strategic Planning Meeting in Ottawa



We are excited to share highlights from ORCIE's recent strategic meeting held at our office at St. Paul University in Ottawa on September 10-11. Two of our executive committee members, Sue Wilson, sj and Darlene O'Leary, traveled to join ORCIE's treasurer, Joe Gunn, Executive Director, Genevieve Gallant, new staff member Sasquia Antúnez Pineda, and Le Centre Oblat new Executive Director, Tara Hurford for an inspiring day of prayer, team building, and reflection on ORCIE's programs this fall. We also had the privilege of hearing from Sheila Smith, rscj ORCIE Board member, regarding potential connections with Indigenous organizations in Canada.

This encounter provided a valuable opportunity to review our successes and challenges over the past year and to discuss ORCIE's work plan and programming initiatives for 2025, particularly our intention to increase our work on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

In addition, we reviewed a drafted website plan, identified programming priorities for the coming year, and assessed our financial position. Key next steps included the development of concept papers on the topics of reframing the carbon-tax election discourse and Jubilee 2025, website content, and pre-election educational tools for our members. As we look ahead, we are eager to determine what we can accomplish together before the upcoming election in Canada, ensuring our advocacy efforts remain impactful and aligned with our mission.



LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Climate Aligned Finance

The climate emergency calls for new energy to debate ambitious ideas and innovative solutions – including ideas for our federally regulated financial institutions, who need to get in line with the science and Canada's international commitments. Instead of debating the best in international financial practices the Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy is letting Bill S-243 on Climate Aligned Finance languish. ORCIE long ago joined over 120 organizations endorsing Bill S-243 as a crucial starting point on how we will invest in a fair and just future for the next generation. We know climate change is risky business for individual companies or for banks, but what about the systemic risk that federal financial institutions impose on the real economy when they are financing fossil fuel expansion?

It's time to recognize Bill S-243 as a key climate solution and move this bill forward. While many are preparing for COP29 in Azerbaijan, at home in Canada let's ensure our financial system does not continue to fund activities that are fueling the climate emergency. **Watch for upcoming advocacy activities on this file!**

Clean Water for All!

How can religious congregations contribute to building political will for action on reconciliation? By keeping clean drinking water in First Nations communities front and centre. Bill C-61, currently in front of the House's Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs and the North, aims to ensure that First Nations have reliable access to sufficient, adequate, safe drinking water and effective wastewater disposal.

To date Indigenous Services Canada has been unable to provide effective water treatment systems, with sufficient resources and training etc., and there has been little and no regulatory regime. Will Bill C-61 move us forward, where we would see the federal government finally supply each and every community with effective water treatment systems, and commit to a transfer of ownership to give First Nations responsibility for their drinking water? **How can the Bill be improved? Council on Canadians has some recommendations and a call to action:**

<https://canadians.org/analysis/briefing-note-bill-c61-first-nations-clean-water-act/>

Let's keep in mind if the Bill does not make it through the House and Senate before the election it will likely be an issue we can highlight on the campaign trail.

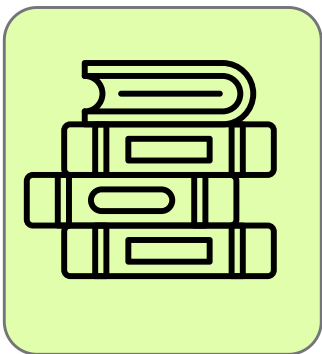


ADDING OUR VOICES

Supporting the
Migrant Rights
Network!

<https://migrantrights.ca/>

ORCIE has supported the Migrant Rights Network since our beginnings, and we are proud to be part of a broad and united front that refuses to accept migrant scapegoating and speaks up in support of immigration rights before more changes are made. Canada's temporary immigration system fuels precariousness and vulnerability, perpetuating systemic discrimination. It needs a fundamental overhaul with a focus on expanding rights and ensuring permanent residency on landing and for all. Join our call for change as an individual here: **SEND A MESSAGE:** [Permanent Residency & Rights, Not Cuts – Migrant Rights Network](#). Find ORCIE as part of the **organizational endorsement for this open letter** here: [MigrantRights.ca/OpenLetterForMigrants](https://migrantrights.ca/OpenLetterForMigrants)

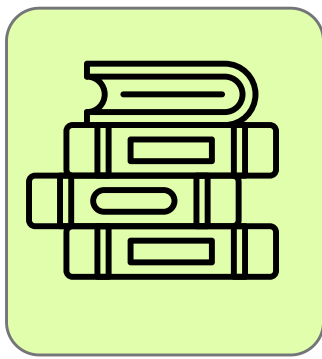


RESOURCES

ORCIE  BCRÉI

How would you explain Integral Ecology in 2 minutes (an elevator speech)?

The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) is a network of over two dozen Catholic religious congregations across Canada who have a long history of addressing social, economic, and environmental issues. Catholic congregations of women and men established schools and hospitals as well as social outreach, land, and water protection projects. ORCIE focuses on climate change, not only because it is a defining issue of our time, but because it interacts with multiple other critical issues such as Indigenous rights, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, migration, and health, among others. We take a systemic approach, advocating for “integral ecology,” that is, policy changes that can contribute to relationships of solidarity with people and the planet.



RESOURCES



ORCIE Celebrates Peace@COP29 for Highlighting the Essential Role of Peace and Conflict Sensitivity in Climate Action Negotiations

In early October 2024, **Peace@COP29** generated significant attention on social media and at the Berlin Climate Security Conference with the launch of their policy paper, “Navigating the Peace and Security Implications of Climate Change: Recommendations on the Climate Conflict Nexus at COP29.” This important document outlines key recommendations for embedding peace into climate action negotiations.

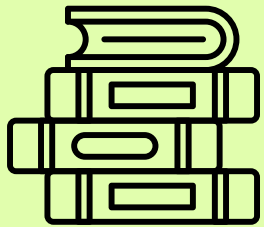
We encourage everyone to engage with these recommendations and help promote the critical intersection of peace and climate action. Read the full recommendations here: [Navigating the Climate Conflict Nexus.](#)

Ahead of COP29 in Azerbaijan, CAN-Rac Releases New Analysis on Canada's Climate Commitments

Before policy staff, Canadian government officials and oil and gas lobbyists travel to the ‘Finance COP’ in Azerbaijan, CAN-Rac has launched an important report titled ***Paving the Way to an Equitable Future***, which evaluates Canada's progress toward its 2030 climate commitments and outlines recommendations for the country's upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) – the pledges that form the foundation of the world's collective efforts to tackle climate change under the Paris Agreement.

Every 5 years each country must augment their commitments, and share the accompanying plans to bring them to life, to go beyond meeting the 1.5 °C target agreed on in the Paris Agreement. The 2023 UNEP Emissions Gap report indicates that current NDCs may lead to a 2.9°C rise, far beyond the 1.5°C limit.

“Canada’s NDC is more than just an emission reduction target; it’s about the relationship between people and the planet.”



RESOURCES



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Benchmarks are needed to guide a transformative NDC that is focused on equity, human rights, rapid decarbonization, and financial realignment. In its new analysis, CAN-Rac is calling for:

Advance Equity: Set an emissions reduction target of 80% below 2005 levels by 2035 and aim for net-zero by 2050.

Support Developing Nations: Facilitate emissions reductions equivalent to 160% of Canada's 2005 emissions through climate finance to developing nations.

Increase Climate Finance: Triple bilateral climate finance to \$15.9 billion between 2026–2031, balancing mitigation and adaptation.

Uphold Rights: Ensure that implementation respects human rights, including feminist approaches, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Rapid decarbonization: strengthen sector-specific goals for oil and gas, transportation, and carbon pricing.

Shift Financial Flows: Reform fossil fuel subsidies and align export financing with climate goals.

Enhance Resilience: Prioritize nature-based solutions and integrate health into Canada's climate strategy.

Promote Just Transition: Commit to effective implementation of the Sustainable Jobs Act.

As ORCIE moves forward in its advocacy efforts toward the 2025 year, these important recommendations are essential to consider in our push for climate justice and meaningful action on climate change policy.

You can access the report here: [Paving the Way to an Equitable Future](#)



WHO IS ORCIE?

Congregation Notre Dame-Visitation Province

Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of

Jesus and Mary

Jesuits of Canada

Les Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de

l'Immaculée-Conception

Les Ursulines de l'Union Canadienne

Presentation Sisters

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Œuvres Marie-Anne-Lavallé (Franciscan

Oblates St Joseph)

Scarboro Missions

Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus

Sisters of Holy Cross

Sisters of Mercy

Sisters of our Lady of the Missions

Sisters of St. Joseph Canada

Sisters of St. Joseph Toronto

Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie

Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish

Sisters of St. Martha, Charlottetown

Society of the Sacred Heart

Soeurs de St. Joseph de St Vallier

Sisters of Charity, Halifax

Congrégation des Filles de Jésus- Région Canada

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

JOIN US!



ORCIE invites religious congregations who are interested in joining to reach out to:

**Genevieve Gallant,
ORCIE Executive Director
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Email: GGallant@socecojustice.org**

**Sasquia Antúñez Pineda,
ORCIE Researcher
Tel. 647-782-8068
Email: sapineda@orcie.org**

ORCIE  **BCRÉI**