Pioneers on the go!

The Center for Intercultural Action (**C.A.I**. in French) has organized **for the first time in Quebec Region** a WIHW event.

Because our mission as organization is to facilitate the integration of immigrants, while raising awareness of cultural diversity, we organized a social evening called **WIHW 5@7 Intercultural Event**.

We launched this project to promote openness to others and as a fight against prejudice, regardless of age, gender, origin, religion or status.

We invited people from different social and religious backgrounds from Quebec Region. Everyone was welcome: residents and non-residents, Canadian citizens or not, believers or not.

We programmed the watching of a movie together: The Imam and the Pastor, from Alan Channer <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/2421/The-Imam-and-The-Pastor>

After watching the movie, we had a sharing, directed by Mr. **Arsene Brice Bado,** S.J., currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Laval University, born in Burkina Faso, who has written the book ***Dignity across Borders.*** The book explores the ways and means to achieve both the national and the universal common good with regard to forced migration issues. ([arsene-brice.bado.1@ulaval.ca](mailto:arsene-brice.bado.1@ulaval.ca))

Among the participants to this event was Mr. **Abdellah Jaafria**, Director for Carrefour d’Action Interculturelle (C.A.I.), main sponsor of the event. Mr Jaafria spoke to the participants about his personal experience as a Muslim working in a Catholic environment. ([abdel@soutenir.org](mailto:abdel@soutenir.org))

And I would like to underline the presence of **Mr Paul Mackey** ([oecumenisme@videotron.ca](mailto:oecumenisme@videotron.ca)), responsible for the Christian Interfaith Council for Quebec Region, who has encouraged us to continue in this direction and he has offered assistance for future events.

And the woman, born in Haiti, who participated in this event fostered us to promote social changes in the welcoming of foreign people.

We took a break after that and we prayed together using some natural symbols (water and fire) taken from First Nations Religion.

We wrapped up our celebration with an Interfaith Toast, wishing us a new beginning for our life together.

Even if we were a small group of people, we rejoiced very much because we were making history in Quebec Region. We were the pioneers!

This report was written by Miguel A. Sancha, social volunteer for C.A.I.