

THIS DOCUMENT WILL ONLY BE PRESENTED IF THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL IS AFFIRMED.

PURPOSE OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM:

- The collaborative model uses a single stream of church funding to the provincial conferences which work together to create a collective national impact. The provincial conferences will provide funds to the national conference to complete the tasks that are required at a national level. Using this approach, the national budget requires a coordinated development effort by all six provinces. The 2019 national budget will not be ready until the end of 2018.
- Rather than hosting a national Special General Meeting of all churches in early 2019, a referendum is being proposed to allow the churches to vote on the 2019 budget. As described below, the referendum voting will be held at provincial conventions to allow discussion of the budget with other churches. By using a referendum in this way, it is also possible to emulate how future budgets will be processed under the new collaborative model.

THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM QUESTION:

Our church is in favour of the 2019 CCMBC budget as presented by CCMBC.*

OVERVIEW OF THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- **The 2019 CCMBC budget will be provided to all churches by email and will be available for download from the mennonitebrethren.ca website on or before January 31, 2019.*
- If the majority vote is YES, then the 2019 CCMBC budget is approved.
- If the majority vote is NO, then a Special General Meeting must be called to present and approve a different CCMBC budget for 2019.

THE PROPOSED VOTING PROCESS:

- The referendum votes will be cast by MB churches during the provincial conventions hosted from February through April of 2019. A national conference representative will be present at each provincial convention to explain the national budget and answer any questions.
- One referendum ballot will be distributed to each church (not delegate) that attends the provincial conference convention. The ballot will be given to the specific delegate selected by the church as part of the convention registration process.
- At the time the question is called to approve the 2019 CCMBC budget at the provincial convention, the ballot will be considered “cast” once it is completed by the selected church delegate and given to the provincial moderator or other board member of the provincial conference.
- The provincial boards will provide the totals (yes and no) to the national conference for final tallying once all provincial conventions have been held. The church votes are tallied to create a national outcome. (Voting is not calculated by province.)
- The provincial boards may also forward any convention minutes regarding the budget so that churches in other provinces may be aware of any discussions that have occurred. A space for church comments may also be included on the ballots.
- (Note: The four churches that are not a member of a provincial conference may cast their ballots directly with CCMBC using email correspondence.)

CHURCH VOTING AT CONVENTIONS:

- Each church will designate a single church delegate who will receive its church ballot upon registration at the provincial convention. It is the responsibility of this selected church delegate to cast the vote on behalf of their church.
- Each church will discern its own method of casting the ballot on behalf of the church. For example, the church may decide to host a meeting of its members, or the church's board may decide on behalf of the church, or the church may decide to wait until the convention and let its group of convention delegates discern how to vote on the budget.

THE RESULTS:

- A simple majority of the total votes cast by the member churches will be required for a positive affirmation of the 2019 CCMBC budget.
- Once the result of the vote has been determined, notification will be emailed to all churches and the result will be posted on the mennonitebrethren.ca website.
- If the vote is NO and the budget is defeated, the CCMBC Executive Board will call a Special General Meeting and submit a new budget to be approved by the churches. The process will follow the procedures as described in the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws.

OTHER NOTES:

- Using this process, the outcome for the CCMBC 2019 budget will not be known until the end of April (after the last convention).
- Currently, the provincial budgets operate from January through April (depending on the timing of their conventions) without affirmed budgets. The national budget will need to operate in a similar fashion to the provinces in the early months of 2019.
- Coordinating the provincial and national budgets is important because the provincial budgets will include items which work towards a collective national impact. Having the provincial and national budgets presented together at the provincial conventions should help churches to see the coordination and alignment between the budgets.
- The single stream is an important part of the new model. Starting in January, churches will be asked to add their support for the national conference to their provincial conference contribution to create the single donation stream to the province.
- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT CHURCHES MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN ORDER FOR MINISTRY TO CONTINUE. As the 2019 provincial and national budgets are presented together, the justification for maintaining this level of support will be much clearer. If churches reduce their total support to the conferences, it becomes harder for the provinces to complete the task of collaborating for greater collective impact across Canada.
- The premise behind the 2019 budgets and collaborative model has not been to eliminate the national conference. (If the national conference was eliminated, then it would make sense for churches to change their level of funding.) The goal is to improve service delivery starting with the provinces as the primary coordinator and to ask the provinces to be the primary steward of resources. This idea was supported by the results of 2017 conference survey.
- As provincial and national leaders work together to develop the 2019 budgets and service delivery plan, more resources should be deployed through the provincial conferences.