

RISING UP FROM THE HEART OF MONTREAL



CATHÉDRALE
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

MAJOR
fundraising
CaMPaign

INSPIRATION AND OPEN DOORS

For over 155 years Christ Church Cathedral has been a symbol of faith and hope in the heart of the city and a place where people in the wider community gather to pray and to share important public occasions. Our Cathedral has provided a model of beautiful worship and architecture, a shared oasis for inspiration and leadership in music and the arts. It is the spiritual centre of the Diocese of Montreal where parishes gather for large celebrations such as consecrations of bishops, clergy ordinations and conferences. It exists as a resource to the whole Diocese, offering what Dean J.G. Norton, in 1892, called "a mother's loving heart for all the daughter churches."

At the heart of its vocation are its open doors, welcoming all to come in and be refreshed and nurtured. This Cathedral's hospitality and welcome has been an important place in my own spiritual journey. I am proud to support this campaign, and I invite you to join me in ensuring that Christ Church Cathedral continues to stand as a beacon of hope in the city.

Every Blessing,

The Right Reverend Mary Irwin Gibson
Bishop of Montreal



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AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FABRIC OF MONTREAL

Our challenge today is not simply to repair an aging building. We want to secure the Cathedral's future as the vital heart of the community and as an integral part of the fabric of Montreal and, indeed, of Quebec and Canada.

The goal of this campaign is substantial – beyond the reach of even the most robust parish.

We therefore appreciate the wisdom and encouragement of the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ), which preserves and protects religious buildings that are open to the public and have recognized heritage value. According to the CPRQ's criteria, the Cathedral qualifies for a grant that would cover a major part of the infrastructure work. Thus, we have every expectation of being able to obtain the the Quebec government's support.

We are also very heartened by early response from community leaders. They, and we, are confident that the life of downtown Montreal will be well served by Christ Church Cathedral's renewal.

The Very Reverend Paul Kennington
Dean of Montreal and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

WATCHING OVER THE HEART OF MONTREAL

Christ Church Cathedral rises above Saint Catherine Street and Phillips Square as a vibrant symbol of faith, unity, and inspiration. For more than 155 years it has offered spiritual fulfillment and support, a safe sanctuary, and an oasis of peace and serenity for all who enter.

This remarkable building has watched over the daily comings and goings of thousands of Montrealers throughout their lives. It touches the life of our city in many ways: as a place of worship, the venue for a lively music program, a truly impressive and timeless architectural landmark, and a living symbol of social unity and responsibility.

Time and the elements, however, have taken a heavy toll on it. Today, more than a century and a half after its consecration, this precious structure needs immediate repairs and restoration. The work described here will preserve the Cathedral as the inspiring monument of faith, magnificent architectural masterpiece, and glowing part of Montreal's mosaic that it has always been.

In response to the current need, Christ Church Cathedral is embarking on an unprecedented major fundraising campaign in anticipated partnership with the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ), with the goal of raising \$8 million.



Bruce McNiven, C.M.
Chair
Major Fundraising Campaign
Christ Church Cathedral

“Christ Church Cathedral is a magnificent architectural treasure. But beyond that, it is a rare expression of built heritage that is still very much alive, speaking both to the City’s storied past, and to its future. Over its long life, it has become an integral part of Montreal’s rich and diverse identity. The Cathedral promotes our City’s vigorous cultural and artistic life, offering public concerts and spiritual respite, and through its solid permanence on busy Saint Catherine Street is a welcoming place of quiet to withdraw from the bustle of Downtown. It is also a major tourist venue, attracting some 1000 visitors daily through its doors at the peak of the season, thereby contributing to Montreal’s magnetism and prosperity. And no less importantly, as an ardent defender of social justice and equality, the Cathedral community offers vital, compassionate assistance to those in need.”

RISING UP FROM THE HEART OF MONTREAL

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRAYERS, CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER, HOLY SCRIPTURE, TOURISTS' QUESTIONS, CHOIR MUSIC BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN RISE FROM CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. SO DOES THE 'SOUND OF SILENCE,' A WELCOME CHANGE OF PACE IN CITY LIFE. SO DO THE SOUNDS OF THE MAGNIFICENT PIPE ORGAN... AND CLASSICAL MUSIC AND JAZZ PLAYED BY YOUNG MUSICIANS, MEDITATION CHIMES, HAND BELLS, POETRY READINGS, MOVIES, AND COMMUNITY SUPPERS.



ROOTED IN WORSHIP

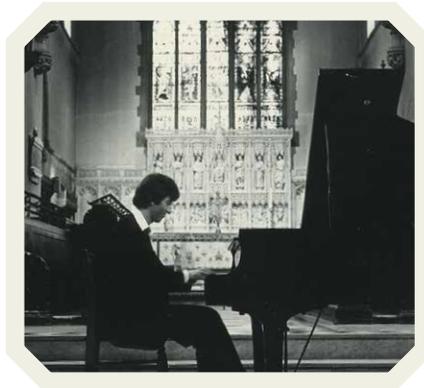
Meaningful worship in English and French includes more than a dozen public services every week, ranging from an informal, experimental Eucharist to Anglican High Mass. Two prayer services and a Eucharist are held each day, and Sunday offers at least four services, three of them with choral music.

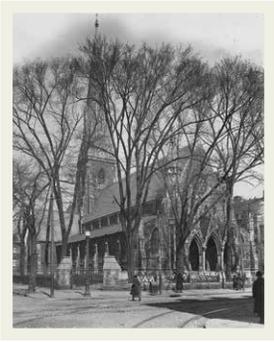
Learning activities and programs are organized for all strata of the multicultural and diverse congregation – including young children and youth, adults, families, and seniors.

As spiritual home for the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, the Cathedral hosts public events like ordinations, Synod Eucharists, and religious conferences.

REACHING UP AND OUT...

Christ Church Cathedral is firmly committed to serving the community in English and French, reaching out to those in need, and advancing the principles of social justice. The Cathedral stands in the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, and began acknowledging this regularly after the meetings and final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015.





Each year, the Cathedral participates in a broad range of cultural events, including Montreal's Journées de la culture and Nuit blanche, film screenings, lectures, and other illuminating church-planned activities and gatherings.

The doors are open seven days a week to anyone seeking a safe and warm sanctuary to rest or contemplate, and to those who need an attentive ear, including the homeless and those in emotional distress.

On a typical day, alongside hundreds of tourists, dozens of Montrealers drop in to pray, meditate or seek shelter from the weather and from their busy day-to-day lives.

A mental health group regularly meets in subsidized space in the mezzanine.

...INTO THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

For more than 100 years, the Christ Church Cathedral Social Service Society has been an important part of Christ Church Cathedral's life, work and mission, helping Montrealers in need. The Society played an integral role in creating L'Auberge Madeleine and L'Abri en ville and in supporting social housing in the Milton Park project.

The Last Sunday of the Month Lunch program, begun modestly in 1982, now serves hot and nutritious meals to some 200 people each month.

Today, the Society partners actively with the Cathedral on specific challenges: homelessness in the city, caring for the elderly and shut-ins, sponsoring refugee families, and filling the void in social services for Montrealers confronting hardships and hurdles of many kinds.

The Cathedral's Social Justice Action Group studies and advocates on issues affecting equality and rights locally and beyond. Recently these have included homelessness, fair trade, climate change, and refugee sponsorship.



MUSIC RISING

Christ Church Cathedral has a wide-ranging music ministry.

- Free community concerts each week and recitals throughout the year showcase talented choirs and emerging local musicians.
- The Karl Wilhelm organ, built in the 1980s and later expanded, boasts an exceptional sound and draws highly talented organists.
- A wide repertoire of sacred music, drawn from centuries of Christian tradition, enriches public worship – as intimate as daily evensong sung in plainchant, or as breathtakingly splendid as Christmas Eve or the Easter Vigil.
- New compositions are commissioned, too, taking advantage of the rich musical talent and acoustic space.
- Visiting ensembles, choirs, and solo artists enjoy the Cathedral's central location and resonant acoustics.
- Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoons is broadcast live to some 10,000 listeners every week via an FM network to many parts of Quebec, and by internet worldwide.

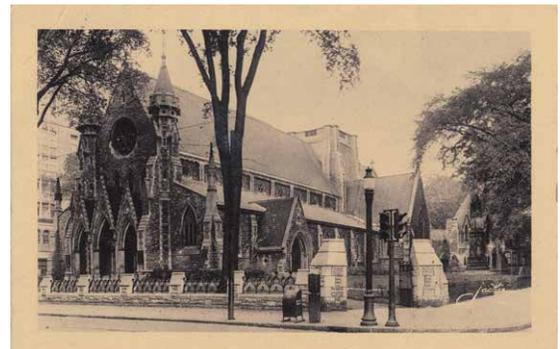
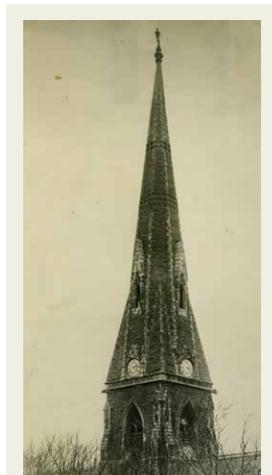
RISING UP FROM THE HEART OF MONTREAL

GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCH ARCHITECTURE STYLE CREATED IN VICTORIAN TIMES BY BUILDERS WHO LOVED THE PASTORAL YET SOARING BEAUTY OF THE 14TH-CENTURY CHURCHES DOTTING THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE.

Montreal's Christ Church Cathedral is a superb example of Gothic Revival church architecture. It is exceptional in Quebec, where churches of its day followed French or Italian models. Distinguished by refined elegance, graceful lines, interior simplicity, and a beautiful blend of English and local Canadian design, the Cathedral's most striking characteristics and elements include:

- ✧ the soaring spire that adorns the city's skyline;
- ✧ stately Gothic arches and pillars whose carvings depict animals and plants native to Mount Royal;
- ✧ superbly sculpted angels throughout;
- ✧ classic 19th-century pews;
- ✧ Spectacular stained-glass windows from the William Morris and Burne-Jones schools;
- ✧ the ornamental stone screen above the altar, dedicated in 1923 as a World War I memorial and judged one of the most beautiful of its kind in Canada;
- ✧ a magnificent tracker organ crafted by the renowned North American builder, Karl Wilhelm.

In tourist season, visitors come to Christ Church Cathedral by the busload. They admire the architecture, snap photographs, pause for a moment of quiet.



1760s
First Protestant congregations in Montreal worship together in various Roman Catholic chapels.

1789
Christ Church opens its doors for public worship in a former Jesuit chapel.

1803
Building is razed by fire.

1814
Second Christ Church is built on Notre Dame Street near Place d'Armes.

1850
Official proclamation of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal: Christ Church becomes Christ Church Cathedral.

1856
New building is destroyed by fire.

1859
Christ Church Cathedral opens where it stands today – far from what was then downtown.

1927
Original 3.5-million-pound stone spire and tower are removed, as foundations prove unable to bear their weight.



URGENT REPAIRS

Despite diligent maintenance work, time and the elements have been hard on the Cathedral. A comprehensive assessment recently conducted by an architectural and design firm with recognized expertise in heritage buildings spelled out the action needed now: repair, restore, and upgrade the building – both inside and out – before even more complex, costly, and hazardous issues arise.

- ✧ The largest challenge by far is the Cathedral’s **spire**. Extensive deterioration and damage is worsening as the clock ticks. The spire demands immediate action.
- ✧ The Cathedral’s exterior **façade, masonry, and windows** require work. Columns at the entrance are eroded, and mortar between the stones requires repointing, particularly at the corners of the building. The stone steps at each entrance must be rebuilt.
- ✧ The **roof** leaks during heavy snow and rainfalls, and needs repair.
- ✧ The **electrical system** must be upgraded; this work will allow access to the obsolete **lighting system** and **fixtures**.
- ✧ The **heating system** is unreliable: the **boiler** is 27 years old. A new, more fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly unit must be installed.
- ✧ **Interior walls** and **ceiling** need repair and fresh paint.
- ✧ The historic **pews** are in serious need of restoration, and the flooring under them must be replaced.

SAVING THE HISTORIC SPIRE

The Cathedral’s original stone spire was replaced in the 1940s with a creative innovation – aluminum panels shaped to replicate the old spire, mounted on a steel structure. These two metals interact chemically with each other, and climate has also taken its toll.

Today, the structural steel members and rivet-and-bolt connections that bind the aluminum panels to its steel structure are in an advanced state of corrosion. This reduces their load-bearing capacity and stability, and puts the whole spire in a precarious state.

The aluminum panels themselves – now part of Canadian architectural history – are intact. The consulting architects, having considered various alternatives, advise dismantling the spire and building a new central structure to hold those panels in place.

This solution respects the Cathedral’s architectural heritage and would make sure the spire is structurally sound and stable for the next century and beyond. This major project alone will cost \$4.87 million.



1940
Exact replica of original spire, in aluminum, is erected as anonymous gift.

1980-81
Mechanical-action organ is built by Karl Wilhelm of Mont Saint-Hilaire.

1987-88
Major construction project adds shopping mall and mezzanine beneath church, connecting to stores and metro station, along with 34-storey office building to the north, separated by a public garden with fountain.

1988
Government of Quebec officially classifies Christ Church Cathedral as a historical monument.

1995
Raoul Wallenberg monument unveiled in garden behind the Cathedral.

1999
Government of Canada designates Christ Church Cathedral as a national historic site.

2014
Architectural survey determines deterioration of aluminum spire requires immediate action. Repairs to masonry and interior walls also judged urgent.

A RENEWAL IN OUR TIME

Raising substantial private and public funds to preserve the integrity of Christ Church Cathedral's fabric, and in particular the iconic spire, is a very ambitious undertaking. We are all acutely aware that claims are being made for private donations from many quarters where there is a real and present need, and this makes any fundraising all the more challenging. But there is a very good long term opportunity here to assure the continued integrity of this important building, and allow it to continue to stand, not just as a reminder or an architecturally important artefact of an earlier age, but to continue to serve its varied, rich, on-going, broadly based public and community mission on a sustainable basis into the future. It therefore merits the support of all Montrealers, whatever their background. Thank you for your generosity.



Bruce McNiven

Chair, Major Fundraising Campaign
Christ Church Cathedral

CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

REHABILITATE THE SPIRE

\$4,870,000

Implement a conservative solution to the spire's current problems, replacing the supporting members to render it structurally sound and stable for the next century and beyond.

REPAIR EXTERIOR AND UPGRADE ROOF, ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, HEATING AND LIGHTING

1,856,000

Mend the Cathedral's fabric, adding insulation and a modern boiler and replacing lighting and wiring, to modernize and protect the future of this historic building and also reduce its carbon footprint, saving on future energy costs.

REFURBISH THE INTERIOR

744,000

Repair damage from leaking roof with new plaster and fresh paint, and restore historic pews, replacing flooring under them, to welcome a new generation of tourists and worshippers.

ENRICH THE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

180,000

Major restoration of the Karl Wilhelm organ will preserve and maximize the instrument's exceptional sound quality and musical range. Replace the concert piano, to attract top-quality international pianists and offer audiences and performers the best possible experience.

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

100,000

An elevator will allow people with reduced mobility to access the mezzanine area, used by the Sunday School, choir, and community groups.

ENDOW THE FUTURE WORK OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

250,000

This dedicated fund will allow the century-old Society to maintain and broaden its exemplary community outreach.

TOTAL CAMPAIGN TARGET

\$8,000,000