



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

E-Newsletter

June 2011 (*double issue*)

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The Canadian Friend focuses issue on CFSC's 80 years of service

The Canadian Friend

Volume 107, Number 2

May 2011



Celebrating Eighty Years of the Canadian
Friends Service Committee - 1931-2011

The Canadian Friend, the national publication of Canadian Yearly Meeting, focused its May issue on the 80 years of service by Friends through Canadian Friends Service Committee. It is an amazing issue with stories covering events from the founding of Camp NeeKauNis (the first CFSC project) to our contemporary work on indigenous rights, justice, and peace. An electronic version will be posted at: <http://cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/resources.html> (and then re-posted on the soon-to-be launched new site – www.quakerservice.ca - which is currently being “populated” with information). Email Jane Orion Smith if you would like it sent to you – [janeorion \[at\] quakerservice.ca](mailto:janeorion[at]quakerservice.ca)

Our sincere thanks go out to CFSC board member, Donald Alexander, who gave hundreds of hours of his time researching CFSC's history in the CYM Archives, engaging with contributors, and putting together the issue in cooperation with the Editor of *The Canadian Friend*, Sherryll Harris. We thank *The Canadian Friend* for dedicating this issue to this aspect of Friends history and contemporary witness.

The Omnibus Crime Bill and Friends' Concern for Justice

Many Friends are concerned about the proposed omnibus crime bill, which the government has promised to approve within the first 100 days of Parliament, which resumes sitting on 2 June with the budget being tabled on 6 June.

This legislation will include measures to increase mandatory minimum sentences, make it harder to get parole, decrease conditional sentencing and increase the barriers to repatriating Canadian citizens in prisons abroad, among other issues. A brief overview of the 12 bills to be conglomerated into the “omnibus crime bill” can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/mBh93d>.

The Canadian Criminal Justice Association has also produced several briefs that give sound information and background on several of these proposed bills, <http://www.ccja-acjp.ca/en/>. CFSC has many helpful resources for Friends considering this proposed legislation, which can be found here: http://cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/resources_jails.html

CFSC will circulate information and actions to Friends from our partners at the [Church Council on Justice and Corrections](#), [Mennonite Central Committee Canada](#) and the [National Associations Active in Criminal Justice](#) when they become available.

Friends' discernment on uranium issues

Canadian Yearly Meeting is in a process of discernment regarding uranium issues, including nuclear energy. CFSC sent Meetings a document to facilitate further discernment in the winter; Having heard back from Meetings, CFSC has completed the final report to CYM, based on information received, drafted by our Friends Uranium and Nuclear Working Group. The final report, as well as two supporting documents, and the initial report to Meetings, can be found at: <http://cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/resources.html>

If you are going to Yearly Meeting this summer, there will be a Special Interest Group focusing on the report, in preparation for the issue to come back to the business floor.

If you have an interest in uranium and nuclear issues and wish to be involved in the working group, please contact Gianne Broughton at [gianne \[at\] quakerservice.ca](mailto:gianne[at]quakerservice.ca).

KAIROS rolls with the Declaration; statement from mining conference



Last November, the government endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – one step in a long journey towards right relationship. Friends, join with our KAIROS community as we celebrate the Declaration alongside Indigenous communities and leaders June 14-21 across Canada and in Ottawa. Make a banner, hold an event, and get on the train! For information, visit: <http://bit.ly/eQPUR>. For the Banner Train schedule specifically, visit <http://bit.ly/j3PgiS>. (Photo: Atlantic

Friends Gathering's banner. Credit: Penni Burrell)

Did you or your Meeting create a banner? Send us a picture and we will share them on our new website and/or with KAIROS – email to [cfsc \[at\] quakerservice.ca](mailto:cfsc[at]quakerservice.ca)

From 1-3 May, KAIROS convened an international ecumenical mining conference in Toronto. CFSC was represented by Hannah Ivanoff and Jane MacKay Wright; David Millar (Montreal MM) who serves Friends on Kairos' sustainability circle. To read the statement out of the conference, read <http://bit.ly/ldfYqI>.

CFSC at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

On behalf of CFSC, Jennifer Preston and Monica Walters-Field attended the annual sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 16-27 May in New York. CFSC participated with our partners in developing and presenting three interventions to the Forum on implementation of the UN Declaration; Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and concerns regarding the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Many of our joint recommendations are included in the Forum's final report.

At the Quaker UN Office's Quaker House, we hosted a substantive meeting with Indigenous and State representatives discussing the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. We also arranged for Quaker House to be used by Francisco Cali, a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), to meet with the North American Indigenous Caucus as an educational opportunity to learn more about the CERD.

To learn more about the Forum, visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>.

Update on War Resisters and new videos of support

Following the election, the War Resisters Support Campaign is focus for the weeks and months ahead on a number of objectives:

- Putting pressure on the Minister of Immigration to rescind "Operational Bulletin 202", a directive that instructs immigration officers to flag US war resisters as criminals, stating they are potentially inadmissible before even hearing their cases. For more information on Operational Bulletin 202, see their information leaflet at: <http://bit.ly/myoNaz>.
- Raising the visibility of the Campaign through tabling, a new postcard campaign, petitions, a renewed call for endorsers of its "declaration" (www.resisters.ca), and a new series of videos where MPs, faith leaders, and others state why the war resisters deserve our support. CFSC's General Secretary, Jane Orion Smith, speaks to Friends' support. To see the videos, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WarResistersCanada>.

The Campaign continues to work with our lawyer and we will alert you if a war resister is in imminent danger. Friends' hard work and efforts have been critical to keeping US war resisters in Canada. A special thank you to Charlie Diamond (Toronto MM), who has been CFSC's representative to the Campaign since its inception in 2004.

Continuing to uphold civil liberties

Dr. Hassan Diab is a Canadian citizen and sociology professor who is fighting extradition to France where he is accused of involvement in a bombing in 1980. The allegations are based on deeply flawed handwriting analysis and secret "intelligence" that has not been disclosed to Hassan's defence or the Canadian judge. On 6 June, a decision is expected regarding whether Dr. Diab will be committed for extradition. If committed, a judge will decide whether Hassan remains on bail or is put in jail while he appeals his extradition, a process that could take several years. CFSC and others are asking the judge to renew Hassan's bail while he is appealing his extradition: www.diabpetition.org

CYM appoints new Youth Secretary

Katrina McQuail has been appointed to serve as the CYM Youth Secretary (YS). Katrina is a member of Kitchener Area MM (Lucknow Worship Group) who lives in Guelph, Ontario where there is a lively Young Friend presence. The YS position was envisaged as a part of the Consultation and Renewal process of CYM. Key roles include encouraging spiritual vitality and being a communication and information resource to Young Friends.

Katrina is enthusiastic about connecting with Young Friends across Canada and having a strong relationship with Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting. She sees keeping YFs engaged and supported by their spiritual community as a way of nurturing their individual growth and development, and ensuring the future of the Religious Society of Friends in Canada. Friends of all ages can get in touch with their thoughts, ideas and hopes how Katrina can best serve the community. CFSC has already started a conversation. Contact Katrina at Katrina [at] quaker.ca, <skype:mcquaka> or tel: 519.831.0648. Visit <http://young.quaker.ca> for more information.

Dick Preston receives world citizenship award

Dick Preston (Hamilton Meeting), an Associate Member of CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee, has received the Hamilton Mundialization Committee's 2011 World Citizenship Award. Dick has worked extensively on the Department of Peace initiative, locally and nationally. The Hamilton Mundialization Committee facilitates and supports peace initiatives and the relationships between Hamilton and its twin cities around the globe. Congratulations, Dick!

Learn about CFSC Grants!

CFSC makes grants to individual Friends (and active attenders) and local Meetings for projects that intersect with Friends' concerns. To learn more about CFSC grant opportunities, download our info sheet at: <http://bit.ly/dJiiKq>

Ploughshares launches new website

Canadian Yearly Meeting is a founding member of Project Ploughshares, the ecumenical agency that works on disarmament issues. Ploughshares has a wealth of excellent information on disarmament issues (weaponization of space, nuclear weapons, small arms and light weapons, etc.) on its website which has been re-designed. Visit it at www.ploughshares.ca

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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