

I am thrilled and delighted to see the members of Beth Emeth maintaining their long relationship with MERCAZ-Canada. As we continue the slow wake-up from COVID, it is comforting to see that the Jewish community realizes the importance of our common priorities. First among those priorities is our unwavering support for Israel.

As we look back on 2022, we see Israel continuing to grow as a modern, mature state, steeped in its Jewish roots and able to gaze into the future with both wisdom and hutzpah. We see a STEM powerhouse, fearless and inventive in asking the basic questions of how to live and thrive in this world. Even as we see all too many of the challenges, we also see results of the calm diplomacy that ultimately carries so much more weight.

Israel's challenges have not gone away. Antisemitism is still present on the campuses. We worry about a new government that may not entirely reflect our values. We ponder our own role as Masorti Jews in a country dominated by a far more conservative element.

MERCAZ-Canada continues efforts on the political spectrum with participation in the World Zionist Congress. MERCAZ has also worked on programming here in Canada. We have already had two MERCAZ Reads Israel events, learning with our esteemed teachers and speaking with the author of a book exploring the personalities of the next generations of Israelis. We gathered for a retreat to discuss leadership and antisemitism.

Looking towards 2023, we will continue the programs that have been successful over the years. There is a WZO conference in Israel in the spring. MERCAZ-Canada will be present and visible for that event. We will continue to work with our partners on matters of concern to the community here in Canada, especially as regards funding for movement infrastructure.

Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism will continue to support the varied kehillot in Israel. As the number of communities grows, the importance of our support increases as well. We will continue help people find ways to get to Israel. We will continue to be our voice in Israel.

Both MERCAZ-Canada and Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism note with pride marking the 125th anniversary of the first Zionist conference in Basel, Switzerland. We also reflect on the drama and tension during the UN vote on Resolution 181, ultimately approving the partition plan and providing the Yishuv community the international support for a new state only a few months later.

As you are aware, there has been a turnover with the executive director. We wish Rav Jen continued success as she pursues new endeavours at CJPAC. We thank her for

her tireless efforts over the years. I thank her for the solid foundation she created for me.

I look forward to our future together. Please feel free to call, e-mail, or drop by.

Rav Sean

Rav Sean Gorman
Executive Director MERCAZ-Canada
Executive Director Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism
Mercaz.ca Masorti.ca