

## Report of the President

This is my second and last report as president of CRIC. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity through the last two eventful years. During my time as president we reviewed our mission and objective statements as a way of reminding ourselves of our *raison d'être*. During that time of review, we realized that our mission statement needed to be edited in order to more accurately reflect the religious groups we represent. This involved reconsidering the references to a 'Supreme Being', which while important for many groups, is limiting for others.

Last year at our annual general meeting, we adopted our new Mission and Purpose statements, thereby reminding ourselves that the purpose statements are a call to action to make our work known, and act together for the common good. However even as we did this, we recognized the need to leave space for dissent where dissent is present. It is a sign of health in any organization that difference of opinion can be expressed without tearing at the fabric of the organization.

This past year marked the Canada 150 celebration in our nation. We took this as a challenge and expanded our annual Joy of Faith celebration to meet this national festival by holding a successful event marking our unity, and diversity. I am indebted to Frances Deverell for her energy and her strong leadership on this file. To all accounts this was a very good event with lots of positive feedback. I sent a note of thanks to Frances, on our behalf, to congratulate and thank her.

Again this year we came together in a Cleaning the Capital event and in our annual Interfaith Service. These visible activities in the world are a sign of our cooperation and mutual support and are greatly welcome. The Cleaning the Capital happened while I was on Sabbath leave so I cannot report directly on that, but the Inter-Faith Service was a great success. I had much positive feedback from participants who made a point of passing on their thanks to us through me.

The one outstanding piece of business that we must bring forward into the New Year is that, sadly, after much hard work on the part of Frances, our Website was hacked and destroyed. As a result it will have to be rebuilt. I feel that there is some real urgency to accomplish this as I know that the site is (was) used. I have had people talk to me about it on a number of occasions. Not only is it a great tool for passing on our learning to the world, it is one of the ways we fulfill the call of our Mission and objectives. I know that now-a-days, there are some easy to use web programs which can be maintained by anyone. It will likely take some money to initially set it up, but maintaining the site is easier than ever. If I had one wish for the new year of CRIC it would be that we find ways of more effectively communicating our work and conversations to the world.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wilker-Blakley