



# News from the Student Christian Movement

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## From the Canada Office

Summer is a time for SCMerS to try new routines, different work schedules, travel and sports. This year has also been a time of nervously checking the news, muttering prayers on the fly, and trying to find places for joy and enthusiasm. The semester is almost upon us, and we are reminded to take a deep breath before we dive in.

At times like these I try to remember that **fire needs oxygen, fuel, and heat to burn**. Two out of three are not sufficient - only miraculous fires burn without consuming fuel (the Burning Bush, the Maccabean Menorah). In our lives, we need more than just outrage, or optimism, or opportunity, to do our work well. We are a spiritual people who need practical ways to express our dreams for society. Finding this balance is only possible in community with others. The SCM exists to nurture the fire for justice and allow it to burn healthily; warmth and light for all.



Peter Haresnape  
General Secretary  
SCM Canada

My prayer for the coming semester is that we would all be inspired by the Holy Spirit as She does Her work among us, pricking consciences, reviving the weary, and bringing joy. Thank you supporting for the vision of the SCM!

## 2017 Autumn Calendar

### **September 23** – A Pinch of Salt: Everyone Belongs in the Kitchen!

*St Andrews-By-The-Lake, Toronto Island, Ontario*

God is stirring up a recipe for change— and there's a place for all us in God's kitchen! This retreat for students and young adults offers a prayerful experience of Crafting & Conversation, explores the spiritual practice of food provision, and analyses the violence of White Supremacy and ways to oppose it in our churches and schools.

### **October 16-21** – Mamawe Ota Askihk – Sharing Life Together Here on Earth

*Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, Beausejour, Manitoba*

Gather with Indigenous community leaders and settler allies to reclaim the homespoken, homegrown, and homemade. Explore scripture in an Indigenous land-based context and share your skills with others.

**October 16 – 20:** A week-long festival where we'll winnow wild rice, tan an animal hide, smoke fish, can berry preserves, share skills and tell stories.

**October 21:** The "Feast for Friends" will wrap up with games, ceremony, show & tell, and of course, sharing good food.

### **October 20-22** – Your Faith on Feminism – Intersectional Feminist Theology Responds to the Climate of Fear

*St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta, Edmonton*

An interfaith & ecumenical conference where feminist advocates of various ages and walks of life will share ideas, build community and participate in worship. The program will encompass discussion-based educational and creative breakout sessions, music and worship, and reflections on what it means to be a feminist in the present, global atmosphere of fear, war and oppression.

## Cahoots 2017 – Holy Ground & Canada 150

The annual **Cahoots Festival** came around once more - a weekend of community, reflection, worship, creativity, and action! Cahoots 2017 engaged 140 people, including 30 children, in intergenerational activities, conversation, and life together.



This year's theme looked at **'Holy Ground'** in relation to Canada 150, exploring ways of life that speak truth, disrupt settler colonial narratives, reconcile Indigenous-settler relationships, and heal the land. This culminated in a raucous Sunday Morning retelling of the Genesis Creation Story to counter Canada's colonial mythology, enacted by the children.

Throughout the weekend, workshops initiated conversations about many topics, including how we name ourselves and our faiths, how to live kindly with the earth, and the value of poetry as creative truth-telling. Artistic highlights included an all-ages music session, intro to needle felting, flag decorating, and inaugural DIY Cahoots! logo screen printing. The children stirred whimsy with the fairy houses they built in the woods.



As always, the incredible Rachelle tirelessly organized teams of kitchen volunteers to prepare delicious veg(etari)an meals! Meal times featured 'Safer Spaces', where people of marginalized identities could come together to find community, solidarity, and safety. In the evenings, people relaxed, chatted, and enjoyed an open mic, dance party, and bonfires.

We look forward to seeing friends, both new and old, next year at Cahoots 2018!

