

ORCIE Offerings

Fall 2025



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.

ADDING OUR VOICE

On the Road to COP30: ORCIE's Journey to Belém, Brazil

The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) is proud to announce that from November 10 to 17, 2025, a delegation from ORCIE — Geneviève Gallant, Executive Director, and Sasquia Antúnez Pineda, Advocacy & Communications Officer — will join thousands of world leaders, civil society organizations, and faith-based groups at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in Belém, Brazil.

ORCIE's participation in COP30 reaffirms our commitment to climate justice and to the Global South's moral call for recognition of ecological debt. By engaging Catholic networks, Canadian policymakers, and global partners, we seek to bring these voices into Canada's climate conversation and inspire action grounded in justice and care for creation.

Our work at COP30



During the conference, the ORCIE delegation will:

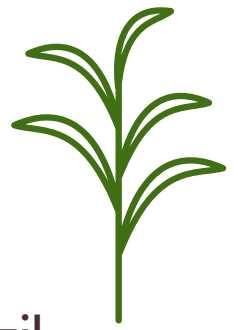
- Work in close collaboration with Sister Eliana Aparecida dos Santos of the Congregation of St. Joseph in Brazil, who is graciously hosting us and participating alongside us in COP30 events.
- Attend key UNFCCC side events and Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac) working group meetings following negotiation streams on climate adaptation, climate finance and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the climate action plans submitted by each government.
- Engage Canadian government delegates on issues of ecological debt, loss and damage, and fair financing for global climate action.
- Gather stories and perspectives from faith and civil society partners in the Global South for our Global South Voices project.
- Participate in the People's Summit and Day of Action events, amplifying messages of solidarity, faith, and ecological justice.

Resource: This timely briefing from Climate Action Network Canada assesses Canada's newly submitted 2035 NDC, recognising the commitment while highlighting the urgent need for a pathway to a truly green economy: Canada honours its international commitments by submitting 2035 NDC—but fails to chart an ambitious path for the transformation to a green economy - Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac)

facebook.com/orcie.org
Instagram: @orcie.bcrei



ADDING OUR VOICE



On the Road to COP30: ORCIE's Journey to Belém, Brazil

Highlight: ORCIE Staff Will Join COP30 Panel on Global South Bishops' Call for Climate Justice

We are proud to share that ORCIE staff member, Sasquia Antúnez Pineda, a Honduran-Canadian with lived experience across the Global South and North, will speak on the **second panel** of the side event **“Responding to the Global South Catholic Bishops Conferences’ Call for Climate Justice”** on Tuesday, November 11, from 4:45–6:15 p.m. (3:45–5:15 p.m. ET) in the Blue Zone. The event will explore the joint statement *A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home*, from the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean released in June 12, 2025, which calls on the Global North to recognize its ecological debt, phase out fossil fuels, and resist false solutions to the climate crisis.

Drawing on her bi-national perspective and her work on ecological debt, Sasquia will reflect on how insights from Global South civil society can inform Canadian faith-based advocacy, connecting the Bishops’ moral appeal to ORCIE’s work for ecological justice and Canada’s responsibility to act in solidarity for our common home.

**COP30
BRASIL
AMAZONIA
SIDE EVENT**

**RESPONDING TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH
CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCES'
CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

COP30 SIDE EVENT

Tuesday, November 11
 16:45 - 18:15 GMT-3
 Blue Zone Side Event Room 4

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Organized by

KAIROS MARYKNOLL SISTERS PROCLAMATION INTERNATIONAL IVAT International Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA MEDICAL SISTERS NIPES



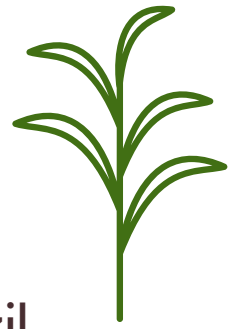
“COP30 is an opportunity for ORCIE to stand in solidarity with the people of the Global South—those most affected by ecological breakdown yet least responsible for it. We will represent the voices of our Catholic Religious Congregation members and amplify their call for climate justice.”
--- **Geneviève Gallant**, ORCIE Executive Director



“By witnessing the negotiations firsthand, we can bring back grounded insights and lived experiences that will give weight and authenticity to ORCIE’s advocacy in Canada. The connections and stories we gather in Belém will inform our briefings, media work, and legislative engagement well into 2026.”
--- **Sasquia Antúnez Pineda**, Advocacy & Communications Officer



ADDING OUR VOICE



On the Road to COP30: ORCIE's Journey to Belém, Brazil

Carrying the momentum home

The insights and relationships built at COP30 will directly shape ORCIE's spring legislative advocacy with the federal government, grounding our policy recommendations on Canada's Nationally Determined Contributions, climate finance, and Loss and Damage commitments in lived experience and moral perspectives from the Global South.

Through post-COP reports, presentations and media, we will share lessons and reflections with our member congregations and supporters across Canada.

Stay updated on our COP30 journey—follow ORCIE on Facebook and Instagram!
<https://www.facebook.com/orcie.org> and <https://www.instagram.com/orcie.bcrei/>

Save the Date!

Post-COP30 Reflections Webinar — February 12, 2026, at 1 PM EST

Join Geneviève Gallant and Sasquia Antúnez Pineda as they share stories and key findings from ORCIE's journey to COP30 in Belém. Hear what we learned from faith and civil society partners in the Global South and how these lessons will shape our advocacy in Canada. Let's keep the momentum for climate justice going — together.

Stay tuned — **Register here:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tTlvnj8MTgeGWP6VFKtv-A#/registration>

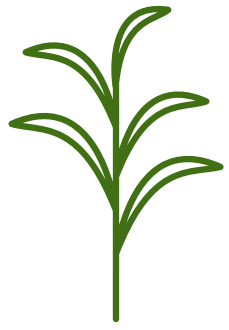
Feature ORCIE in Your Congregation's Newsletter!

Want to help bring COP30 insights to your community? We'd love to contribute an article for your congregation's newsletter — sharing stories from the Global South, reflections from our delegation, and ways your network can take part in this ongoing call for ecological justice. **Reach out to Sasquia Antúnez Pineda at sapineda@orcie.org** to connect.





ON THE HILL



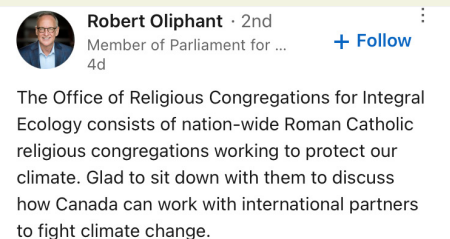
Learning & Lobbying 2025: Canada for Global Climate Justice

In September 2025, ORCIE organized a successful multi-day “Learning & Lobbying” series that culminated in meetings on Parliament Hill in Ottawa with MPs and senior policy staff from the departments of Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, Finance, and Foreign Affairs.



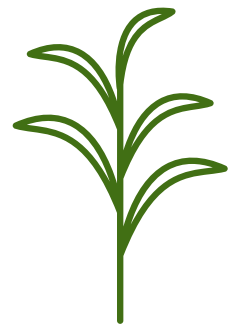
Productive lobbying meetings were held with MP Rob Oliphant (Liberal), MP Elizabeth May (Green), Director Garth Ehrhardt (ECCC), MP Don Davies (NDP).

During these discussions, ORCIE emphasized Canada’s responsibility to do its fair share in confronting the climate emergency—by capping fossil fuel emissions and production, accelerating investment in clean energy, and fulfilling its international commitments. The delegation also raised how unsustainable debt burdens, reduced aid, and an unjust global financial system continue to disadvantage countries in the Global South.





ON THE HILL



Learning & Lobbying 2025: Canada for Global Climate Justice

Preparation began with an online webinar featuring **Seth Klein and Anjali Appadurai from the Climate Emergency Unit**, who shared insights on climate policy and effective advocacy. Facilitated by ORCIE Chair Sue Wilson, csj, from the Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, the session helped 43 participants build their confidence and refine messaging using the [Fair Shares Platform](#).

An in-person advocacy training followed at St. Paul University, led by Genevieve Gallant and Sasquia Antúnez Pineda. Participants reviewed ORCIE's lobby guide, policy briefs, and key talking points before practicing in small groups to prepare for meetings on the Hill.

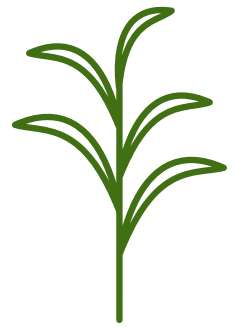
We ended the day with a beautiful dinner at the home of Joe Gunn, ORCIE's Treasurer—a warm and inspiring gathering that offered time to connect, share encouragement, and build community ahead of the meetings.



The final step brought together ten ORCIE participants—including members from several congregations and ORCIE staff—for in-person meetings with six MPs and three senior policy staff on Parliament Hill. Each conversation focused on ORCIE's policy asks rooted in the **Fair Shares Platform** and our domestic climate policy brief. These meetings opened space for meaningful dialogue, and participants gathered thoughtful feedback from MPs that will guide future engagement, including follow-up meetings with regional representatives.



ON THE HILL



Learning & Lobbying 2025: Canada for Global Climate Justice

Productive lobbying meetings were held with MP Alexandre Boulerice (NDP), MP Corey Hogan (Liberal), MP Eric St. Pierre (Liberal), Helene Trepanier (Director, International Trade & Finance), and Sophie Kiwala (Chief of Staff for MP Yasir Naqvi).



Kamryn Marsh, Lead Peace, Providence Centre for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (PC-JPIC)

“It was heartening to learn that MPs found the Religious moral argument compelling, and some of them were Catholic...Christians; it gives us pull in that realm.”

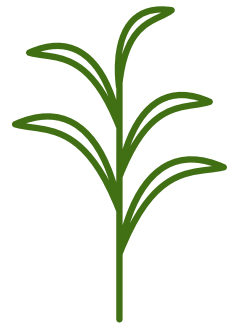
The experience wrapped up with a debrief and drinks at a local Ottawa restaurant, where participants reflected on their conversations, shared insights, and explored next steps together—closing the series with a strong sense of collaboration, community, and shared purpose for global climate justice.

Watch the full webinar recording at orcie.org/resources

Have you connected with your local MP recently or taken part in any advocacy efforts you'd like to highlight? We'd love to share your story in the next ORCIE Offerings! Reach out to Sasquia Antúnez Pineda at sapineda@orcie.org to connect.



ON THE HILL



Learning & Lobbying 2025: Canada for Global Climate Justice



My advocacy experience on Parliament Hill in Ottawa

By Sister Danielle Julien, fmic

Executive Assistant – Mission, Canadian Religious Conference

On September 25, 2025, I joined a dozen members of the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIEI) to participate in an advocacy activity on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. My community, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception (FMIC) of Canada, is a member of ORCIE. And as assistant to the Executive Director of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), I was also there to express our office's solidarity with ORCIE's commitments.

ORCIE had formed two teams to meet with members of Parliament and senior officials. The core of our message focused on the urgency of the energy transition, **offering three proposals: a cap on fossil fuel production, a cap on greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, and investments in renewable energy.**

ORCIE had prepared the documents very well, which I was able to review before going to Ottawa. There were two days of preparation, including a webinar on the first day, which I was able to participate in remotely. Since I was unable to attend the preparation day on September 24, I did not have a perfect grasp of the content of our message. The most important thing for me was to pay close attention to the conversation as it unfolded and to follow my instincts, which allowed me to contribute a few examples that came to me as I listened to others. I felt that my improvised contribution was valued.

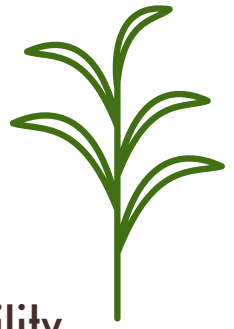
I liked that the tasks were divided among the members of each team. We took turns being timekeeper, secretary, or presenting one or another of the points of our advocacy. I knew we could count on each other. There was a nice diversity in each team: we were from the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, and Ontario; there were nuns, lay people involved with religious communities, employees and administrators from ORCIE.

I appreciated the welcome and openness of the MPs and senior officials we met. I believe that bonds were created and even strengthened, which is invaluable in advocacy work that requires sustained effort over the long term. I have heard that it takes eleven meetings with an elected official to have a real impact. **We must therefore continue this demanding work with courage and perseverance, not only in Ottawa but also in our own constituencies with our elected officials.**

Advocacy is a fundamental aspect of the commitment to justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC) that is so dear to religious congregations. It offers a way to address the causes of crises and injustices by proposing alternatives that bring about the Kingdom even in the public sphere of social life. I hope that more and more congregations will use the tools and opportunities offered by ORCIE to meet with elected officials in their constituencies or in Ottawa and advocate for the care of our common home!



IN COALITION



ORCIE Joins the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability

This fall, ORCIE joined the **Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability (CNCA)**—a national coalition advocating for laws that hold Canadian companies accountable for their global human rights and environmental impacts.

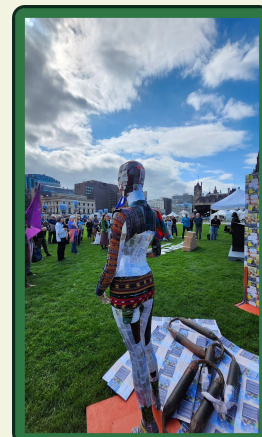
Corporate accountability is deeply connected to ORCIE's ongoing work on **climate justice, reconciliation, and legislative advocacy**. Many of our member congregations have long supported due diligence campaigns through partners such as **Development and Peace** and **KAIROS**, challenging the social license that allows corporations to operate without rules or regard for people and the planet.

The last week in October, CNCA members and allies raised awareness with a banner in The Hill Times—Canada's most-read publication among parliamentarians and civil servants—running from October 26 to 31. 'For over a decade, Canadian civil society groups advocated for an office to investigate complaints of human rights abuses linked to the overseas activities of Canadian companies. In 2018, the government responded by creating the Office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), vowing to equip it with the "tools and resources" required for companies to comply with the complaint process. These tools and resources were never delivered.'

The banner links to more information about the campaign on CNCA's website:
<https://cnca-rcrce.ca/2025/10/22/why-is-CORE-vacant>

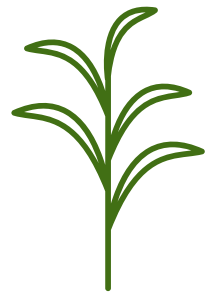
ORCIE joined Development & Peace "Rally to End Corporate Abuse"

On September 26, ORCIE joined hundreds gathered on Parliament Hill to call for strong Corporate Due Diligence Legislation. Standing alongside faith-based and civil society partners, they raised their voices for communities affected by Canadian corporate practices around the world. ORCIE's presence reflected our ongoing commitment to accountability, justice, and solidarity with partners in the Global South.





IN COALITION



ORCIE Endorses Faith Leaders' Call to Preserve El Salvador's Ban on Metal Mining

In September, ORCIE joined faith organizations worldwide in endorsing the Open Letter by Faith Organizations in Support of Preserving El Salvador's Historic Ban on Metals Mining. The statement calls on governments to uphold the will of the Salvadoran people and church institutions defending their right to clean water and a healthy environment.

By signing, ORCIE stands in solidarity with those protecting creation and human dignity against the harms of metallic mining.

Read more about ORCIE's endorsement on our website:
<https://orcie.org/orcie-endorses-open-letter-by-faith-organizations-in-support-of-preserving-el-salvadors-historic-ban-on-metals-mining/>



Drawing the Line for Justice and Creation!

On Saturday, September 20 — part of our Season of Creation — communities across Canada mobilized for the **Draw the Line** march, a historic cross-movement action for climate justice, Indigenous rights, migrant protection, peace, and the care of creation. In Ottawa, ORCIE staff joined partners such as KAIROS, Development and Peace, and Citizens for Public Justice to host a table at the community fair and gather petition signatures for the Jubilee 2025 campaign “**Turn Debt into Hope.**” Together, we stood in solidarity with faith and civil society groups calling on the Canadian government to put people over profit, uphold Indigenous sovereignty, welcome migrants with dignity, end war, and protect our common home. The day's energy, prayer, and witness reminded us that caring for God's creation and defending human dignity are inseparable.

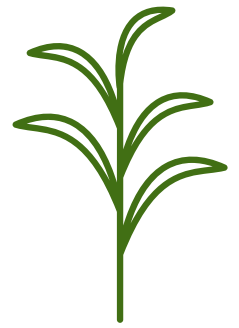
We invite members to reflect on this call to justice and consider how your community can continue to act in faith and solidarity.

Watch the Draw the Line mobilization here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQRF-2luhc8>





TAKE ACTION



ORCIE Submits Recommendations for Canada's 2025 Federal Budget

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS 2025



In August, ORCIE submitted its pre-budget recommendations to the federal government, guided by Catholic social teaching and the call of *Laudato Si'* to care for our common home. Our submission emphasizes that a federal budget must reflect **justice, solidarity, and ecological responsibility**, responding to the urgent needs of people and the planet.

Key priorities included:

- **Accelerating the transition to clean energy** by ending fossil fuel subsidies, stopping new fossil-fuel infrastructure, and investing \$32.5 billion over five years in a national renewable electricity grid.
- **Creating meaningful green jobs for youth**, scaling up the Youth Climate Corps to at least \$1 billion to provide work, skills, and community resilience.
- **Fulfilling Canada's international climate commitments**, tripling climate finance to \$15.9 billion by 2030–31, with most funds provided as grants to support vulnerable communities.

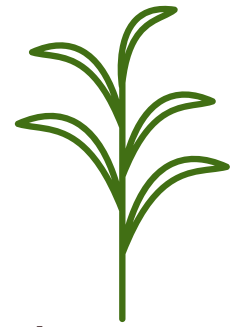
Stay tuned: ORCIE will share our **response to the November 4th budget announcement**, highlighting how it aligns with these priorities and the ongoing call for ecological justice.

Read the full ORCIE submission here:

<https://orcie.org/orcie-submits-recommendations-for-canadas-2025-federal-budget/>



RESOURCES



Pope Leo's October 1 Speech: Guidance for Advocacy in Integral Ecology ahead of COP30

Pope Leo's address to the **Laudato Si' gathering in Assisi** offers inspiration and concrete guidance for Catholic congregations as we engage in advocacy for ecological justice ahead of COP30. His words remind us that faith calls us to **act collectively, advocate boldly, and care for both creation and our sisters and brothers.**

"I therefore renew my strong appeal for unity around integral ecology and for peace! It is encouraging to see the variety of organizations represented at this conference, as well as the wide range of organizations that have joined the Laudato Si' Movement and the Platform for Action

Moreover, Pope Francis emphasized that 'the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international levels' (Laudate Deum, 69). Everyone in society, through non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups, must put pressure on governments to develop and implement more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls. Citizens need to take an active role in political decision-making at national, regional and local levels. Only then will it be possible to mitigate the damage done to the environment. Local legislation will also be more effective if neighboring communities support the same environmental policies (cf. Laudato Si', 179).

It is my hope that the upcoming international summits of the United Nations — the 2025 Climate Change Conference (COP 30), the 53rd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and the 2026 Water Conference — will listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, families, indigenous peoples, involuntary migrants and believers throughout the world. At the same time, I encourage everyone, especially young people, parents and those who work in local and national administrations and institutions, to play their part in finding solutions for today's 'cultural, spiritual and educational challenges' (Laudato Si', 202), always striving tenaciously for the common good. **There is no room for indifference or resignation.**

I would like to conclude with a question that concerns each of us. God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created (cf. Gen 2:15), for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters (cf. Gen 4:9; Jn 13:34). What will be our answer?"

Pope Leo's recent reflections remind us that faith, advocacy, and solidarity are inseparable in caring for creation. As we head to COP30 in Brazil, his words will guide us in amplifying the voices of those most affected by ecological challenges and advocating for the common good.

Explore the full resource:

Address of the Holy Father Leo XIV to the participants in the "Raising Hope" conference on the tenth anniversary of the encyclical Laudato Si':

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/october/documents/20251001-conferenza-mariapoli.html>



WHO IS ORCIE?

- Congrégation des Filles de Jésus, Région Canada
- Congregation Notre Dame, Visitation Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Jesuits of Canada
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Presentation Sisters
- Soeurs franciscaines missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Sisters of Holy Cross
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Canada
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie
- Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish
- Sisters of St. Martha, Charlottetown
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- School Sisters of Notre Dame

JOIN US!



ORCIE invites religious congregations who are interested in joining to reach out to:

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ORCIE  **BCRÉI**