



Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice – Canada

www.cappcanada.ca

Proposal and Invitation to Participate: Canada-wide hybrid speaker series on Catholic Social Thought 2026 winter/spring pilot project for possible annual series

CAPP-Canada is the Canadian chapter of the Vatican-based Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, established by Pope St. John Paul II in 1993 with the mission of fostering a deeper knowledge and application of Catholic Social Teaching among lay Catholic leaders. Our focus is to carry out this mission in the Canadian context while advancing the Foundation's global mission and collaborating with chapters in other countries.

Last year we completed an extensive research phase of a strategic planning process, in which we identified a number of key activities we are exploring/undertaking in order to advance CAPP's mission in Canada. These include (in addition to one-off events and various communication activities):

1. A delegation to the annual CAPP Conference in at the Vatican (the signature program of CAPP);
2. The [Lumen Gentium Forum](#), a year-long formation program in CST and Virtuous Leadership for young Catholic professionals (launched in Toronto last year, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto, and hosted by the U of T Newman Centre).
3. A mini-CAPP conference for senior business and civic leaders from across Canada (in planning as a pilot project for Ottawa in 2026 to be hosted at the Papal Nunciature and the Ottawa office of Cardus).
4. Participation in and/or development of week-long courses (in English and French) in CST for senior business, civic and other leaders, starting with participation in the CAPP-USA course at The Catholic University of America.

AND

5. **An annual hybrid Canada-wide seminar series on CST and topics relevant to Canada, though not necessarily unique to Canada, in collaboration with centres for Catholic thought across the country.** Other activities are invitation or application-based, but this will be a broader annual outreach initiative, that helps spread awareness of CST and CAPP.

It is this fifth component, that we wish to invite you to help us develop.

We see it not only as an opportunity to advance and amplify our own mission, but also to help amplify and advance the mission of key centres of Catholic and Christian thought across the country.

The vision is simple. Centres across the country will join with CAPP-Canada to create an annual winter/spring series of 4-5 hybrid seminars that focus on a key theme as given to CAPP by the Holy Father (such as AI) and/or, where relevant, adapted to a particular Canadian priority. Some centres may only participate every second year, others every year, depending on capacity and interest. However, they would have representatives on a central planning committee. Each centre would host one of the 4-5 events and promote local participation in the entire series (in-person and online). CAPP-Canada would lead the

coordination, planning, Canada-wide (and international) publicity and online participation component. The planning committee would work together to confirm the main topic, the subthemes, identify speakers, and review communications, etc. The costs will be minimal: small honoraria for speakers (only as needed) with the cost to be shared; venue, simple refreshments and local promotion provided by hosting centres (with support from local CAPP members and volunteers); online component and wider promotion provided by CAPP-Canada.

In this regard, we are building on experience since the Canada-wide re-launch of our chapter in 2022, we have organized a number of in-person, online and hybrid or live-streamed events, all of which are listed on our website's [past events page](#) (with the exception of the last [event](#), co-sponsored by McGill's Newman Centre. We are also planning an event with McGill's Newman Centre for November 25 on Rerum Novarum: <https://www.cappcanada.ca/activities>.

As with all our initiatives, we want to start this one as a pilot project, without promising to continue it on an annual basis, even if that is what we have in mind in proposing this to you. For 2026, we are proposing a series relating to AI and CST, and running from winter into spring, with 3-5 events.

We have initiated discussions with directors or staff at the following centres: [McGill's Newman Centre](#); [University of Toronto's Newman Centre](#); the [Catholic Studies Program at the University of Prince Edward Island](#), supported by [St. Dunstan's University](#); the Archdiocese of Halifax; and [St. Peter's Seminary](#) at Western University (London); [Corpus Christi / St. Mark's](#); University of St. Mary (Calgary); and [Cardus](#). Three have confirmed already, one of them subject to finding a faculty/staff point-person; others are earlier in the conversation.

Regardless of how tentative your availability or capacity is for 2026, if you are interested in exploring this further, please let us know asap. We plan to set up a first zoom call for late November.

We look forward to exploring with you how we might be able to combine our gifts in service of the Church's mission.

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