

Who is the CUSP for?

Introduction:

In a complex organization such as the Canadian MB denomination, levels of independence and autonomy can occur. The Collaborative model does not eliminate autonomy at all levels but serves to coordinate agreed-upon areas of common interest. It attempts to achieve agreement and coordination by forming participatory tables representing all parts of the MB family. Tables such as the NMT, NFLT, and the National Council are places of reflection and collaborative strategic thinking.

Operating as a family, the MB Church of Canada, we understand that individuality and degrees of self-determination are part of family relationships. In other words, individuals within an extended family have the ability to exist independently of the whole. For adult members of an extended family, self-determination is normative the majority of the time. It is only in the communal family moments where coordinated and prescribed rules become the determining factor. A family meal may require adequate coordination to fulfill its intended outcome. Who brings what? Where to go? And what time to get there? That helps the communal family moments achieve their desired outcome.

The CUSP attempts to coordinate our collective efforts towards achieving our desired outcomes and determining who does what, where, when, and how is advantageous to achieving our mission.

This particular document intends to exist alongside the CUSP as a helping guide in understanding our participation and places of contribution. This document will clarify how project leadership is assigned, the Collective Impact concept, and the local church's role and participation.

Section One: How project leadership is assigned

When planning a family meal, it is important to determine the entire course of the meal. Planning requires attention to the particularities of all family members. Who is allergic to what and what other particular preferences may exist within that family unity. The CUSP has attempted to do that by conducting a SWOT analyzes of the MB family. The analysis of STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, and THREATS helps us create a picture of our particular family's preferences and aversions.

The second step in a well-coordinated meal is to distribute assignments to individual participants to eliminate the possibility of redundancy. It would be counterproductive to have all participants bring a pot of chili to dinner. The CUSP will attempt to serve as a coordinating document that divides assignments between those coming to the table.

The next necessary step in a well-coordinated family meal is to ensure that participants bring their best contribution. So, we ask Grandma Suzie to bake her famous key lime pie, uncle Ted

brings his world-changing chili, and cousin Mike will be in charge of grilling. There has to be a great degree of knowledge and confidence in the individuals' abilities to distribute these contributions properly.

Our particular family of churches has a great history with institutions and individuals with a proven track record in significant areas of our mission. Let's invite them to lead in the areas where they can bring their best contribution to bear. The CUSP tries to identify and assign leadership roles to those institutions, departments, or individuals that have made clear historical contributions in a particular area.

Section Two: The Collective impact Concept

An essential part of the family meal analogy is determining who will host the dinner. The host is responsible for setting the table, providing ambiance, and providing services during the meal. Although different participants get to bring their best to the dinner, it is the host that coordinates the individual courses' delivery. The CUSP identifies the Provincial conferences to be the coordinating host for the services. Through the provinces, deliverables get contextualized to fit with the capacity and particular focus of the Province.

Provincial conferences must be the coordinators of the priority areas identified and agreed upon in the CUSP to have the desired effect. In this new reality, the National office's role is to help maintain the Collaborative Model's relationships and resource the provincial conferences in agreed-upon areas. Agencies will establish stronger relationships with provincial conferences to serve a particular province best.

Measuring our National Impact will come from collecting data from all provinces in the agreed-upon areas of ministry. This Collective Impact will adequately account for all our efforts as an MB family of churches in Canada and from Canada.

Section Three: The role and participation of the local church in the CUSP

The CUSP recognizes the church as the chief beneficiary of the outcomes included within. Although the CUSP primarily serves staff and boards' efforts, it aims to enhance and resource the church towards the achievement of its mission.

Depending on the subject or state of health of a particular church, it may find its participation defined in three distinct ways:

1. **The Church as a recipient** – Here, the local church receives help, equipping, and resources toward accomplishing a goal or mission.
2. **The Church as a partner** – Here, the local church is invited into a relevant partnership with conferences, agencies, or other churches to accomplish a goal or mission.

3. **The Church as the lead** – Here, the local church gives significant leadership in a particular ministry area, bringing their ability, experience, and expertise towards accomplishing a goal or mission.

Conclusion:

The CUSP can serve as an essential engagement document for our family of churches, helping us bring our best ability to bear for the benefit of the whole. This collaborative, coordinated effort will need to be undergirded by a culture of collaboration that discourages silos.

Who is this document for? The answer is for all of us. We invite you to the table. Bring your best contribution to the meal.