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Dear friends of the CFEB,

Warm greetings to you from the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique! We are pleased to offer you the Spring 2025 newsletter of the Canadian Friends.

The Easter 2025 issue of *Les Nouvelles de Jérusalem* is available at the following web address: <https://www.yumpu.com/fr/document/view/70419933/nouvelles-de-jerusalem-109-paques-2025>

Fundraising Needs of the École Biblique

At the last meeting of the Board of the Canadian Friends, we met via Zoom with the Director of the École Biblique, Father Olivier Poquillon, OP. He informed us that despite the ongoing conflict in the region, Jerusalem itself remains quiet. The normal activities of the École continue.

However, the conflict has affected the École financially. Father Olivier spoke of several areas where the École requires financial support.

The École has 36 archaeological excavation reports of which 29 are to be published. There are 65 contributors willing to work on publishing these reports, but there is no budget for this. Some contributors would like to send people to photograph excavations but they need to be hosted. As well, funds are needed for people to format texts so they can be published; such formatting is specialized, and formatting each volume costs about 5,000 euros. The École is also putting its historic photo collection online; the goal is to have this project finished by the end of the year.

As well, the climate controls in the École library are now 25 years old and need to be repaired and upgraded. Maintaining constant temperature and humidity is essential to the conservation of the unique collection of the library. In addition, scholars rely on the air conditioning in the library in order to be able to do their work, especially in the hot Jerusalem summers. It is estimated that it will cost more than 50,000 euros to renovate the climate controls in the library.

The Canadian Friends of the École Biblique is developing a plan to raise funds for this renovation project. More information will be available in future editions of our newsletter. Stay tuned!

The Best and Worst of Times for Gaza Archaeology

These are among the best and worst of times for the archaeological work of the École Biblique in Gaza. As the war in Gaza rages on, Israel's daily military forays and bombings threaten ancient archaeological sites where the École Biblique has been actively involved since the mid-1990s.

There is an urgent need to move materials from one major site in northern Gaza to another location – but finding a safe place to put them, as well as the knowledgeable workers to remove them and a safe time to do so, is extremely difficult.

By contrast, archaeological treasures of Gaza are being celebrated 3,200 km to the west at

a major exhibit in Paris at the Institut du Monde Arabe (the Institute for the Arab World).

Running from April 3 to November 2, 2025, the exhibit features 130 items from over the past 5,000 years, many of which were excavated by archaeologists from the École, which has worked closely with Palestinian archaeologists and workers in Gaza during the past three decades.

The display also includes the first public display of photographs of Gaza taken in the early 20th century, part of the École's historic photo collection. As well, the display features artifacts from the private collection of Gazan real estate magnate Jawdat Khoudary, a long-time friend of École archaeologists who has also been involved with the digs since the post-Oslo Accords in the mid-1990s.

The on-going war in the Gaza Strip is highlighted in a dedicated section of the exhibit, addressing what the institute calls "the urgent challenges of heritage preservation in times of war."

Scholarships

With operations at the École Biblique continuing as normal, the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique continue to provide scholarships for study or research at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. But we recognize the difficulty of making plans to study or conduct research in Jerusalem.

To facilitate the awarding of the CFEB scholarships for 2025-2026, applications will be welcome at any time up to August 31, 2025, without regard to the usual deadline. A decision will be made within approximately one month of receiving an application.

In addition to our regular scholarships, we offer two named scholarships – one in honour of Father Philippe LeBlanc, a Dominican priest who was a founding member and long-time Vice President of the CFEB, and the other in honour of Father Guy Couturier, CSC, founder of Les Anciens et Amis de l'École Biblique in Montreal and former president of the CFEB. Fr. LeBlanc passed away on December 30, 2017, and Fr. Couturier on May 9, 2017. We also offer the new post-doctoral fellowship named in honour of Edward Jackman, one of the founders and long-time supporter of the Canadian Friends.

Applications and inquiries are to be sent to Dr. Tim Hegedus, CFEB Administrator, at cfeb.aceb@gmail.com.

Your Support

We are thankful to all who contribute to the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique.

We support graduate students and academics to study and do research at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. In addition, we also provide funding to the École for library acquisitions, IT upgrades and other needs.

It is your support that enables us to maintain and expand these important opportunities.

How you may contribute

Please fill in the enclosed donation form and send us a cheque by mail. Or, you may donate online at: <https://www.cfebweb.ca> (in English) and <https://www.acebweb.ca> (in French). Just fill in the form 'To Make a Donation' on the "Donations" page of our website.

Our website also has a direct link to CanadaHelps. Simply click on the CanadaHelps link on the CFEB Home Page.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

With appreciation and best wishes,