

# LIPC Newsletter

*London Interfaith Peace Camp Initiatives*

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## Peace, Salaam, Shalom

We would like to take a moment to describe the mission of The London Interfaith Peace Camp (LIPC). It is a collaborative community project that encourages understanding and cooperation among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith groups. Rooted in the shared values of these Abrahamic traditions, this unique project encourages positive interfaith dialogues to promote peace and solidarity between and among communities.

# Peace, Salaam, Shalom

In early June, an unfathomable tragedy took place here in the city of London. Innocent lives were taken simply because they were Muslim. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the thousands of unmarked graves of Indigenous children who attended residential schools in Canada. It has certainly been difficult to be surrounded by so much injustice.

There is no room for hatred. There is no room for bigotry. The London Interfaith Peace Camp stands in solidarity against these injustices. To echo the London Muslim Mosque, "We will survive this test through faith, love, our unshakeable belief in God, and a firm commitment to the pursuit of justice.

Our hearts and prayers and support remain with the Afzaal family and the entire Muslim community. As well, we continue to reflect and acknowledge the Indigenous People and listen. In these last few months, more than ever, I am reminded of the work we need to do, fully embracing our camp initiative: "to promote peace and solidarity between and among communities." Let's get to work NOT only during camp week, but each month, day and every moment, loving our neighbour.



# Thoughts from our *lipc* team...

This year we have tried our best to stay connected to our team. Below are some thoughts from some of our camp counsellor volunteers and their experiences from camp, how they stayed connected to their family and faith community throughout the pandemic and what they look forward to during camp this summer.

The entire team is ready to listen and learn, creating a safe space to have conversation about the three Abrahamic Faiths so we can better serve our campers and all those around us.

*“I look forward to learning new things about the Abrahamic religions as counsellors and working with the youth to make this year educational and fun.” - Alexis*



*“Over the past year, it has been tough to stay connected with my faith and those I am close to. It's been extremely important to my family and I to keep our faith present in our lives. We have made sure to partake in online church services, and I personally have been helping to lead activities for my church volunteer group. I have also been video calling and messaging friends and family daily. I have done things like visiting grandparent's houses to drop flowers off on doorsteps and celebrating special occasions like birthdays over video call. I think that before quarantine I was taking connections with family, friends, and my faith community for granted and I will certainly cherish these relationships more from now on.” Emma*



# Thoughts from our *lipc* team...

*"This summer at Virtual LIPC, I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the campers as well as having a good time leading them in all the fun activities we have planned. I am excited to learn more about the Abrahamic faiths, as well as virtually touring each place of worship!" - Hannah*



*"I enjoyed having conversations with the other volunteers, as well as helping in crafts and leading small groups. Overall, for the first time doing virtual camp, it definitely kept my mood up and introduced me to many new activities that one can do even by themselves. This year, we'll be even more prepared for online camp, so I have high hopes!" - Lana*

*"This summer, I look forward to recreating a better, more memorable peace camp experience, by giving our new and veteran campers the same memories I had when I was a camper at London Interfaith Peace Camp." - Ali*

*"Last year, I very much enjoyed learning even more about different faiths - there is so much I didn't know before that I know about now! I also absolutely loved the interactions I saw and experienced with other camp counsellors, as well as all of the activities, questions, games, and camp songs we did! I can't wait for camp again this year!! See you all soon :)" - Sam*

# Virtual Camp 2.0

The Adventures of LIPC continue!

Join us: Monday, August 23rd to Friday August 27th!

What you need to know:

- This years theme is Faith and Wellness!
- Campers entering grades 1-8 are welcome.
- Virtual sessions will be 30 minutes three to four times a day!
- Large and Small Group activities
- Embracing faith through interactive activities, crafts, cooking sessions and more!
- Register before August 16th in order to receive an LIPC kit before camp begins!
- Be sure to register SOON online at [kings.uwo.ca/peacecamp](https://kings.uwo.ca/peacecamp)
- Cost: FREE (donations welcome)
- Camp Counsellors/CIT Training Monday, July 26 to Friday, July 30th.

## LIPC Announcements

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY???

Moving forward, we will have a quarterly newsletter during 2021-2022. We would love to hear from you and what is taking place in your faith community! Please feel free to email us and send us information for our next edition in October!

CONGRATULATIONS to several of our campers and staff who celebrated graduations, holy celebrations such as b'nei mitzvot, baptisms, confirmations and weddings! Eid Mubarak to our Muslim brothers and sisters who are celebrating this week. Many blessings to each of you.