

allowed more Canadian autonomy, short of disaffiliation.

In asking for the convention's support for the proposal, W.C.Y. McGregor, BRAC's international vice-president for Canada, told delegates, the majority of whom were American, of "the growing mood of nationalism" in Canada.

In the face of it, he said, the proposed restructuring "is the most reasonable direction to take, because it allows us to develop a strong national presence in Canada while at the same time it permits the maintenance of a viable international relationship". The international relationship is important, he said, given the continental structure of the railway and airline industries in which the majority of BRAC members work.

Stamps honour social and religious workers

Four eight-cent stamps have been issued in honour of Marguerite Bourgeoys, founder of the Order of Notre Dame, Alphonse Desjardins, leader of the credit union movement, John Cook, first moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Samuel Chown, a prime mover in the founding of the United Church of Canada.

"These four people deserve to be remembered for their humanitarianism and devotion to religious and social work in Canada," said Postmaster-General Bryce Mackasey.

Marguerite Bourgeoys

Marguerite Bourgeoys was born in 1620 at Troyes, France. According to her

memoirs, she became deeply religious after seeing a vision.

She arrived in Canada in 1653 and opened Montreal's first school in a barn, in 1658. She visited France the same year to find more instructresses. Eventually, she and the women she recruited came to be known as the Congrégation de Notre-Dame.

Under Marguerite Bourgeoys, the Congrégation de Notre-Dame quickly expanded and was soon teaching girls throughout New France. The curriculum included reading, writing, arithmetic, Latin, household arts for simple remedies, rudimentary chemistry and botany. There was strong emphasis on religion and on training the girls "to have pleasing manners and be good conversationalists". Marguerite Bourgeoys died in 1700.

John Cook

John Cook, who was born in 1805 at Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, attended university at Glasgow and Edinburgh and became a Doctor of Divinity. He came to Canada in 1836 as Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Quebec City, where he stayed for 47 years.

Dr. Cook became active on some of the administrative boards and higher positions in the Church. Certain British North Americans elected him their moderator in 1838 and again in 1844 when, despite his best efforts, a Scottish schism divided the Canadian Church. He began to work for a reunion. All the diverse Presbyterian Churches in Canada finally united in 1875 and recognized Cook's achievements by proclaiming him the first moderator.

He helped establish the high school in Quebec City and ran the local Presbyterian College. Many regard him as

"prime founder" of Queen's University, which he served as principal and as chancellor. He died in 1892.

Samuel Chown

Samuel Dwight Chown, born in Kingston, Ontario, in 1853 was ordained in the Methodist ministry in 1879.

He gained a reputation as an administrator when he lived in Montreal and Toronto from 1892 to 1902.

In 1902 the Methodists appointed Chown as secretary of their Department of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform. He rapidly expanded the work, and was soon dealing not only with alcohol but also with women's rights, education, municipal sanitation, mental health, narcotics, prostitution, and "immoral" stage productions, among other things.

Perhaps Chown's greatest contribution was his work towards the merger of Methodists, Congregationalists and some Presbyterians into the United Church. Chown became general superintendent of the Methodist Church in 1910. He died in 1933.

Alphonse Desjardins

Alphonse Desjardins was born in 1854 into a poor family and because of his early poverty, had a desire to help the less fortunate.

After corresponding with experts on credit unions in Europe, he founded the first North American credit union in Lévis, Quebec, in 1910. He designed it to serve the "very humblest classes".

Desjardins hoped that the Lévis credit union and those that followed could improve agriculture by keeping money in rural areas. He died in 1920.

