



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

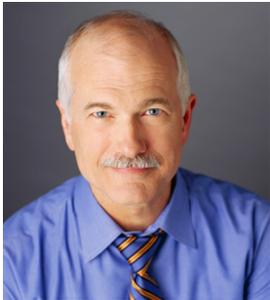
E-Newsletter

September 2011

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Giving thanks for the life of our friend ...



While Jack Layton realised many political achievements during his service on the City Council of Toronto and on the federal stage, the lasting memory for many will be his warm and open presence and his unfailing commitment to social justice. In their private and public lives, Jack Layton and his wife Olivia Chow have been advocates on many issues of concern to Friends: war resisters, refugees, poverty and homelessness, “tough on crime” legislation, war, Indigenous rights, the role of youth, etc. And so it is no surprise that many Friends find themselves mourning the loss of a man who, in his final public words, spoke to the souls of Canadians:

“My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we’ll change the world.”

We give thanks for the life and witness of Jack Layton and offer our sincere condolences to Olivia Chow and the family.

The Historic Peace Churches – celebrating our history together

This year’s annual meeting of the Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA) will include a conference on the Conference Historic Peace Churches, which from 1935 brought together Quaker, Brethren and Mennonites into conversation and action on common concerns. In this our 80th year, one way to consider our history as CFSC is how we worked in cooperation with our “sister” peace churches, historically and into the present day.

The event will be held **Saturday September 17, 2011** at Conrad Grebel University College at University of Waterloo. 9:30-12:30pm - Annual General Meeting of CFHA, followed by the conference 1:30-8:30pm. The keynote presenter is Laureen Harder-Gissing, Archivist/Librarian Mennonite Archives of Ontario/Conrad Grebel University.

Registration Details: Cost - \$40 (including lunch and dinner). Please provide your name, mailing address, phone number and email address. Cheques payable to Canadian Friends Historical Association. To register, contact Ruth Jeffery-MacLean at 905-898-8119 or secretary@cfha.info (Mail: P.O. Box 21527, Newmarket, Ontario, L3X 1G9).

All are welcome to register to attend. Conference participation is by pre-registration only. Registration is confirmed upon receipt of the appropriate conference fees. There is no charge to attend the morning AGM only.

CFSC at CYM 2011

There will be a “round up” of news from Special Interest Groups, etc. in the forthcoming issue of Quaker Concern (should arrive at your doorstep in early September – earlier if you get it via email. Want it via email? Contact cfsc [at] quakerservice.ca).

In the immediate, we draw your attention to the approval of a Minute of Record on uranium and nuclear issues by Canadian Yearly Meeting in session. The Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee of CFSC will be considering the new minute in September and will then be preparing some materials for Friends and Meetings that which to help carry the minute forward. If you are interested in this work, you are encouraged to contact Gianne Broughton at gianne [at] quakerservice.ca. The minute can be read at: <http://bit.ly/n4SPhb>

Learn about CFSC Grants

CFSC makes grants to individual Friends (and active attenders) and local Meetings for projects that intersect with Friends’ concerns. Deadlines for many grant applications are coming up in September. To learn more about CFSC grant opportunities, download our info sheet at: <http://bit.ly/opBnQf>

New educational paper on regulating extractive industries

CFSC Intern Hannah Ivanoff has produced, with Gianne Broughton, a new CFSC educational paper about the impact of extractive industries (ie. Mining) and mechanisms that can be used to hold them accountable to environmental and human rights standards, etc. Download it at: <http://bit.ly/oq3Wys>

Taking action on new refugee legislation

CFSC has produced action alert for sharing in Meetings and communities about Bill C-4 which has been re-introduced to Parliament and includes what most refugee advocates consider regressive and perhaps even measures that would contravene Canada’s legal obligations to refugees. You can find it at: <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/C-4.pdf>

New CFSC website – Quakerservice.ca – up and running!



The new website is up and running and we welcome Friends to visit it, learn about our work, and offer feedback.

We are pleased with the look and re-organizing of information into thematic categories (Indigenous rights, peace, etc.) and look forward to hearing your feedback so that we can continue to improve the site and meet Friends’ informational needs from CFSC. Email comments to cfsc [at] quakerservice.ca.

Possible Opportunity: Elections monitoring in D. R. Congo, Nov. 18 – Dec. 2

CFSC’s long-time partners in Kinshasa are ready to welcome up to 6 Canadians to accompany their 50 local election observers during this fall’s presidential election. Election day is November 28, but volunteers will be trained and begin observation activities before election day. If you understand French, can travel during this period, and may be interested in this service, please contact Gianne Broughton (gianne[at]quakerservice.ca). Details about cost, criteria for participation, and pre-departure training will be available in early September.

Kairos Regional Meetings coming up in the fall

Joining KAIROS activities is a great way to make your voice heard - on Indigenous rights, energy issues, climate change, peace in Palestine-Israel, etc. KAIROS regional meetings are coming up this fall across the country. Think about attending.

Vancouver, BC: Oct. 21-23. Contact Susan Draper, graceful@shaw.ca

Saskatoon, SK: Sept. 23-25. Contact Dick Peters, dickpet@sasktel.net

Winnipeg, MB: Oct. 21-22. Contact Fletcher Stewart, fletch1@mymts.net

Ancaster, ON: Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Contact Pierre Paradis, pparadis000@sympatico.ca

Tatamagouche, NS: Sept. 24-25. Contact Bev McDonald, pharmin@ns.sympatico.ca

KAIROS says, "Whatever your background, join the KAIROS network for a day or two of community and learning. We'll look over the past year and plan for a new year of grassroots action for social justice. We will look at the question of 'what next?,' as we continue our focus on Indigenous Rights and Our Common Future. All are welcome, and don't hesitate to ask for support if registration or transportation fees pose any kind of barrier." If you need more info from KAIROS, contact Caroline Foster at connect@kairoscanada.org 416-463-5312 ext. 221 1-877-403-8933 (toll free). If you go, let your Meeting know and CFSC via [janeorion\[at\]quakerservice.ca](mailto:janeorion[at]quakerservice.ca) or 416-920-5213.

Upcoming Crime Legislation

The omnibus crime bill will be brought forward quickly after Parliament resumes on September 19th. This bill will include about twelve pieces of legislation covering a variety of subjects and has been called the "most comprehensive agenda for crime reform since the introduction of the Criminal Code." More information on the bill can be found here: <http://bit.ly/m1OCzB>

CFSC, through its Quakers Fostering Justice program committee, will be making a written submission to the Parliamentary Committee reviewing the legislation. Furthermore, we will work alongside our partners to add our voice to the many concerned about this bill. Although the bill will have the votes to pass, we hope that perhaps some small changes can be made to the most severe sections. We will circulate information and actions to Friends when they are available.

British Friends take bold action

Britain Yearly Meeting approved a minute this summer committing itself to becoming a low-carbon community. Read the minute (#35) and other information at: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/creating-just-and-sustainable-world>

Here is a small excerpt from the minute:

We need to arrive at a place in which we all take personal responsibility to make whatever changes we are called to. At the same time, we need to pledge ourselves to corporate action. The environmental crisis is enmeshed with global economic injustice and we must face our responsibility as one of the nations which has unfairly benefited at others' expense, to redress inequalities which, in William Penn's words, are 'wretched and blasphemous' (QFP 25.13).

Given CYM's concern regarding climate change, Friends may wish to bring the BYM minute and Epistle to the attention of their Meetings.

Webinar on UN Declaration – watch it online

In August, Jennifer Preston, CFSC staff, participated in an education webinar about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples hosted by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). If you missed it, you can watch it online at: <http://download.isiglobal.ca/afn/2011-08-08/live.html>

Grassy Narrows legal victory

Grassy Narrows First Nation (Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek) won a landmark legal victory in the Ontario Superior Court in August after over more than ten years of legal process. The judge ruled that the Province of Ontario cannot permit clearcut logging and mining that disrupts Grassy Narrows' right to hunt and fish under Treaty 3, a nation-to-nation agreement signed with Canada. This is a big step forward in Grassy Narrows' long road to end unwanted logging on their territory and to gain recognition for their land rights. CFSC first engaged with Grassy Narrows in 1974 due to concerns around mercury poisoning in the community.

Concern about Keystone Pipeline from tar sands – demos in Washington

There are presently mass sit-ins taking place in Washington DC around a decision facing President Obama – whether or not to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline from the tar sands to US refineries. There are Friends involved in the demonstration and [Quaker Earthcare Witness](#) issued a position statement on the pipeline on 12 August: <http://bit.ly/nbWAsr>

KAIROS has issued an analysis of the pipeline question, linking it to their tar sands policy: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/sustainability/tarsandsresponse/fate-of-tar-sands-pipelines-crucial-for-climate-justice/>. In late July KAIROS staff traveled with George Poitras from Fort Chipewyan (the Indigenous community visited by the tar sands delegation in 2009) to visit oil-impacted communities in Ecuador. It was a very moving trip. KAIROS' final report is not ready but photos of the trip can be viewed at: <http://on.fb.me/oU5XPq>. In 2010, CYM decided to work on tar sands through KAIROS.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Annual Meeting in Chicago, October 20 – 23

Registration is now open for the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Annual Meeting, October 20-23 in Chicago, where the theme will be Food and Biodiversity. CYM is a member of QEW. All are welcome. The registration deadline is September 23rd. Special financial assistance is available for adult young Friends who are first-time attenders.

Click on this link to learn more about the Annual Meeting program: <http://www.quakerearthcare.org> (Follow the button at the bottom of the home page).

Click on this link to register:

<https://secure.civicrm.ca/quakerearthcare.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=1>

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>