

FAQs RE: CABC NAME CHANGE (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

The following document attempts to address frequently asked questions and to clarify the rationale for the proposed name change from "Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches" to "Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada".

A number of people have asked, "Why is it necessary to undergo a name change again?" Many of us remember that less than twenty years ago the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches experienced a name change when we dropped the word, "United" from our name. In fact, the CABC has gone through several name changes in its history.

1. Why are we going through another name change at this time?

We continue to work cooperatively with our three sister Denominations (Canadian Baptists of Ontario & Quebec, Union of French Baptist Churches of Canada & Canadian Baptists of Western Canada) and Canadian Baptist Ministries on a number of fronts. Recently we have noted that there are times when we should speak with one voice on spiritual, social and justice issues Canada wide (i.e.: Physician assisted suicide, the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission etc.). With the loss of the Baptist Federation of Canada we no longer have a national voice and we are having difficulty sustaining and maintaining the sense of identity as Canadian Baptists. While we have strength of numbers (almost 1200 churches across Canada) our identity seems to have weakened in the past number of years.

2. Are we just changing the name to be like the other Conventions/Unions?

No, Council has been discussing the possibility of a name change for a number of years but felt that we were experiencing other significant changes, which meant timing was important. Now seems to be the right time.

3. Will we give up any of our autonomy as Atlantic Baptists?

No, we are not giving up any of our autonomy as a regional body of Baptist Christians. We already have a formal Covenant Partnership with CBM and our sister Conventions and Unions. Our leaders meet together semi-annually. We routinely have Pastors transfer credentials back and forth across these regional identities. The name change speaks to our common heritage and identity as the oldest and largest group of Baptist churches in Canada.

4. What is the cost of changing the name again?

Fortunately, the cost of changing our name is minimal. To date we have spent less than \$1,300 in legal fees and we are estimating remaining costs to be minimal. The entire process will cost less than \$2,000.



5. Do our churches have to change their name in any way?

No, this will not affect the names of our churches. Churches will not have to change their names in any way, nor does it affect a church's membership in the CABC. We are aware of only two organizations that have the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches in their legal name: The Pension & Insurance Board and the Atlantic Baptist Mission Board. They will be able to change their legal names for a nominal fee.

6. Will Incorporated churches have to go through a costly legal process as a result of the CABC changing its name?

No, once again it is important to note that our lawyer informed us that incorporated local churches would not have to undergo changes to their bylaws when the CABC changes its name.

7. Will there be disadvantages to Atlantic Baptist Churches as a result of the name change?

If the name change is approved, at some point we will all need to change our documents to reflect the wording of the new name. This is merely procedural and logistical not a legal requirement.

8. Are there any other positive reasons for changing the name?

Whenever we try to explain who we are to people asking about Canadian Baptists, great confusion sets in. We talk about Canadian Baptist Ministries being the mission arm of four distinct but related Baptist groups in Canada. Having a common name with our sister groups takes away some of the confusion and ambiguity as to who we are.

9. Are there other reasons why we should do this?

We bring staff together from across Canada to discuss issues of commonality and how we can strengthen our ties and work more cooperatively on national as well as regional issues. For a number of years there has been a national Youth & Family working group that comes together for consultation and bringing new initiatives both nationally and to the regions. We see this as a very positive thing. The name change will better reflect our identity as Canadian Baptists. A strengthened identity will help strengthen our national unity.