



M S C M
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

THE SOU'WESTER

MONTREAL-SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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SUMMER 2011



Looking forward to the summer months? So are we!

The Sou'Wester will be taking a break and this will be the last issue until September.

However, take special note that our *Open Door* Tuesday evening meetings (7-9 p.m. at 1444 Union Street, metro McGill) will continue throughout the summer months

Feel free to contact us any time with your feedback and/or requests. Our contact information can be found on the last page.

Happy Summer to all and see you in September!

MAINSTREAM IN 3 YEARS? E-LAWYERING

Recently a New Brunswick judge ordered a lawyer to force his client to download her *Facebook* page so that it could be used against her in a personal injury lawsuit with an insurer.

The lawyer, James Crocco, was told by the judge, F. P. Ferguson of Court of Queen's Bench, that he should hire another lawyer to summon his client to a meeting without telling her what it was about and obtain the download lest she delete some of her photos and videos.

The case has since been settled out of court with a cash award for the woman claiming a settlement from the insurer of the other driver involved in the car accident that injured her.

That stumped plans by her lawyer to challenge the order in appeals court on the grounds that it was the equivalent of executing a civil search warrant on his client and that it threatened

her right to legal advice.

It is unclear whether such an order could be issued in Quebec. The case—similar in nature to one in Quebec last year that captured world-wide attention—underlines how social media and new technology are changing the ways lawyers can advance or defend their clients' claims in court.

What jurisprudence does exist in Quebec relative to the use of social media as evidence in courts and what legal tools are available to different parties were discussed at the 5th edition of the Legal IT Conference held in April in Montreal.

"If you don't stay informed, you cease to be relevant," said Marcel Naud of *Robic LLP*. He added that forward-looking issues that could be in the mainstream including the dispensing of legal services to the public over the internet were featured.

Richard Granat, recently described by technology magazine *Wired* as a pioneer

in the field of E-lawyering, is the founder of Washington, D.C.-based *Granat Legal Services, P.C.*, one of the first virtual law firms in the United States and is also co-president of the American Bar Association's task force on E-lawyering.

Granat is quoted—some would say provocatively—as saying: "E-lawyering will be mainstream in three years. I predict that in five years, if you're a small firm and don't offer this kind of service, you're not going to make it."

Legal Zoom, which just last month won a lawsuit in the United States launched by a lawyer over its practice of law, also operates in Canada (see www.legalzoom.ca). It is only one of a growing number of services in Canada that offer self-help packaged legal information online, usually for a fee, and then consultation with a lawyer if needed, in the name of providing greater access to the law for all citizens.

Source: The Montreal Gazette

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HAVE YOU SEEN OUR ANNUAL REPORT?

We are pleased and proud to announce the availability of our Annual Report 2010-2011 providing a window on our community life, programs and services.

Please contact us if you wish to receive a copy.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA PROMISING TO MAKE GOOD ON PLEDGES

One month after Canadians gave Prime Minister Stephen Harper a majority mandate in the House of Commons, the governing Conservatives have revealed they will use the power to reduce taxes, eliminate the deficit in four years, reform the Senate, **and crack down on crime.**

Indeed, the Throne Speech outlined a range of

Conservative government priorities now that it has the majority to ensure passage of bills that were held up in the previous minority Parliament.

The speech mirrored the Conservatives' election platform, which promised to provide the 'steady hand' needed to protect and create jobs while the country continues its recovery from the global recession.

Of the five priorities outlined by the Tories is to crack down on

crime and make Canadian streets safer by bundling about 12 law-and-order bills into a package of omnibus bills. They range from ending house arrest of criminals and ending automatic pardons for serious crimes to cracking down on organized crime and protecting children from sexual predators. The government pledges to pass the crime bills within 100 sitting days of Parliament's launch.

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th US President*

HARPER'S AGENDA DISASTROUS, PAGE SAYS....



A Senate Page was kicked out of the upper chamber during the reading of the Throne Speech for holding up a sign that read "Stop Harper".

Brigette DePape, 21, issued a news release after she was escorted out of the Senate saying that "Harper's agenda is disastrous for this country and for my generation." She describes herself as a recent graduate from the University of Ottawa who had been working as a Page for year but 'realized that working within parliament wouldn't stop Harper's agenda.'

"Contrary to Harper's rhetoric, Conservative values are not in fact Canadian values. How could they be when 3 out of 4 eligible voters didn't even given their support to the Conservatives?," she is quoted as saying in the release. She was subsequently fired.

REQUESTING CALL TO ACTION....

The following letter has been sent to **all** elected New Democratic Party Opposition MPs including those named to the Opposition Shadow Cabinet; for example, Joe Comartin for Justice and Jasbir Sandhu for Public Safety.

Key Liberal Party of Canada MPs have also been sent a similar letter including Bob Rae, Interim Leader, Ralph Goodale, Deputy Leader, Marc Garneau, House Leader, Francis Scarpaleggia, Critic for Public Safety and Irwin Cotler, Critic for Justice and Human Rights.

This is a call to action for all our valued partners, volunteers, and community members. The time is now—we must get our voices heard.

You can reach sitting MPs (308) by mail postage free at: House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6. To find your elected MPs of Canada's Parliament visit the website shown on the left and a complete listing with ridings and party membership can be easily found.

Visit these websites and you can also e-mail your elected officials:

New Democratic Party of Canada:
www.ndp.ca

Liberal Party of Canada:
www.liberalpartyofcanada.ca

Members of Parliament:
www.membersofparliament.ca



June 1, 2011

Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the Official Opposition
New Democratic Party
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Layton,

Many of us are shocked and extremely concerned by the results of the recent election, concerned on many fronts but in particular over prospects for justice and public safety in our country. We are deeply worried that the new government is free now to continue with heartless, and harsh measures with support from only about 24% of eligible voters (40% of 60%), a figure which reduces to approximately half of that when representation of the entire population and their interests is considered.

We congratulate the NDP for their impressive performance and deserved results: especially in Quebec where you have facilitated an expression of community solidarity around the principles of social democracy, an expression of diverse traditions which represent us.

MSCM is an intentional community of persons who are committed to the overcoming of division, woundedness and marginalization by including all who are affected by crime and its repercussions. We are informed by the principles of restorative justice and serve with the assistance of many volunteers to assist the social reintegration of offenders consistent with safety for all.

I write now to say to you who will lead the parliamentary opposition, that many of us worry about the direction of government policy and legislation in the last few years with regard to justice and public safety issues, a movement we fear will further harden in this new parliament. Underlying our concern about many of the particularly punitive measures taken and now to be implemented, is our sense, and fear, that we are all, the whole people of Canada, being implicated in a process of "violentization" that hardly any would desire.

Our experience of making and nourishing our community, and one another, has shown us that the radical but managed hospitality which we exercise gives much greater assurances of safety, productivity, and community peace, all at very little cost, than does the harshness of exclusion, punishment, fear and hopelessness which are the outcomes, and indeed the currency of the government's direction which shackle us as a community, while crippling us financially.

I would be pleased, and I also speak for others in our community, to assist in your work as opposition to these measures that are inimical to our interests as a peaceful, just, and compassionate people. Is there some way that we can assist the efforts of opposition, a resource for you perhaps, providing examples which attest to the merit of the alternative approach, to inclusive, healing community? We are linked with many other community groups who share this vision and practice. Might a coalition or common expression of such people serve in mounting an effective opposition?

It is clear that steps need to be taken. There is much to be done, with urgency, if the desperation which many people feel at the prospect of unrepresentative action now threatening us, is to be relieved.

Yours sincerely

Peter Huish
Chaplain Coordinator

NOW IN FORCE...**BILL C-59 ACCELERATED PAROLE REVIEW**

For example, with a sentence of 12 years, an offender is only eligible to apply for parole after serving 3-1/2 years of their sentence, instead of 2 years under the former Accelerated Parole Review (APR)

Bill C-59, an *Act to Amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (Accelerated Parole Review), came into force on March 28, 2011.

The coming into force of Bill C-59 has resulted in the elimination of Accelerated Parole Review (APR). As a result, offenders who were eligible for APR can no longer apply for day parole after serving one sixth (1/6) of their sentence.

Like other offenders, they can apply for day parole 6 months before their full parole eligibility date, or 6 months into their sentence, whichever is longer.

While the test for directing parole under APR focused on whether the offender was likely to commit a new *violent offence* before the end of their sentence, the decision is based, as with all other offenders, on the individual's *risk to re-offend in general*, established in Section 102 of the CCRA.

Source: National Parole Board

DID YOU KNOW?**SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS**

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

George Orwell

- ◆ The crime rate increased during the 1980s and has steadily decreased since. The property crime rate in 2007 was 41% lower than in 1983, and 46% lower since peaking in 1991. Violent crime peaked in 1992, gradually decreased until 2004. After two years of small increases, the violent crime rate decreased 2.5% last year.
- ◆ Canada's incarceration rate is higher than the rates in most Western European countries but much lower than the United States, which had an incarceration rate of 762 per 100,000 general population in 2007-08. The incarceration rate in Canada has decreased 18% from 131 per 100,000 in 1996 to 108 per 100,000 in 2007-08, whereas most Western European rates have remained stable.
- ◆ The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has a total staff of about 15,400 (as of March 31, 2008), with 77% of staff working in institutions, while staff employed in community supervision account for 8% of the total.
- ◆ The average annual cost of keeping a male inmate incarcerated was \$90,744. It costs substantially less to maintain an offender in the community than to keep that individual incarcerated (\$23,076 per year versus \$93,030 per year).
- ◆ In the 10-year period (1996-7 to 2005-6), 532 federal offenders have died while in custody, 7.3% of which were due to homicide. The suicide rate was 86.0 per 100,000 people, significantly higher than Canada's 2004 rate of 11.3 suicides per 100,000 people.

Source: 2008-2009 Parole Board of Canada Performance Monitoring Report

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!
OPEN DOOR**

These words are written vertically, horizontally (including backwards) and diagonally. Circle each letter used and discover what the unused letters reveal.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| best | emotions | justice | smoke break |
| boast | entrees | learn | special |
| bore | escort | leave | spiritual moment |
| cakes | film | noise | Tuesday |
| code | friends | outside | union |
| coffee | games | participate | upstairs |
| cookies | halfway house | prison | van |
| cracker | introduce | reintegration | vision |
| diocese | joke | restorative | |

16 Letters

t	u	e	s	d	a	y	e	s	e	c	o	i	d
e	p	e	l	a	i	c	e	p	s	t	o	e	k
s	s	f	i	l	m	n	t	i	c	h	n	d	a
u	t	f	a	p	i	b	n	r	o	b	o	r	e
o	a	o	r	a	n	o	s	i	r	p	i	e	r
h	i	c	e	r	t	a	n	t	t	i	s	k	b
y	r	e	s	t	r	s	j	u	s	t	i	c	e
a	s	d	t	i	o	t	o	a	n	a	v	a	k
w	e	i	o	c	d	v	k	l	e	i	c	r	o
f	e	s	r	i	u	s	e	m	a	g	o	c	m
l	r	t	a	p	c	e	m	o	t	i	o	n	s
a	t	u	t	a	e	r	s	m	s	e	k	a	c
h	n	o	i	t	a	r	g	e	t	n	i	e	r
l	e	a	v	e	s	i	o	n	r	a	e	l	a
f	r	i	e	n	d	s	r	t	y	t	s	e	b

Show your answer to Jeri and receive a prize!



Reminder:

*Open Door will continue
throughout the
Summer months....
every Tuesday evening
7-9 p.m.
1444 Union Street
(metro McGill)*



M S C M
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

Donations of time and service are also welcome.

We are especially looking for volunteers who would be interested in escorting.

Please contact:

Jeri
Volunteer
Co-ordinator
(514)244-6147

Please mail your cheques to:

MSCM
1439 St. Catherine St.
West
Montreal, QC
H3G 1S6

ROUNDABOUT

As I felt the thorns of uncertainty,
Questioning my existing direction,
I could no longer favour my future
With any description of conviction.
Two possible paths presented themselves:
One would pledge a life of security;
One could take me to the edge of despair.
One was effortless, and one was the truth.
One involved nodding my head in consent
Of pre-sanctioned unswerving solutions...
No decision responsibility;
A life without accountability.
But humanity is worthy of truth:
Not that as understood by ignorance,
But that which is felt through love and kindness...
I faced an option without any choice.
On a sinuous course of obstacles
Of inconspicuous perplexity
Flavoured with unabashed criticism,
I sought a target of unknown outline.
And though you might think my struggle futile
For insufficiency of conclusion—
My steps will be pursued by some others...
Where I have stumbled, they will carry on
And my soul shall be forever thankful.

Roger Letourneau

PLEASE SUPPORT MSCM

MSCM is a volunteer organization welcoming ex-offenders back to the community by supporting them in their social, spiritual, social, emotional and practical needs. We foster restoration and accountability and attend to the needs of all those affected by crime.

MSCM has relied upon support from the Community Chaplaincy of Montreal (Aumônerie de Communautaire de Montréal) and individual donors like you. The stigma associated with offenders brings financial and other challenges with it. Your contribution helps.

I support **MSCM** and am enclosing a donation of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- Other: _____

*Note: Cheques less than \$50 should be made payable to **MSCM**.*

Cheques greater than \$50 should be made payable to:

Anglican Diocese of Montreal, memo: MSCM.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$50 or greater.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E:mail: _____

TAYLOR PRIZE NOMINEE—QUEBEC
FERNAND BESSETTE

Congratulations to Brother Fernand Bessette, nominated for the Quebec region to obtain the 2010 **Taylor Award**.

The Taylor Award was established in November 2001—the International Year of Volunteers. It is presented annually by CSC and the National Volunteer Association during an official award ceremony to an outstanding CSC volunteer who has shown exceptional dedication to the service.

The award is named after Dr. Charles Taylor and his wife, Charlotte, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia for their lifetime dedication to faith-based counseling with offenders in correctional facilities and in the community, and for Dr. Taylor's contribution to the development of prison ministry education.

In 1969, Fernand visited India as a missionary, where he taught college and university students. There he learned the importance of family ties and the importance of solidarity. He also joined the *L'Arche* community in Bangalore (India), which is an international faith-based group that helps people with a variety of developmental disabilities.

Fernand began working with inmates and ex-inmates reintegrating into society in 2000.

He began volunteering with *Free Entry*, and then worked as an accompanist for *VISA* (Violence prohibited on others). He participates in circles of support and accountability (CoSA) under the Restorative Justice program of the Jean Paul Morin Corporation.

He is the symbol of a great man capable of compassion, openness and accountability.

By maintaining quality relationships with those he calls “our men”, Fernand is working to increase awareness of society to a more welcoming and safer one for all.

During their Annual General Meeting, held on April 30, 2011 at the Collège Notre-Dame, the Conseil des églises pour la justice et criminology du Québec (CEJCCQ), Fernand was honored for his 50 years of religious life and his undeniable devotion to inmate social reintegration. **MSCM** members attended this occasion to join in the celebration of his life.

Fernand continues to volunteer for **MSCM**, regularly escorting for **Open Door's** Tuesday meetings and provides steadfast support for all of our participants.

MSCM would like to congratulate Fernand for this worthy honor and wish him all the best for his next fifty years!



Fernand Bessette

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

Henry David Thoreau

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice is a non-adversarial, non-retributive approach to justice that emphasizes healing in victims, meaningful accountability of offenders, and the involvement of citizens in creating healthier and safer communities.

Crime is a violation of people and relationships. Restorative Justice works to repair the damage and promote healing and growth—important tools in finding more peaceful and collaborative ways of resolving conflicts in our society.

Restorative Justice strives to provide support and opportunities for voluntary participation and communication between those affected—victims, offenders and community—to encourage accountability, reparation, and movement towards understanding, feelings of satisfaction, healing and closure.

“The real measure of a community is what we do with those who are marginalized.

No one is disposable.”

Circles of Support and Accountability



MSCM
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

CRIMINAL STEALS LUMBER !

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

"What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And...houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."

"Joking is undignified; that is why it is so good for one's soul."

G. K. Chesterton, English writer

A couple had two little mischievous boys, ages 8 and 10. They were always getting into trouble, and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons would get the blame. The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed and asked to see them individually. So, the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon.

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open. The clergyman repeated the question, "Where is God?"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice some more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room. He ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied: "We are in real BIG trouble this time! God is missing and they think we did it!"

THE LAST LAUGH

- ◆ Today's Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? With hymns from a full choir.
- ◆ The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- ◆ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- ◆ To most Christians, the Bible is like a software license. Nobody actually reads it. They just scroll to the bottom and click "I agree".

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