

Greetings to each one of you, our dear Becoming Neighbours friends!!



Hard to believe! It is well over six months that we are into this COVID-19 pandemic! We seem to be grappling with some hard truths around what have learned so far. We can quickly respond about how the pandemic has affected our daily routines and encounters. Certainly, social distancing has come to mean more than six feet of distance and wearing a mask – not much travelling either. How we miss even the TTC! What is more important is that we really miss our usual contact and connectedness with each one of you and with us as the members of the Becoming Neighbours community. Having said that, we want you to know that you are NOT forgotten.

OUT OF SIGHT, DOES NOT MEAN OUT OF HEART!

But if we go deeper and ask, “what have we really learned so far?”, we are left with an ambiguity around our answers. Like both of us (Lois and Peter), you have probably had lots of time to muddle over current affairs, maybe revisit cherished memories from the past and even wonder what the future holds. It seems to us that we have all received some pretty stimulating insights from becoming more aware of the precious value of encounters with children of our families and our world, from nurturing gardens, from the beautiful gestures of solidarity shared on social media and from the various online sources with which we spend time. All of these moments raise disturbing questions for us to consider. We are more acutely and painfully aware that this is an unprecedented piece of human history, spiked by an emerging awareness of systemic injustice apparently perpetuated by those of privilege and power. Does that include us??? What is even more disconcerting is that we do not really know if we are part of the problem, part of the solution or possibly both. According to some commentaries, we have been climbing ladders to nowhere for far too long leaving too many marginalized people at the bottom – excluded. The commentaries contend that we have never dealt realistically with despotism and environmental destruction that pervade everyday life all over the planet. Then, they are even bold enough to throw in concerns about dwindling resources, growing populations and the movement of refugees throughout our world. And we thought we were the victims, no, we are the entitled! The growing phenomena of fake news to justify reality perpetuates our demands of entitlement! More and more of us seem to be moving to the point of grappling and being ready to move with a new paradigm shift from consumption and collection to inclusion, finally!

Could this be the KAIROS moment: to join with others to work for a new world order, not just a “new norm” perpetuating our privilege and power.

THIS IS THE MOMENT. WHERE DO WE STAND AND WITH WHOM DO WE STAND?

*May we welcome the Spirit to transform us to be instruments of God's LOVE and HOPE,*

Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ

Peter McKenna, SCJ