



NORTH AMERICAN REGION ... STEP BY STEP

It is step by step that the NorthAmerican Region is taking shape...

Following the confirmation of our new reality at the General Chapter, 2016-2017 launched the establishment of the North American Region and its transition from *regions* to *sectors*. Thus the start of the year was first based on the common elements of the foursectors.

Since then, the newRegional Team, made up of the Sector Animators of Ontario, Western Canada, theUnited States, and Quebec have experienced two virtual team meetings – anadditional challenge to implement and manage technology... This provided a time for sharing about lifein the Sectors and of the pooling of our documents and suggestions, etc.



Within this *change* and in the context of participatory leadership, each Sector Animator invited the sisters in her Sector to identify the needs of their Sector – each according to their own identity...

Different needs wereidentified as well as the organization of services according to the propermodalities of each Sector, and a gathering of the gifts of each sister for aneventual sharing of life in the region.

We are presently in aperiod of integration of a new reality and of a broadened vision of ourbelonging, of implementing the new interconnectedness...

As we travel this journey, we think of those who will form the new Team and who will, upon their arrival, see that some work has already been accomplished...

MoniquePaquette, CSC

INTRODUCTION TO MUSLIM WOMEN'S LIFE IN QUEBEC



On Saturday, November12, 2016, the Justice and Environment Mission Group welcomed three Muslim womenas their invited guests in answer to a request made by their members.

Asmaa struggles with a major battle to enroll herchild in school. She finds herself entangled in a bureaucracy that denies herrights and causes her to feel menaced by external interventions. In spite of the resistance encountered, Asmaa managed to set upworkshops for other immigrants who are arriving in Quebec.

Sami is studying for her doctorate at University of Montreal. Her research is focused on discrimination of Muslim women and isunderscoring a little known reality.

Asmae is a specialized legal expert in the interpretation of the Koran and of the tradition concerning women. Iappreciated Asmae's work in particular because it made me aware of the mythical interpretation of the Koran as well as providing a means of establishing atheology in a non-Christian tradition. This encounter offered a dimension of a Muslim woman's reality in Quebec as well as in the types of discrimination experienced on a daily basis.

These women offered us apoint of view hardly known by us who depend upon the information given by themedia. Participants in this gathering had the opportunity to question theinvited guests and to offer their own point of view. The themes were veryinteresting and in keeping with what is presently happening in Quebec. Therewas time allotted to dialogue and to ask questions on the equality betweenwomen and men.

For me, it was aprivileged moment, a rare experience, and an opportunity to understand thelives of Muslim women. I also realized that we need to continue to deepen this dialogue in Quebec.

Lise Lebrun, CSC, and Richard Renshaw, CSC

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