



**Canadian Conference**  
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

**Video Update – December 2018**

**Elton DaSilva, CCMBC National Director**

Greetings, MB churches of Canada. I wanted to take some time and give you an update of where we are in the development of the collaborative model.

As you know by now, at Gathering 2018, we were asked to develop this model and bring it back to you for full approval. You gave us the okay for the direction, but you wanted some more information on how this all would function. Part of that for us was to hear back from you on what is important to you and the heartbeat of our churches. So, for the months of October and November, we travelled the country, creating many opportunities for our churches to join us and speak into what matters to them, what is important to them, and what makes them excited to be a part of this family of churches.

Here are a few things that we heard from you. We heard, first of all, that you would like to be a part of a denomination that has a strategic plan for developing the leaders of tomorrow. You also said to us that you want to be a part of a church that is excited about missions – both locally and internationally. You said to us that you want us to focus on developing a clearer understanding of what evangelical-Anabaptist means. And you also said to us that you want to see the conference work in unity, all parts working together to help resource the church towards mission.

We heard you, all your comments, all your words, both present with us and those that were sent via email. So all your words have been recorded, and now they are being analyzed and passed on to different boards. So the board of faith and life, the executive board, and what is now called the national ministry board (composed of provincial leaders and agency leaders) will look at all your words, all your comments, and we will try, we will endeavour, to together create one strategic plan for this family of churches.

Another area that requires some explanation is the funding process. By now, you have heard comments about one-stream funding, and you're probably wondering: what do I do? As a church, what do we do for 2019? Because there was a change in the language of the motion at Gathering, we could not move towards an implementation of the collaborative model, but we are now in the process of a development of the collaborative model.

So, for 2019, the funding process remains the same. One that requires that you fund, as a church, two different ministries – one at the provincial level and one at the national level. So your funding will not change for 2019, but the hope is that, [by] 2020, we are moving towards a single-stream funding flowing through the provinces and then from there on to ministries that are national.

Once again, I want to thank you for your participation and thank you for your heart. And I pray that we can continue to work together to see Jesus transform our nation.