

by Sarah Chandler

"Violence begets violence. We know that a child experiencing abuse is more likely to see violence as normal, even acceptable... and more likely to perpetuate violence against his or her own children in the future."

– UNICEF Executive
 Director Anthony Lake¹

hildren are persons in formation. As such, they continually challenge parents as they explore and learn during the normal phases of growing up. According to child psychiatrist Daniel Siegel, "parents' responses shape the development of children's capacity to regulate their states of mind and shifts in emotions."² Siegel affirms that when a child

feels mad, sad, or scared, the brain chemistry involved actually acts to *prevent* learning. Therefore, discipline that fosters fear, anger, or sadness is counter-productive. It will not lead to constructive learning.

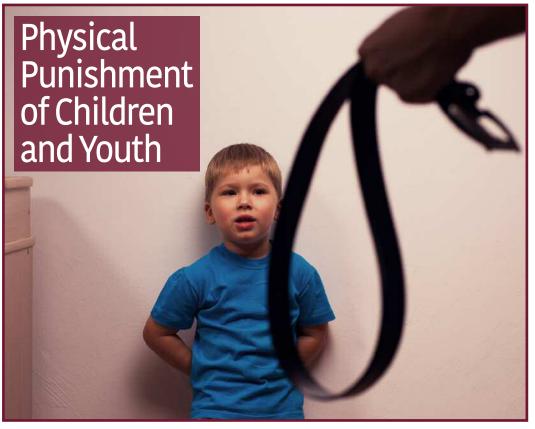
Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth

In 2013, CFSC was asked to endorse a *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*, which was developed by a national partnership of Canadian organizations concerned with the well-being of children and their families.

² Siegel, Daniel. "The Developing Mind: How relationships and the brain interact to shape who we are." *Guilford, 1999*, p.282

³ UNICEF. "Ending Violence Against Children." p. 7.

4 "Criminal Code," 1985, <u>http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/FullText.html</u>



A 2014 United Nations study on violence against children found that almost a billion (6 in 10) children between the ages of 2 and 14 worldwide are subjected to physical punishment by their caregivers on a regular basis. The study also found about 3 in 10 adults believe physical punishment is necessary to raise or educate children.³

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Canada is a party, guarantees children's protection from all forms of violence, including physical punishment. It also recognizes children's rights to respect and dignity.

Why is the Joint Statement necessary?

Unfortunately, Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* says "every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances."⁴

The UN has recommended that Canada change Section 43 in favour of legislation that would prohibit all forms of violence against children, however light.

¹ Lake, Anthony. opening remarks at UNICEF Executive Board, 4 February 2014, <u>http://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/index_71862.html</u>. Quoted in UNICEF. "Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action." New York, September 2014, p. 6

No Way to Treat a Child

One of Canada's closest allies is systematically mistreating children, and Canada is turning a blind eye. The United Nations reports that for a Palestinian child thought to have thrown a stone,

"[T]he common experience... is being aggressively awakened in the middle of the night by many armed soldiers and being forcibly brought to an interrogation centre tied and blindfolded, sleep deprived and in a state of extreme fear. Few children are informed of their right to legal counsel." -UNICEF, Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations, 2013, pp. 9-10

We do not support throwing stones, but no one should be subjected to this kind of treatment. That's why CFSC has joined other groups as founding members of the No Way to Treat a Child campaign in Canada. More information and a petition are available via:

http://quakerservice.ca/NoWayToTreatAChild

Canada 150 Statement

In the spirit of "renewed courage" and the desire to go about our lives in a faithful way, we offer you an adapted version of Friends' Advices & Oueries #11:

Be honest with this nation state called Canada. What unpalatable truths might we be evading? When we recognize shortcomings, do not let that discourage you. In



Quaker Concern is the newsletter of Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers). Published three-times a year, it features articles on CFSC projects and concerns of Friends.

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), is the peace and social justice agency of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. Since 1931 we have been a small team, mostly volunteers, but we've had a significant impact.

Donations are received with gratitude. We rely on the support of individuals to carry out our work. CFSC issues tax receipts for donations over \$10.

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worship together we can find the assurance of the Creator's love and the strength to go on with renewed courage towards a future where the rights and dignity of all peoples are respected.

Our full statement including Indigenous perspectives is at: http://guakerservice.ca/Canada150

CFSC welcomes funding of CoSA

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is a communitybased reintegration program that holds sex offenders accountable, while assisting with their hard work of re-entry into communities. A 5-year project evaluating CoSA found the program remarkably successful and cost-effective. We helped communicate this evaluation to Minister Ralph Goodale, who recently announced renewed funding for CoSA: http://bit.ly/2sxbnmL

Local reconciliation work

In 2016 Canadian Friends found unity with a proposal to take our reconciliation work "to the next level." This commitment involves reporting back each year about our progress. We are pleased to share the first update of actions Friends in 13 Meetings and Worship Groups are taking: http://quakerservice.ca/ReconciliationReport2017

Free Issa

Issa Amro is an internationally renowned human rights defender, and is principled in his philosophical and practical commitment to active nonviolence as the route to peace. CFSC members and associates have seen Issa's work first hand and been very impressed. Now he has been tried in Israeli military court and faces major jail time. The charges brought against him appear to be attempts to crush nonviolent struggle for equality. Learn more: http://nyti.ms/2v5kxql and consider supporting Issa if led: http://freeissa.org

Quakers express profound concern over famine

CFSC and Canadian Yearly Meeting have written to the government of Canada about our profound concern over the famines in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria. Our letter focuses on the importance of preventing the violence that is a major cause of all of these famines. Canada can and must do more in this regard. We also lift up the positive example of one grassroots peacebuilding effort in South Sudan. The open letter is at: <u>http://quakerservice.ca/famine</u>

by Parfaite Ntahuba

urundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. It was devastated by many years of civil conflicts and wars following its independence from Belgium in 1962. The breakdown of economic, social, and cultural structures led to a deterioration of women's condition. The worst example is Kamenge, a slum in the northern part of the capital city, Bujumbura. In 2002, women from the Evangelical Friends Church were touched by how the people of Kamenge face many interconnected challenges. They formed Friends Women Association (FWA), an organization that helps women rebuild their lives and care for each other. To achieve its mission, FWA constantly develops new partnerships, and seeks to learn new skills.

Inspiration to bring change

In June 2014, the Evangelical Friends

Church of Burundi appointed me to go to Johannesburg, South Africa, for an intensive study of conflict transformation at the African Peacebuilding Institute. During my studies there, I realized that gender-based violence was one of the main challenges that was fueling conflicts in Burundi. Quaker Service Norway provided early support for FWA's work to address gender-based violence (GBV).

In my role as coordinator of FWA, I next had the opportunity to be part of the reciprocal exchange between the Africa Peacebuilding Institute and the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College in Castlegar, British Columbia (BC). I was supported by the Mir Centre to study *Peace Studies* from September to December 2015. Along with *Peace Studies*, I took a course called *Women's Studies* that provided new knowledge to put into practice, as we can read in a note I wrote when I was back home.

"Women studies have helped me to understand more how women's movements have started around the world. I have learned that women have struggled to bring change. Unfortunately, gender inequality and the patriarchal system still exist. We still have lots work to do to reduce genderbased violence."

Inspired by the *Women's Studies* course, the team at FWA in Burundi organized an event to raise awareness and call for action against GBV on December 9, 2016. Local authorities, GBV facilitators, and both women and men in

the Kibimba community were mobilized.

CFSC associate member Janine Gagnier and Parfaite Ntahuba at Western Half Yearly Meeting

Earlier this year, the Mir Centre for Peace supported me to study a new course, Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP). The course was divided into two parts: online from January to March, then two weeks face-to-face in BC during April and May. I returned as pastor to my congregation and coordinator of FWA with skills that will help in a practical way in my double leadership roles. UCP principles are nonviolence, nonpartisanship, independence, transparency, and the primacy of local people. Strategies are proactive presence, building relationships, capacity building, and monitoring. These will be relevant in Burundi, especially when it comes to elections. For instance, the primacy of the local people principle calls for the capacity building. The purpose is that local people keep peace after unarmed civilian peacekeepers have withdrawn. Also, building relationships with existing authorities is so important, so that communication and plans for peace can be coordinated.

Facing Challenges by raising awareness

FWA still has many challenges. Firstly, on one side, as GBV is rooted in our Burundian culture, many women still find it normal. On the other side, men find our women's economic empowerment a potential cause to disturb families. According to them, women will no longer submit to their husbands once they have their own income. *Continued on page 5*





by Jennifer Preston and Rachel Singleton-Polster

he UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is of critical importance in the struggle to transform relationships based on colonialism and oppression to ones based on human rights and mutual respect. We know how significant the UN Declaration is to Indigenous Peoples, and we work for its full implementation through being active allies at both the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN PFII) in New York and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Geneva.

Each year we work with Indigenous partner organizations to prepare Joint Statements to be submitted and delivered orally (you can find them at <u>http://quakerservice.ca/resources/</u>). Such statements can impact the final UN reports and recommendations. This year we focused on the 10th anniversary of the *UN Declaration*, as well as the issue of Indigenous Peoples' enhanced participation at the UN. In April, CFSC staff Jennifer Preston was joined by CFSC member Rachel Singleton-Polster at the PFII. In July, Jennifer traveled to Geneva for EMRIP.

In addition to the written statements and attendance in the plenary, CFSC engages with many Indigenous partners, government representatives, UN officials, academics, and civil society groups. The days and evenings are filled with attendance in the main session, meetings, side events, conversations, and generally hurrying to the next place we are meant to be! Coordinating with the Quaker UN Offices (QUNO) enhances our work. We are blessed with, and thankful for, the use of Quaker House in both New York and Geneva. We always enjoy connecting with these sister Quaker organizations.

At the PFII we hosted a dinner for state and Indigenous representatives on the theme of participation. At EMRIP, together with QUNO Geneva, we hosted a dinner for state representatives to meet with UN appointed expert members of EMRIP. The dialogues held over dinner or coffee at Quaker House offer a unique atmosphere of candor and productivity. In Geneva, Jennifer also presented to the Quaker summer school on the work Friends do internationally to support Indigenous Peoples. The summer school students then took in a session of EMRIP.

To provide readers with a snapshot of what we do at the UN, here is a description of a day in the work of Friends representing Quakers at the PFII:

Monday April 24, 2017, Jennifer and Rachel begin two weeks of representing Friends at the seventieth session of the United Nations PFII. As usual, we are enjoying a humble yet comfortable stay at Quaker House very near to the UN. Quaker

What's in a typical day at the UN?



Jennifer Preston and Rachel Singleton-Polster in a selfie during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2017

House is a historic brownstone, available to Friends as they carry out the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation at the UN. It may be the only place in midtown Manhattan where one can wake up to the sound of birdsong (there are lovely shared gardens at the back of the House, a haven for wildlife in the bustling city).

Today is a busy day for us, Rachel starts off with a welcome reception at the Permanent Mission of Canada (conveniently directly across the street from Quaker House) and Jennifer goes straight to work with partners from Indigenous Peoples' organizations on editing our joint statement on the implementation of the UN Declaration. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Declaration, so the theme of this year's Forum is implementation of the Declaration.

After our respective morning meetings, we congregate in the UN's grand General Assembly Hall for the opening of the Forum. This is always a fun morning as everyone is in their finest clothes and it is a colourful room of friendly faces greeting one and other - like a high-school reunion Jennifer exclaims - as she has attended all except one of the Permanent Forums.

We hear statements from high-level UN representatives, and also from Canada's Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett. Despite Canada's lofty promise last year at this very Forum - saying it supported the UN Declaration without qualification and would fully implement it - significant progress on this promise remains sorely lacking. CFSC has long advocated alongside Indigenous Peoples for a legislative framework for implementing the Declaration, precisely so that Continued top of next page

Continued from page 4 Day at the UN

governments have a framework for action to see real changes.

After a long day of high level statements, in the evening we remain at the UN and listen to a panel of experts discuss the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Bev Jacobs, an advocate, leader, and lawyer from Six Nations, speaks truth to power on this issue, and we're enriched by her wisdom. We leave the UN approximately 12 hours after the day began, full of the many important conversations we had engaged with and plans for the coming week.

Bridge of Hope

by Rose Marie Cipryk

or a long time I have wanted a place in my community where I could experience the diversity of my city and where I could be of service. I am so grateful to have landed in just this kind of organization. It's called Bridge of Hope. This is a very harmonious group, fortunate in leadership and able members.

I'm working with other volunteers at Bridge of Hope to support a young Syrian family. I'm watching them take root and thrive. The learning never stops, not least of which is when tutoring English and learning about life in Syria. I've learned some geography, some Arabic script, and cultural practices – enough to have a friendly glimpse of a life that is very different from mine. And, sad to say, in a painful, horrifying way, I've learned from the fact that neighbours of the Syrians I work with here in the Niagara region were killed in Syria by a bomb.

There is a depth of gratitude and learning also in moving closer to people not usually in my Quaker circle – Mennonites, Muslims, and United Church members – whom I have known only at arm's length. Doing this work together at a time with such a charged political climate,

Continued from page 3 **Burundi**

Therefore, FWA needs funding for 40 trauma healing workshops and 20 follow ups, to raise awareness against GBV, and to do more capacity building of the 75 GBV companions. FWA is also in a good position to educate and train people for nonviolence during the upcoming elections period. To do this, FWA needs additional funds to organize peace and democracy groups for three years starting with 2018. FWA will also need another special budget to bring some UCP people from Canada to work together during this electoral period. If you want to know This is just a glimpse of one day at the UN. CFSC works with our partners year round to build and promote this international level of human rights advocacy, as it informs all our domestic relationships and efforts in the implementation of the UN Declaration. For more information about the PFII and EMRIP see: <u>http://quakerservice.ca/our-</u>

work/indigenous-peoples-rights/international-forums/

Jennifer Preston is the staff person for CFSC's Indigenous Rights work and **Rachel Singleton-Polster** is a CFSC member.

being able to enjoy each other's company as we work and socialize, filling hours with satisfying helpful activity, is empowering. We are working into a vision of caring and inclusion. We have a voice and presence in the community, which is also strengthening for others as a model of how to peacefully live together.

While we support our Syrian family, we also have a vision of establishing an alliance with local Indigenous Peoples and, in time, reaching out to the marginalized in the St. Catharine's community as well.

The leaders of Bridge of Hope have drawn up a constitution and by-laws that will support a means of growing community. The structure holds that all people are equal, equally deserving of the goodness that we are privileged to share in the Bridge of Hope.

One personal vision I have is to come to the day when group identities blur and I am simply with my friends.

Rose Marie Cipryk is member of Pelham Executive Meeting. Bridge of Hope is a refugee settlement team of various faith groups in the Niagara Region. CFSC gave Don Alexander an individual grant to support work with Bridge of Hope.

more about FWA, please visit
<u>http://www.fwaburundi.com/</u>

Parfaite Ntahuba is coordinator of Friends Women's Association. Canadian Friends Service Committee has supported FWA for many years. In recent years a designated donation from Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting has helped FWA to deliver testing and provide various forms of support to people living with HIV/AIDS. CFSC also helped bring Parfaite to Western Half Yearly Meeting in Sorrento, BC, in 2017.

Continued from page 1 Punishment of Children

It is now widely understood that the effects of violence in early childhood can have a lifelong negative impact on children's future productivity and ability to form relationships. Harvard University's Centre on the Developing Child states that the more adverse experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of developmental delays and later health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression.⁵

Physical punishment also increases the risk of physical harm. "The more strongly caregivers approve of physical punishment, the more harshly they administer it. And the more often caregivers use even mild physical punishment, the more likely they are to inflict severe violence."⁶

Physical punishment damages relationships. It leads to poor child mental health and is associated with increased levels of aggression, delinquency, and antisocial behaviour. It can lead to adult antisocial behaviour, poor adult mental health, and greater tolerance of violence. Physical punishment is frequently carried forward to the next generation of children.

Global research on physical punishment of children and youth has identified *no positive long-term developmental outcomes.*⁷

What does physical punishment teach children?

According to Joan Durrant, Child-Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba, physical punishment teaches children,

"that we communicate important things through hitting; that hitting is an acceptable response to anger; that the people who they depend on to protect them will hurt them; that they should fear their parents, rather than trusting them to help and to teach; and that their home is an unsafe place for learning and exploration."⁸

Why has CFSC endorsed the Statement?

CFSC endorsed the *Joint Statement* in 2013 because we find physical punishment of children and youth to be incompatible with our belief that there is that of God in every person, and with our rejection of violence as acceptable behaviour.

This *Statement* contributes to the public education needed to inform and support parents and other caregivers to learn and use positive approaches to discipline.

Further resources

In addition to the sources cited in this article you may be

interested in the following helpful resources:

- Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs <u>www.parentsmatter.ca</u>
- Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children www.endcorporalpunishment.org

Sarah Chandler is a member of Interior BC Quakers Monthly Meeting, Lillooet Worship Group. Sarah served on CFSC for several terms, working on Indigenous Peoples' human rights and criminal justice matters, and continues to serve as an associate member. Having experienced much physical punishment in childhood, she is a passionate advocate for its elimination.

⁵ "Centre on the Developing Child." Harvard University,

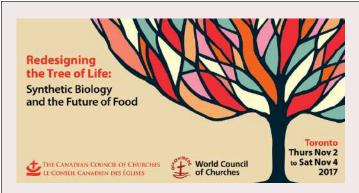
http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/

⁶ Vasta R. "Physical child abuse. A dual-component analysis." Quoted in Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. "Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth." *Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*, 2004, <u>http://www.cheo.on.ca/uploads/advocacy/joint_statement_e.pdf</u>

⁷ibid.

⁸ Durrant, Joan. "Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting." *Save the Children Sweden*, 2016.

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/7509/pdf/pdep 2016 4th edition.pdf



On August 2 research was published detailing how powerful new genetic engineering techniques were used to edit human embryos. The vast issues raised by this research are now before us.

Since 2013 CFSC has been hosting educational talks and publishing updates on the uses of advanced genetic engineering. The next step in this work will be a major conference we're helping to organize at Friends House in Toronto in November. Registration is now open for *Redesigning The Tree of Life: Synthetic Biology and the Future of Food*

http://redesigningthetreeoflife.eventbrite.com

To pique your interest in the topics we'll be delving into together at the conference, have a look at CFSC's new paper *Synthetic Biology: Major Issues of Concern to Quakers* <u>http://quakerservice.ca/SBIssues</u>

My Summer with CFSC

by Maggie Sager

ach summer CFSC seeks a young Friend or young person interested in Quakerism and social justice to work as a Program Assistant (PA), supporting both CFSC's various program committees and its general administrative operations. This summer I was honoured to take the PA position, have the opportunity to work on so many issues close to my heart, and deepen my understanding of Quaker history and practice.

Though I am not a Quaker, this summer was not the first time I worked at a Quaker organization. As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley I became acquainted with Quakerism through Students for Justice in Palestine, where I met a student who was interning with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)'s Economic Activism Program. After she graduated, I applied to take her position, and worked on creating a database that catalogued corporate complicity in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine and the prison industrial complex (http://www.afsc.org/investigate). When I moved to Canada for graduate school, my boss at AFSC encouraged me to seek out Canadian Friends Service Committee.

CFSC is a committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting, unlike AFSC, which is not part of any particular yearly meeting. The PA position has much more emphasis on Quaker history and worship than my AFSC internship did. I was eager to take advantage of this opportunity throughout the summer. To begin, CFSC's Office Coordinator Megan Shaw organized two weeks of chats, usually over tea, with some incredible members and attenders of Toronto Monthly Meeting. These chats gave me the chance to ask questions about what I was learning during my Quaker study time - reading foundational Quaker texts and listening to Ben Pink Dandelion's exceptional five-part presentation on the history of Quakerism, delivered at CYM 2013 and available on http://quaker.ca. Talking to Friends also allowed me to hear about their individual stories, and how their spiritual beliefs drive their actions.

The most important part of that experience was how much it grounded the rest of my summer with CFSC, both in the context of CFSC's 86 years of peacebuilding work, and in terms of the personal relationships I was able to forge.

Though I continue to read and learn about Quakerism, after orientation the majority of my time has been spent supporting CFSC's criminal justice and peace activities, while also helping with communications and administrative work. and editing CFSC's upcoming publication, a book that presents its readers with a simple but profound question: how do we make peace infectious? Stay tuned for much more about this book!

My work on prison justice took shape in the form of two tasks. The first was submitting feedback to the federal government on *Commissioner's Directive No. 709*, an amendment to federal administrative segregation policy that still falls drastically short of CFSC's position that administrative segregation (commonly called "solitary confinement") should be abolished or at the very least severely restricted, in line with international norms. The second task was a longer-term research assignment that focuses on the rights of children of incarcerated parents, and lays the groundwork for the creation of a guidance document for judges, one that will encourage them to take the best interests of children into consideration when sentencing parents.

With each of these assignments I was able to take the research and writing skills I have cultivated in my academic training and put them to use in new contexts. In doing so, I not only got an in-depth education on subjects I previously had little experience with, such as the inner workings of the Canadian penal system, but also learned to think about and approach peace issues in new, more creative ways.

My time at CFSC also gave me the chance to get out of the office quite often, whether to run errands or attend events. In June, I was able to go to a direct-action training on behalf of CFSC run by the Toronto-based activist collective Tools for Change. In July, I made my first trip to Camp NeeKauNis, a Quaker camp 130 km north of Toronto. I was there for a Young Friends Gathering where I helped represent CFSC and also attended my first Meeting for Worship.

I am extremely proud of and grateful for my time with CFSC. I have never learned so much in such a short time, nor have I felt like the work I was doing was so meaningful and spiritually rooted. The Toronto Meeting House has become a second home, and I am excited to come back as a visitor – especially for tea time!

Maggie Sager served as CFSC's summer Program Assistant from May to August 2017. She now continues her PhD studies at the University of Toronto in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Sexual Diversity Studies.

My largest assignment of the summer entailed researching

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

In May the CFSC staffing model was revised. We affirm our ongoing relationship with *Jane Orion Smith*, who is unable to return to her duties as General Secretary at this time due to a head injury sustained in 2015. Jane Orion's readiness to return to work will continue to be assessed jointly with her medical team and in conversation with the CFSC Personnel Committee. Our staffing now looks like this (in alphabetical order):

- Matt Legge Communications Coordinator and Peace Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Preston General Secretary

(now a much smaller position), Finance Administrator, and Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator

- Tasmin Rajotte CFSC Administrator
- *Megan Shaw* Office Coordinator.

At Friends General Conference Gathering 2017 *Jane Zavitz-Bond* and *Matt Legge* offered an interactive session on peace issues.

CFSC staff **Jennifer Preston** was in BC in June to present on how municipal governments can effectively engage with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) *Calls to Action* and implement the UN Declaration.

Later in June Jennifer presented on the UN Declaration and the TRC at the 146 Pathways to Peace event at Lower Fort Garry, outside of Winnipeg. The presentations can be viewed at http://www.treatypathways.com/pastevents/

In July, Jennifer was off to Regina to the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly, where she presented on the current federal review of laws, policies, and operation practices and the commitment to uphold the UN Declaration in this initiative.

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