

## Overture re: Resignation of Can Corp executive

### Background:

Upon hearing of the dismissal of Darren Roorda as Canadian Ministries Director a number of Canadian CRC pastors met to discuss what had happened. A letter sent to all Canadian CRC pastors was signed by roughly eighty, representing every Canadian Classis. This letter led to a conversation with the Canada Corp members. That conversation was cordial though not finally helpful in answering some key questions. There are two main concerns. Darren Roorda was released and it is hard to see how that helps the cause of the Canadian CRC; and the SALT report was approved without registered challenges by the CanCorp COD members. This is not meant to disparage any individuals (none will be named) and does not deny the efforts of those involved. However, at what appears to be a crucial juncture in the church political system of leadership in the CRCNA, it is vital that the leaders representing Canada are able to clearly and fully articulate the vision of a binational denomination in which Canada is an equal partner at the table.

For more of the history you are encouraged to consult Christian Courier articles from the summer and the raft of documents written about this journey. The goal of this overture is to take a few strong steps toward a decades old goal: Canadian Ministry that is contextually Canadian from leadership to implementation.

Mountainview CRC Grimsby and Providence CRC Beamsville overture Classis Niagara to strongly recommend that the Canada Corp Executive resign from the COD because of a differing vision from the Christian Reformed classes, churches, and people of Canada they are meant to represent.

### Grounds

1. The termination of Darren Roorda and the acceptance of the more hastily written SALT (Structure and Leadership Team) report over the thorough and inclusive work of the CRT (Canadian Restructuring Team) suggest an unwillingness to stand strong at a crucial moment in our church political history.
2. Darren Roorda, by all accounts, is a knowledgeable and capable leader who has led the journey in preparing for the implementation of a system that would allow Canadian Ministry to be Canadian led in a binational structure. There has been no evidence as to why he was let go. Confidentiality notwithstanding, there is usually at least some sense in a community as to why such a separation might take place.
3. This is precisely a moment when an experienced capable leader is needed to help walk forward. The present CanCorp executive has broken ties and so to re-instate Darren or hire him for the new role would require the proposed resignations.
4. There are deep concerns being raised about the SALT report, both what its content would mean for Canadian ministry and how it came to be the document on the table. It would benefit Canadian ministry and the health of the CRCNA to have the document re-assessed and implemented without the waves of procedural concern washing over it.
5. The process followed by the Canada Corp executive leading up to the termination does not appear to have followed documented procedures resulting in a profound lack of confidence in the Canada Corp Executive and their ability to provide sound leadership going forward.