This comparative conversation between specialists in English Canada and Quebec around the suggested theme of the interface of religious institutions and practices and the social order has incurred a number of debts. Nancy Christie launched our thinking in this direction during a stimulating evening of conversation in Montreal by suggesting the theme of “religion and social order” around which Protestant and Catholic historiographies might converge. As the project unfolded, participants had the opportunity to meet and discuss preliminary results of their research during a two-day symposium organized by Ollivier Hubert, “The Social Role of the Churches/Le rôle social des Églises,” held at the Université de Montréal on 8-9 November 2002. The editors are grateful to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s Aid to Occasional Conferences and International Congresses in Canada Programme, whose funds assisted both the organization of the symposium and the publication of this volume, to the Département d’histoire, Université de Montréal, and to Isabel Ménard, who ably took charge of organizational matters during the conference. Yvonne M. Klein skillfully and efficiently translated the French-language contributions into English.

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