

Canadian Baptist Identity (Approved: May 8, 2026)

1. We are Kingdom-Seeking

As Canadian Baptists, we are a Christ-centred family of approximately 900 churches, organized as the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, French Baptist Union (Union D'Eglises Baptistes Francophone Du Canada), and Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.¹ Though distinct organizations, we joyfully and intentionally partner with one another and Canadian Baptist Ministries² to demonstrate God's kingdom in our neighbourhoods, regions, nation, and world.

Overflowing with hope, we hunger for God's coming Kingdom and seek to live into it faithfully, on earth as it is in heaven. Together, we pray, work, and bear witness to Jesus Christ through both word and deed, embracing a broken world with compassion, justice, humility, and love.

2. We Walk Together in Community

Rooted in the authority of Scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, and formed within the community of faith, we affirm the priesthood of all believers and the vital role of the local church. We believe God's mission is lived most faithfully in and through locally rooted congregations, practicing discernment in community while remaining connected to one another across regions and cultures.

We also recognize the importance of God-given associations that help churches advance in mission, including denominational families, mission partners, educational centres, and foundations. These relationships strengthen our shared life and support churches in their calling and mission.

3. We Join in God's Mission

As Canadian Baptists, we choose to join together in God's mission. We believe God is already at work in our neighbourhoods, regions, nation, and world, and that we are called to participate faithfully in what God is doing.

Stronger together, we commit to learning from one another, supporting one another's ministries, cultivating leaders, investing in relationships, and together creating and collaborating on meaningful initiatives for the sake of the gospel. Where appropriate, we seek to speak with a unified voice, while honouring the diversity of our histories, theological expressions, cultural contexts, and regional realities.

4. We Live with Adventurous Hope

Our life together is marked by an adventurous and missional spirit - characterized by creativity, theological rigour, thoughtful engagement and an embrace of our cultural diversity. We value education and faithful leadership formation, trusting that God continues to call and equip His people for service in changing times. Forward-looking and Spirit-led, we are willing to experiment, adapt, and innovate for the sake of God's mission and reaching more people with the hope of Jesus.

¹ CBWC, CBOQ, and CBAC are organized regionally. The mission of the FBU extends across the country among French-speaking Canadians.

² CBM has been the official mission agency of the Canadian Baptists since 1874.

Committed to honest and open dialogue, we seek to inspire one another and to discern national missional priorities together. Confident that the Spirit is still leading, we move forward with courage, hope, and expectancy in a changing world.

Appendix - Canadian Baptist Historical Statement

Historically, Canadian Baptists have been more organized in their international mission efforts; their vision to work together on national initiatives spans more than a century. This culminated in the formation of the Canadian Baptist Federation in 1944. This partnership of the regional Baptist bodies provided opportunity to strengthen the fellowship among the churches, provide a common voice on emerging societal issues, develop a shared hymnal and resources for worship along with a national publication. A resource for worship and service for pastoral leaders, was revised as *Common Expressions* and continues to have wide usage among Canadian Baptist leaders. The Federation's relief and development agency, *The Sharing Way* was highly effective in its mission to alleviate human suffering globally.

The Baptist Federation merged in 1995 with Canadian Baptist International Ministries to form the single entity Canadian Baptist Ministries, with the DNA of integral mission - the gospel, expressed in both word and deed. CBM continues to partner with the regional bodies for ministry in Canada and across the globe. Today, the national focus is captured through the Canadian Baptist Partners Agreement highlighting priorities for engagement. A Canadian Baptist National Convenor has been in place since 2024.

Various affinity groups meet nationally including Canadian Baptist Youth, the National Learning Circle, Regional Ministers and Canadian Baptist Women.