



December 13, 2016

Declaration of Dialogue and Partnership

For generations, Canadians representing a wide range of faith communities have offered unique perspectives and made invaluable contributions in the public policy arena. Evangelical and Jewish Canadians are no exception to this legacy of public service, policy development, and civic engagement.

While Evangelicals and Jews have distinct theological perspectives, our communities share many foundational values, interests and concerns that afford an opportunity for joint advocacy initiatives. Specifically, we have a shared imperative to advocate for:

- Policies to **support society's most vulnerable members and advance social justice in Canada**, including greater access to palliative care and affordable housing;
- The preservation and protection of **freedom of religion in Canada**, including opposition to initiatives that limit freedom of conscience and expressions of faith that are consistent with democracy and pluralism; and
- Policies and initiatives that reflect **Canada's role in the world as a leading voice for human rights**, including practical measures to advance peace and security in the Middle East and support persecuted minorities throughout the region.

In light of the serious and pressing nature of the challenges described above, we join together today to declare a formal partnership between the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) and the Centre for Israel Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and to engage in meaningful and ongoing dialogue on the above issues. Through a series of structured, biennial sessions conducted by four representatives of each organization – in addition to ongoing conversations between professional staff – we will endeavour to strengthen mutual understanding and identify joint advocacy opportunities in the above policy areas. The term of this partnership will be two years, with renewal to be effected by mutual agreement.

Our communities – together with all Canadians – are blessed to live in a vibrant democracy that values freedom, pluralism, and social harmony. In shared purpose, we will work to uphold our forebears' legacy of democratic engagement by advocating for policies that embody Canada's core values and benefit Canadian society as a whole.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Clemenger".

Bruce Clemenger
On Behalf of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shimon Koffler Fogel".

Shimon Koffler Fogel, PhD
On Behalf of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs