

Witness Support Team Summary **Mennonite Church Canada International Witness**

We believe that God calls each of us to participate in God's mission, whether it is across the street or around the world, according to our unique gifts. As we respond to this call, we believe God will lead us to experience mutually transformative relationships through ministries and partnerships of the church, both here in Canada and internationally.

Witness workers will identify a group of five to eight volunteers from one or more congregations to form their Witness Support Team (WST). WSTs collaborate with the Regional Churches as well as with Mennonite Church Canada and use their gifts to:

Generate financial support

Fundraising is a key role of the WST.¹ Each WST collaborates with their Witness worker(s) and Regional Church Engagement staff to raise 100 per cent of the funding required for each ministry. This collaborative fundraising effort includes assistance and coaching from Regional Church Engagement staff, who help Witness workers raise a minimum of 50 per cent in relational funding. This funding is obtained through the worker's relationships with congregations and individuals. The remaining funds will be supplemented by the MC Canada core budget to ensure full funding. Each Witness project depends on 100 per cent funding. Together the Witness worker(s), their WST and Regional Church Engagement staff work to achieve this funding goal.

Form and nurture relationships between workers and supporters

The WST creates and maintains relationships between Witness workers and supporters through communication, prayer and advocacy. The WST collaborates with Regional Churches to communicate opportunities for relationships and involvement with international partners.

Support and care for workers

The WST is a caring and supportive community that enhances the worker's experience internationally. It communicates between the Witness worker(s) and the supporting congregations and individuals, meets regularly in prayer for them, advocates passionately for the Witness ministry and willingly participates in specific fundraising projects and events as needs arise.

Create opportunities for congregational engagement

The WST creates opportunities for the congregation to engage with a Witness worker, including the Witness worker's family, where this is the case. This is accomplished through exchange visits and learning tours, participation in fundraising events and inviting Witness workers and/or international partners to participate in congregational gatherings.

¹ In October 2017, Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) restructured, implementing a change in how funding is acquired for Witness workers.



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Nurture international-partner relationships

Together with the Director of International Witness and the Witness worker(s), the WST seeks to build a long-term relationship with international partners (in-country people, organizations and ministries). This enables the international relationship to develop and flourish on behalf of the larger Church. With deeper relational connections, congregations are inspired to participate in God's mission across the street and around the world.

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