



# National Presbyterian Museum

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## **NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN MUSEUM TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY**

June 1, 2018

The Rev. Angus Sutherland, Chair of the Museum Advisory Committee of the National Presbyterian Museum (NPM), announced that the National Presbyterian Museum will close temporarily on Monday, October 1, 2018. The Museum will be closed to group tours as of this date.

Plans to temporarily close the Museum were made by the Advisory Committee in May, 2017. The closure is necessitated by the re-development of St. John's Presbyterian Church, 415 Broadview Avenue, Toronto. The congregation is planning a significant re-development of its building. Consequently, the NPM will need to find an alternative site.

Angus observed, "we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with St. John's for the past 16 years ever since the church allowed the Museum the use of nearly its entire basement."

The National Presbyterian Museum was dedicated and opened in St. John's Church on Sunday, September 29, 2002.

The closure will allow Ian Mason, member of the Advisory Committee responsible for curatorial and administrative work since July, 2009, time to carefully pack and inventory the collection in advance of the move.

The Advisory Committee is pursuing a strong lead that would re-locate the Museum to southern Ontario.

The Committee had hoped to move the Museum's collection directly from St. John's Church to the new location. However, the process to locate an affordable site that provides approximately 2,000 sq. ft. for gallery and storage has required more time than the Committee had anticipated.

The first stage of the plan is to obtain final approvals so that the facility can be acquired and renovated to provide the proper environmental controls.

In the meantime, the work of acquiring and cataloguing incoming artefacts will continue. Research enquiries will be answered to the best of our abilities.

Marilyn Repchuck, retiring Convener of the Committee on History, to which the Museum Advisory Committee reports, is our newest member. Marilyn acknowledged that her interest in joining the Museum Committee is to “make sure that this treasure of the church is preserved for and promoted throughout The Presbyterian Church in Canada.”

Members of the Museum Advisory Committee are continuing with the vision of the late Dr. John Johnston, our founding Curator, to offer The Presbyterian Church in Canada a resource that enables not only Presbyterians, but anyone, the opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of those who followed Jesus Christ and adopted Presbyterian theology in the expression of their faith.