

ELIOT INSTITUTE BOARD MANUAL

OTHER UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CONNECTIONS

SPECIAL ISSUES

In 1999 the Eliot Board became concerned over talk of a proposed split between the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). It was felt this would have an impact on our organization and the good relationships that have been established between American and Canadian campers at Eliot Institute camps.

Two letters were sent in regard to this matter. In April 1999 the following letter was sent to the CUC:

"The Board of Directors of Eliot Institute resolves unanimously: We are concerned about recent efforts to separate Canadian UU's from American UU's. We have found the common participation of Canadians and Americans in our UU camps to be mutually enriching and beneficial. We are convinced our unique international ties should be enhanced, not diminished."

In January of 2001 another letter was sent to both the UUA and CUC. It stated:

We, the Board of Directors of Eliot Institute, are writing to implore the CUC and UUA reconsider their proposed separation.

As part of an active cross-border district, we are grievously concerned about the direction that negotiations are taking. We feel that we are greatly enriched by the international makeup of our community, which is, for many, an extended family of choice. Were the CUC to secede from the UUA, it would alter the fundamental nature of that family. It has been argued that we could retain our cross-border friendships; nobody would try and stop Canadians from visiting their American friend. We would counter, however, that there is a profound difference between being a guest and being a full-fledged member of the tribe. We, and our children do not want to become guests in what has been our home

As Canadian and American neighbors, we may have disagreements, but we would be foolish to let them separate us. In this era of increasing individual isolation, should we not be looking for ways to come together, rather than reasons to be apart?

We urge the CUC and UUA to reconsider this drastic step and to continue their present relationship.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL (CUC)

[0102] CUC will meeting in Kelowna, B.C. in May. John Lancaster and Pat McMahan will go and set up a table with Eliot materials. Joan Russell and Brian Welwood may also be in attendance and will assist.