

ORCIE Offerings

Spring 2026



ORCIE is the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, where Catholic Religious Congregations are collaboratively increasing their impact on policy change for ecological justice and reconciliation.

JOINT ADVOCACY



For the Love of Creation: Lenten Campaigns

For the **Love**
of **Creation**

As part of our ongoing commitment to faith-rooted climate justice, ORCIE is inviting your support for the campaigns of our partner organizations. These initiatives offer meaningful ways for congregations and individuals to take action—through advocacy, solidarity, and public witness—during this season of reflection and renewal. We invite you to join us by stepping into these opportunities below, each offering a meaningful way to contribute to our shared journey toward ecological justice.

***Turn Debt into Hope* Next Steps: Parliamentary Paper Petition**

Thank you to all the congregations who have been gathering signatures for the [parliamentary paper petition](#) and arranging meetings with your local MPs—your leadership and care are helping bring this call for global debt justice directly to Parliament. We're deeply grateful for the time, energy, and leadership you are bringing to this effort.

There's still time to join if your congregation can take part, and we're here to assist you in whatever way is most helpful. For more information on our strategy to create ongoing parliamentary attention to stop the debt crisis and increase climate finance, please visit this link: <https://orcie.org/turn-debt-into-hope-parliamentary-paper-petition/> or contact Sasquia at sapineda@orcie.org



We'll continue to share key moments from this collective effort on our website and Facebook page, so you can stay connected to the wider movement and see how this call for debt justice is unfolding across our communities.

**Facebook.com/orcie.org/
Instagram.com/orcie.bcrei/**



JOINT ADVOCACY



For the Love of Creation: Lenten Campaigns

Give it up for the Earth!

Give it up for the Earth! is Citizens for Public Justice's national faith-in-action campaign that raises awareness about the climate crisis and mobilizes people across Canada to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions while calling on federal leaders to strengthen Canada's climate commitments. This year's open letter asks political leaders to close coal-related loopholes and uphold meaningful climate action. Many of you are already familiar with the campaign, and we'd love to **help bump the numbers**—so we invite you to **sign the letter as individuals** to add your voice to this growing call.

Read and sign the letter: [Canadian Political Leaders, Will You Give it Up for the Earth?!](#)

Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA)

Support Xinka Indigenous People of Guatemala to Defend their Right to Self-Determination

As a member organization of the **Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA)**, ORCIE is amplifying an urgent call to action in solidarity with the Xinka Indigenous people of Guatemala. You are invited, as individuals, to sign a new House of Commons e-petition—supported by **MP Elizabeth May**—calling on the Government of Canada to ensure that Canadian mining firm Pan American Silver respects the Xinka People's clear refusal of consent for the Escobal mine in Guatemala. This follows years of court-mandated consultation and documented harms to Xinka rights, safety, and culture. It calls on Canada to uphold its international obligations by preventing Canadian mining companies from violating Indigenous rights and by protecting environmental and human rights defenders. The petition requires **500 signatures by April 23** to be formally tabled in Parliament. **We encourage all ORCIE members to add their names as individuals and share widely:** <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-7299>.

Resource: You can watch last year's press conference in Ottawa where Xinka representatives, Marta Muñoz and Marisol Guerra, called on the Canadian government to support the closure of the Escobal mine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5VJTskfHA8>



POLICY ENGAGEMENT

ORCIE's Feedback on Industrial Carbon Pricing Regulations

This winter ORCIE participated in an open Canada-wide consultation on the industrial carbon tax regulations. While the consultation itself was very technical, ORCIE chose to send a **high-level letter to Minister Julie Dabrusin** providing an assessment of the regulations using an integral ecology lens. A carbon pricing system is one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions by making pollution expensive and by allowing businesses the flexibility to find the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions. Effective industrial carbon pricing in Canada is but one piece of the pie and must be more than a technical instrument - it needs to be part of a broader transformation toward an economy that serves both people and the planet, with mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable and ensure that environmental benefits are shared equitably across communities.

Read more to learn what ORCIE believes should be included in regulations for our country's highest emitters: [What is the industrial carbon tax and why is it important? – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#)





RECONCILIATION

Renewed Call for Action on Clean Water in First Nations Communities

Access to safe, reliable drinking water is a fundamental human right—and one still denied in too many First Nations communities. In January 2026, ORCIE submitted a new **advocacy letter to Minister Mandy Gull-Masty** urging the federal government to reintroduce strong rights-affirming clean-water legislation. With delays to Bill C-61 and ongoing boil-water advisories, the human cost of inaction remains unacceptable. We continue to call for transparent, adequately funded, community-led solutions that honour First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over water and uphold the dignity and health of all.

Read more here: [Renewed Call for Action on Clean Water in First Nations Communities – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#)



Endorsement Update: West Coast Environmental Law Statement

In February, ORCIE signed onto the West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) statement, joining allied environmental and Indigenous rights organizations. **The open statement—Civil Society Organizations Oppose Northwest Coast Oil Pipeline and Tankers**— raises concerns about proposed oil pipeline and tanker expansion along the Northwest Coast, emphasizing the risks to marine ecosystems, Indigenous rights, and Canada's climate commitments. It also highlights the need to strengthen industrial carbon pricing, while underscoring that improved pricing mechanisms cannot offset the additional pollution that would result from expanding oil and gas production. *(Since ORCIE has endorsed it on behalf of its members, no further action or signatures are required from individual congregations.)*

As a follow-up to this work, ORCIE will continue closely tracking federal regulatory processes related to pipeline approvals. We will be contributing to the House of Commons Environment Committee's study on Industrial Carbon Pricing, after receiving an invitation from multiple MPs.



OUTREACH

ORCIE is Heading to Quebec!

We're excited to share that Geneviève and Sasquia will be in Québec City on May 12 to offer a lively, hope-filled presentation for the ***Climat & Création* environmental committee** affiliated with the **Saint-Dominique community in Quebec City**, in the Montcalm neighborhood. The presentation will be focused on the vital links between ecology and faith — and yes, the session will be **in French!**



Our time: Responding to the Ecological Crisis

At a time when our global challenges are intertwined – the climate crisis, wealth inequality, increasing militarization and war – how does our faith guide us? We are called to live differently with the Earth: no longer to dominate it economically, culturally and spiritually, but to adopt transformed relationships of solidarity with people and the planet. This session, inspired by the Laudato Si Movement and new initiatives like the Fossil Fuel Treaty, explores how we can make a concrete impact in our daily lives and in our communities. Together, we can build the political and social will to care for each other and our common home.

While we're in Québec, we'll also be connecting with **religious congregations across the region**, who will be invited to join the conversation and collaborate on shared ecological action.

For more information about the event or ORCIE's outreach with religious communities, please contact Geneviève at GGallant@orcie.org.



OUTREACH

You Keep the Ripple Going!

As we continue building collective momentum, it's important to recognize what is truly making an impact in our outreach.

When you share our ORCIE Offerings with your congregations, and people click 'read more', **our website traffic jumps**—sometimes doubling in a single week. Every new reader helps amplify the moral voice of Religious Congregations in climate justice conversations across Canada and internationally. Keep the ripple going by passing this newsletter along to your community and inviting them to explore our resources online.



RESOURCES



Webinar: From Belém to Canada — ORCIE at COP30: Insights and Future Advocacy Paths

ORCIE's latest webinar offers an inside look at ORCIE's presence at COP30 in Belém—reflecting on why faith communities matter in global climate negotiations, how civil society shaped the conversation in Brazil, and what Canada's presence revealed about our responsibilities moving forward. It's a grounded reflection on climate justice through the lens of Integral Ecology, frontline solidarity, and the moral voice that religious congregations bring to international negotiating spaces. If you want to understand where ORCIE's advocacy is headed next—and why your voice matters—this is a good place to start.

Watch the webinar (available in English and French): <https://orcie.org/resources/>

We invite you to share the webinar with your community and send us your reflections for a future newsletter!



RESOURCES

Integral Ecology



ORCIE seeks to integrate the vision of integral ecology as a way of being, living and discerning with a culture of encounter in our approach to the promotion of systemic change. It is not enough to point to strong policies which have the potential to shape a new future. We need to work toward a better quality of encounter and dialogue that can create cultural and political space for these policies to be adopted.”

As part of our strategic planning for 2026, **ORCIE is working to clearly articulate what we mean by Integral Ecology**. In the forthcoming paper, “How the Concept of Integral Ecology is Evolving in the Canadian Context”, Dr. Sue Wilson and Dr. Darlene O’Leary explore the concept, examining it as a critical reflection on our interconnected life, a way of living that honours this interconnectedness, and a lens for ongoing spiritual and ethical discernment. They trace how climate change, intersecting social crises, and fragmented worldviews call for deeper ecological conversion and a renewed culture of encounter rooted in wholeness.

Here’s a **small window into the executive summary** we’ll be sharing soon:

ORCIE (Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology) has been reflecting on how the concept of integral ecology is evolving in the Canadian context. To this end, our full paper explores integral ecology from three different perspectives:

- a critical reflection on the interconnectedness of our being in earth community through the lens of climate change;*
- a way of living that honours this interconnectedness;*
- and a discernment lens that draws us into ongoing conversion through attentiveness to the inner structures that shape our consciousness as well as the outer systemic structures that shape the world.*

Meeting the Moment: *We live in a time of polycrisis (multiple crises interacting with each other). If we can get to the ‘unity’ underlying the polycrisis, or the crux of what’s going on, we can create transformative change. But such deep change also requires us to tap the inner drive to transform ourselves and the world in collaborative ways. And therein lies the rub: We also live in a time of fractured worldviews (narratives for understanding ourselves, the world, the planet, the universe) which make collaboration difficult. It is clear that ‘meeting the moment’ will present both spiritual and ethical challenges.*

The complete paper will be published on the ORCIE website (www.orcie.org) this spring.



INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY

Global Faith Leadership on Fossil Fuel Transition

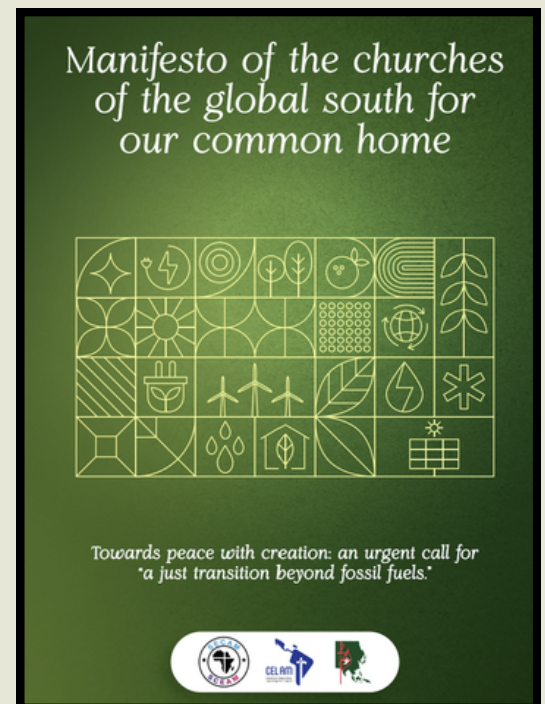
Our advocacy also extends to global spaces where faith voices are urgently needed!

The First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (28–29 April, Santa Marta, Colombia)

comes at a pivotal moment for global climate justice. The gathering will bring together governments, Indigenous leaders and civil society (including faith communities), to advance coordinated pathways for phasing out fossil fuels and accelerating a just transition—an effort aimed at securing concrete commitments from participating countries.

Its moral urgency is echoed in the newly released Global South Church Manifesto: Towards peace with creation: an urgent call for “a just transition beyond fossil fuels”, where church leaders from the Global South and Europe—rooted in our shared journey at COP30 in Belém, Amazonia—declare, “We cannot remain silent while our people suffer the consequences of an economy built on extraction and exclusion.” This powerful call from cardinals and bishops, urges churches worldwide to stand with communities most harmed by the fossil fuel economy and to support a transition rooted in dignity and justice.

Read ORCIE’s take on the Global South Church Manifesto, written by our Executive Director, Genevieve Gallant, who shares her reflections on its moral calls and global significance:
<https://orcie.org/our-work/a-just-transition-the-global-south-churches-call-for-climate-justice-and-participation/>





INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY

Global Faith Leadership on Fossil Fuel Transition

Canada's Role in the Transition

ORCIE endorsed the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative in 2024, and with the Colombia conference approaching, this is a crucial moment to strengthen the collective faith voice pushing for a global phase-out of fossil fuels. We warmly encourage congregations to add their endorsement to help boost the number of faith-based signatories and increase the impact of this international effort. ORCIE will be closely following the conference outcomes to help inform our ongoing advocacy here in Canada.

Join the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative as a congregation:

<https://www.fossilfueltreaty.org/endorsements#>

(Congregational endorsements only—no individual signatures needed)

Calling on the Canadian Government to step up!

ORCIE has joined more than 70 civil society organizations calling on Minister Julie Dabrusion, Environment and Climate Change Canada, to attend a historic opportunity to redefine Canada's role in the global energy transition at the Santa Marta, Colombia Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels.

Read the open letter here: [CSO Open Letter: Canada Engage Meaningfully Santa Marta conference - Google Docs](#)





FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Everyday peacebuilding connecting the local and global – Grassroots communities implementing the UN SDGs



Across our member congregations, faith-based leadership continues its work for peace and justice in tangible ways. ORCIE's board member Dr. Darlene O'Leary (Martha Justice Ministry Coordinator) recently moderated a rich conversation at the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish on peacebuilding and Canada's role in multilateralism, featuring **UN Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar**. The panel brought together **Sr. Marion Sheridan, Sr. Joanne O'Regan, David Matheson, and Colleen Cameron**—each offering a unique perspective on how faith communities are advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Their contributions ranged from speaking about the Marthas' decades of engagement at the UN, to peacebuilding education, to local initiatives that support young farmers, protect the land, and expand affordable housing. Together, their reflections offered a powerful reminder that global commitments to justice take root through local action—something ORCIE's members live out every day.

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“It was a very special day that reinforced the importance of the work we do together, in our communities, across our regions and countries. We are living as global citizens to create peace in our lives and the lives of each other. Coming together to share these efforts and this commitment is such a gift at this time of need.” ~ Dr. Darlene O'Leary, Martha Justice Ministry Coordinator

Read Dr. O'Leary's full reflection here:

<https://www.themarthas.com/martha-justice-blog-detail.php?19>

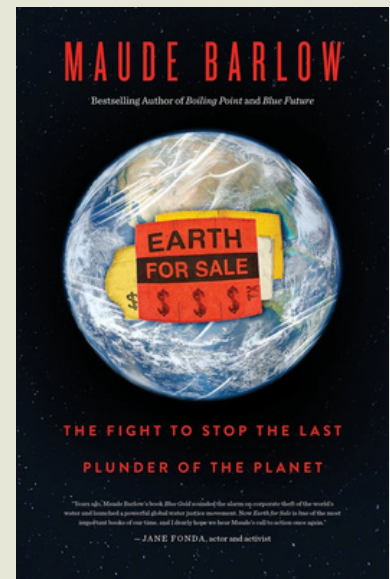


UPCOMING

ORCIE's Book Club

ORCIE is launching a **new book series in 2026**, and we're beginning with something special. We will be hosting a webinar book launch for **Maude Barlow's forthcoming work, *Earth for Sale: The Fight to Stop the Last Plunder of the Planet***—a powerful call to defend our shared home. The release date for the book is in early May, and once it's out we'll share full event details. In the meantime, you can pre-order your copy and get ready to join a meaningful conversation with the author!

Pre-order the book here: [ECW Press](#) | [A Canadian Indie Book Publisher](#) | [Publishing Curiously Compelling Books Since 1974](#)



IN THIS SEASON

As we continue our Lenten journey, may this season renew our commitment to justice, compassion, and the healing of our common home. The actions and invitations shared here remind us how powerful our collective witness can be when rooted in faith and lived out in community. We invite you to **share this newsletter with your congregation so the ripple of hope and engagement can continue to grow.**





WHO IS ORCIE?

- Congregation Notre Dame-Visitation Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
- Jesuits of Canada/Jésuites du Canada
- Les Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Presentation Sisters
- OMI Lacombe and Notre-Dame-du-Cap
- Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Filles de Jésus
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Our Lady's Missionaries
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Sisters of Holy Cross/Sœurs de Sainte-Croix
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
- Sisters of St Joseph Canada
- Sisters of St Joseph Toronto
- Sisters of St Martha, Antigonish
- Sisters of St Martha, Charlottetown
- Soeurs de St Joseph de St Vallier
- Sisters of St Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie

JOIN US!



ORCIE is a small organisation that relies entirely on the annual contributions of Religious Congregations to sustain its work. These contributions—whether large or small—make it possible for the moral and ethical voice of religious communities to be present in critical climate policy discussions where it is urgently needed.

The support of Religious Congregations has been essential to ORCIE's growth and impact, and we are deeply grateful for the way you continue to walk with us on this shared journey of ecological justice.

We warmly invite any Religious Congregations interested in joining ORCIE's network of supporters to reach out to:

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