

Dear leader,

December 2016

We know some of you are wondering why we have said “no spouses” at The Summit. Great question! We owe you an explanation. Let me walk you through this decision and invite you to call us (Renée, Andrew or Jacqueline at 506-635-1922) to share your thoughts. We mean that – we want to hear from you directly.

Over the last two years we have been taking a fresh look at The Summit, and all our events, to make sure we are clear on why they exist, what difference they are making and how they need to be changed to have an even greater impact in this era. We have not undertaken this process alone, along the way it has involved the youth and family team, the youth and family working group, leaders, volunteers and surveys.

As we have **clarified the purpose** of what used to be called the “Youth Pastors Summit” what we see and have heard from you is the most important purpose of this event is to build a sense of support and team around our joint mission in Atlantic Canada to the younger generation. There are so few of us, relatively speaking, vocationally investing in the younger generations in ministry. We need each other and need a safe place to unpack how we actually get better at helping leaders and the younger generation join God in their neighbourhoods. This is also why we have changed the name to “The Summit” and included paid Youth Pastors, Children’s Pastors and Camp Directors. Together we are trying to figure out how to lead at a high level, for the sake of reaching the younger generations with the Gospel and helping them join God in their neighbourhoods.

This is quite a shift! When the Summit started it was a retreat, a get-away, and slowly it has morphed and we have intentionally shifted it to being a joint vision discussion and thinking time towards helping us be a stronger team reaching the younger generations. **What a great opportunity!** A time for us in vocational ministry to really dig in and say how we are doing and how can we get better at reaching young people in Atlantic Canada. It is so rare to get to talk like this, support each other like this and have a safe space to be real about the successes and failures along the way. I need, we need, these special places and times with this smaller group to gain a fresh perspective together, to step back and look out from the Summit together. At this year’s Summit Youth Pastors, Children’s Pastors and Camp Directors will have opportunities to learn together, be pushed further by our speaker, share together and have times to discuss specific issues in furthering the Gospel in Atlantic Canada with your affinity group, responsible for the same primary ministry as you – either youth, children or camp.

As the purpose of The Summit shifted we recognized, and you told us, that your spouses were increasingly unable to come and that we were not doing a great job including spouses. You were right! Plus Pastors and Directors told us if they were to take their spouse away they want to treat them more luxuriously than bringing them to a Pastor’s Summit. That is fair! In addition, having seen the value in adding Children’s Pastors and Camp Directors to The Summit, our costs increased and we needed to take a fresh look at the budget for The Summit.

As we looked at it we saw that **we offer other excellent training events through the year** that are open to spouses, volunteers, and all denominations. The Summit is unique in that it is the ONE time a year we get together with just our Baptist vocational staff investing in the younger generations (children, youth and camp).

For ministry wives there is Refresh, the ministry wives retreat. <http://baptist-atlantic.ca/event/refresh/>
For clergy teens there is LINK, a weekend retreat at a camp. <http://cbacyf.ca/link>

For training in children's ministry, especially focusing on those who volunteer in children's ministry, there is NEXT. Happening this April 1 at Immanuel Baptist, Truro NS. Volunteers, spouses, paid staff and anyone can register for this event: <http://cbacyf.ca/next#next-1>

For exceptional training in youth ministry, for both volunteer and paid staff, and specifically including a track for camp leaders is the Canadian Youth Workers Conference. Spouses, volunteers and anyone can register for this event: <http://www.cywc.ca/moncton/>

Oasis is a place for our whole Baptist family to come together and get refreshment for the journey. All are welcome! <http://oasis.baptist-atlantic.ca/>

We sure hope you, your families and volunteers take advantage of all these opportunities.

As you can see, **The Summit is a unique event**, it is the one time a year we gather only our paid staff investing in the next generation and it is very minimal cost to you, we pay for the majority of the event, we just ask you to pay for about half of the hotel room cost, so we can reserve your spot. We so believe in you and what you are doing – we want time together to be a team, helping each other be the best we can be to invest in others leaders and younger generations, and see neighbourhoods changed with the Gospel.

A minimal cost for the event was added last year, partially to help cover a very small portion of the cost of the event, but more to act as a reservation system for your spot at this event. In the past we had people saying they were coming and then not showing up or only using the hotel room and not attending the sessions – that was a loss to us, on both fronts. This year the cost is \$40/person to share a room with another leader attending The Summit and \$80/person for a solo room. This covers your hotel (Days Inn in Moncton this year), all meals, the speaker and all programming, obviously the event is highly subsidized by us in order to do this.

So let us try this, this year and see how it goes.

Let us know what you think.

We are so excited to dig into the vision together. We really believe Hugh Halter, our guest speaker, will help us as key ministry leaders take our conversation around reaching our neighbourhoods to the next level. We really want you as part of the conversation. We really hope you can make it.

You are allowed to disagree with us on this decision, or any decision we make. All we ask is you engage with, call us, so we are better informed on your thoughts and we can make wise decisions with your input into the future. It really does not help us or help future decisions if you talk to others but do not talk to us, so please call us (506-635-1922).

We are so very thankful for our team.

We are so proud of you and the sacrifices you make to invest in the younger generations. We love your energy, dedication, creativity and hope. We love that you are willing to try new experiments – success or failure. Let's join together, so that together we can help each other show and tell the Gospel in this generation.

We truly believe you are changing Atlantic Canada one neighbourhood at a time.

For the rest of the details about this year's Summit and to register visit: <http://cbacyf.ca/the-summit#the-summit-1>

With thanks for each of you,
Rev. Renée Embree
Director, Youth and Family Ministries at the CBAC
cbacyf.ca

