

New Liberal Catholic Church Bishop for Canada.

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[Adapted from various sources.]

The care of the Canadian church province of the Liberal Catholic Church since 1977 by an American bishop ended on Saturday, May 19, 2018. On that date Eric Archambault, priest of the LCC in Magog, QC was consecrated bishop.

Consecrating bishops were Presiding Bishop Michael Warnon (USA), senior bishop Peter Baaij (Netherlands) and junior bishop David Carpenter (USA). Bishop Archambault now holds the office of regional authority for the LCC Presiding Bishop. With this office, growth for the LCC in Canada is expected to be facilitated since there will be an ordaining bishop nearby.

The consecration took place during a well-attended French-speaking Eucharist. Many travelled from different parts of Canada and the United States, and other countries to be present for this special event.

In attendance by special invitation were two members of RCWP Canada, Bishop Marie Bouclin of Sudbury, ON and a priest, Linda Spear of Sutton, QC.

In Canada, the LCC operates legally as a charity. It was founded in 1916, during the First World War, by Bishop James Wedgwood. For his pastoral duties Bishop Wedgwood had travelled several times from England to Australia. The war in Europe and the presence of enemy submarines, made trips by ship very dangerous, so Bishop Wedgwood opted to go to Canada and the United States where he founded the first LCC communities.

On July 1, 1946, Ernest Jackson (1890-1982) was consecrated Regional Bishop for Canada and assumed responsibility for the LCC in Canada at that time. At the age of 87, Bishop Jackson resigned on April 30, 1977. After his departure, Canada was under the jurisdiction of an American bishop.

In 1985, Bishop Gerrit Munik, United States Regional Bishop asked Bishop Maurice Warnon (one of the few French-speaking bishops) to travel to Quebec to ordain George Duguay to the priesthood. Following his trip to Quebec in 1988, Bishop Warnon was appointed Commissionarian Bishop of Canada. In 2004 he was appointed Regional Bishop of Canada. This restored Canada's independence from the United States as far as the LCC was concerned. In 2008, Bishop Warnon left for Belgium, and Canada was once again under the jurisdiction of an American bishop. In 2018, Eric Archambault, a Canadian by birth, became Regional Bishop of Canada, taking over the administrative and ecclesiastical office for the LCC.

[This article was adapted from Vrij-Katholieke Kerk and Eric-Archambault websites, and translated from Dutch and French.]