



## Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

### E-Newsletter

April 2011

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#### A Day for Democracy – April 6<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>, in towns and cities across Canada, organizations affiliated with the [Voices-Voix Coalition](#) are organizing events under the banner “A Day for Democracy”. The Voices Declaration calls on the Canadian government to (1) respect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, (2) act in accordance with Canada’s democratic traditions and values and (3) be transparent with respect to information and public policy and funding decisions. These concerns are at the heart of the events on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you can organize an event, or want to participate in an event, visit <http://voices-voix.ca/en/event/day-democracy>. CFSC is a member of the Voices-Voix Coalition.

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#### Welcome, Hannah Ivanoff, CFSC Intern!



CFSC is delighted that Hannah Ivanoff (Yonge St. MM) will be serving as CFSC Intern this summer. Hannah recently completed a BA in International Development and Political Economy and Administrative Change at University of Guelph. Her studies included a semester abroad in Guatemala. Hannah’s volunteer experience includes work at an immigrant services agency, a community legal clinic, and Camp NeeKauNis. We look forward to welcoming Hannah in the office on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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#### Time to complete your Peace Tax Return

8.9% of our federal taxes support the war in Afghanistan and other military action (excluding veterans benefits). Consider registering your conscientious objection to having your taxes used for militarism by completing a Peace Tax Return, available from Conscience Canada (CC) at [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca). Friends helped found CC and serve on the Board. Friends are also encouraged to fill out the questionnaire “Participation in Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation” before April 30. The CFSC-supported DVD *Work for Peace: Stop Paying for War* was sent to Meetings; if your MM can’t locate its copy, CC has copies available. Contact Don Woodside ([woodside@mcmaster.ca](mailto:woodside@mcmaster.ca)) for a questionnaire or a DVD.

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## **Book: The power of story and restorative justice**

“*The Power of Story and Restorative Justice*” is a new publication by Mennonite Central Committee Canada. It explores the intersection of story-catching and restorative justice. Restorative justice processes encourage the sharing of stories; stories of trauma, stories of empowerment, stories of deeply felt emotion and community.

Through interviews with people across Canada, and listening to stories and advice from participants, facilitators and other volunteers, authors Lisa Smith and Meredith Egan (CFSC staff) examine community organizing, evolving practices in facilitation, stories of facilitators, and how the public sharing of these stories can be well supported. This resource is a culmination of their experience. To order your copy today, email [resources@mennonitecc.ca](mailto:resources@mennonitecc.ca) (Hard copy: \$10 + shipping; PDF download: \$5). To read more about the book, visit: <http://canada.mcc.org/restorativejustice/storycatching>

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## **Discrimination Against Indigenous Children**

There are more Indigenous children in care now than during the era of residential schools. A key reason is that Canada had a longstanding pattern of providing less government funding per child for child welfare services to First Nations children on reserves than is provided to non-Aboriginal children. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCFS) and the Assembly of First Nations filed a discrimination complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 2007. After four years of stalling, the case was dismissed by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on a legal technicality. Cindy Blackstock (FNCFCFS) states, "This ruling...in effect legalized racial discrimination against vulnerable children on reserve by the federal government." The decision is being appealed to the Federal Court. Visit <http://www.fncfcs.com/fnwitness> for more information and action suggestions.

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## **Correction - “Refusing to be Enemies” now in paper and in e-book**

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta’s book, *Refusing to be Enemies: Palestinian and Israeli Nonviolent Resistance to the Israeli Occupation* is available at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca) in paperback considerably cheaper (under \$18) than [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (free shipping in Canada if order is over \$25). Also available as an E-book for \$9.99US: <http://amzn.to/hnjF9R>

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## **CFSC Annual Appeal – Thank You!**

CFSC reached 92.5% of its fundraising goal of \$200,000 from individuals and Meetings for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>. ***Thank you to everyone who responded to the Annual Appeal– it makes our corporate Quaker witness possible and helps communities at home and abroad.***

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***The CFSC E-Newsletter shares current concerns and information related to CFSC, its projects, and other news with Quaker Meetings in Canada, friends and donors to CFSC.***

***Share the E-Newsletter with friends and your Meeting or Worship Group’s E-mail list!***

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***Please support the work of CFSC: <http://www.cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/donate.html>***