

Friendly Exploration on CYM-in-Session

Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) has had a tradition of meeting annually (CYM-in-Session) in locations across Canada to conduct our business, share ideas, renew ourselves spiritually, and connect as a community. The Change and Sustainable Transformation (CAST) working group has been considering whether the time has come to change how we gather as a Yearly Meeting. We believe that we can experiment with new ways of gathering our community and doing our work. We invite folks from across the Yearly Meeting to join a “Friendly Exploration” via Zoom.

Date: January 29, 2022 **Time:** 1:30PM Eastern

Zoom details on quaker.ca calendar or contact cast-clerk@quaker.ca.

The Ideas

When considering these ideas, please note:

1. It has become clear that Friends want the ability to meet via in-person or remote attendance. Take this as a given in these considerations.
 2. These ideas are not necessarily mutually exclusive, as some are “what”, some are “where”, and some are “when”.
 3. We have listed them in order of what we consider to be “**Most to Least Change**”.
- **CYM as a periodic retreat (with all Business online)**
Gather as a periodic retreat, focusing on community and spiritual enrichment. Programming would include the Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture and Quaker Study/Bible Study. These would continue to be recorded, and we would work to improve distribution & include Discussion guides. The business of the Yearly Meeting would be conducted in online sessions and at Representative Meeting.
 - **Hold at Toronto/Camp NeeKauNis**
 - Meet in Toronto at Friends House for 2 - 3 days in a “non-residential” gathering (i.e. Friends would find their own accommodation). This portion of Yearly Meeting would be for Business Meetings, SPG Lecture, and Quaker/Bible Study.
 - A residential portion of 4-5 days at Camp in the days following the sessions at Friends House would include Worship-Sharing and regular Camp program of worship, shared meals, work, play, crafts, swimming, boating, Talent Night.
 - **Hold CYM at NeeKauNis**
As Camp has changed in recent years, this could be considered again.
 - **Biennial Proposal**

Hold CYM-in-Session in person every other year. In alternate years, find ways for families and youth to come together.

- **Make Canadian Mennonite University (Winnipeg) “home” for CYM**

For the foreseeable future hold Yearly Meeting at CMU. It is a central location, a welcoming venue, allows camping on site, and has easy access by public transportation.

- **Hold CYM at rented sites, continuing rotation**

Hold CYM in locations in Atlantic, Central, and Western Canada in rotation. Now that we no longer operate a food-coop, more sites may be available to us, although the desire to camp on site will still eliminate sites.