



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

E-Newsletter

November - December 2011

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Its Annual Appeal Time!

2011 Annual Appeal and Report

Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

"Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace, and ensue it ... seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all."

Since 1986, CFSC has supported the vital, community-based peace-building work of Friends in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which ranks 106 of 189 countries on the UN's Human Development Index (2010) and is known as the "hope capital of the world".

— From a letter to Charles II from 12 Quakers, 1661.

It's time to celebrate 80 years of Quaker work and witness through CFSC. Our **Annual Appeal and Report** is already in the mail, highlighting the successes we continue to accomplish together, and inviting you to consider making or increasing a monthly pledge donation.

Did you know that 182 donors have already chosen to use safe and easy monthly donations, providing over 13% of CFSC's budget? If just 25 more people sign up, and

existing donors increase by just \$10/month, we could secure over 20% of our budget - over \$100,000. Now that's a big and simple step towards sustainability!

Can't wait for the mail to come? Have a peek online at: <http://quakerservice.ca/what-you-can-do/donate/>

(Please note that individual and Monthly Meetings' donations to Canadian Yearly Meeting do NOT support CFSC programming. CFSC encourages support of the CYM Appeal but to support CFSC's peace and social witness, you need to give directly to CFSC).

News following the CFSC Board Meeting (28-30 October)

Indigenous Rights

On October 28, the **Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** heard the case brought by the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group against Canada. This is the first time the OAS has heard a land rights case against Canada. The case concerns the 1884 expropriation of over 237,000 hectares of resource-rich land from the traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num peoples on Vancouver Island. CFSC supported the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group in a joint statement, read it on our web site at <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Oct-26-joint-statement-supporting-HTG-copy.pdf>

Environment Canada was soliciting input on whether or not Canada should sign on to the new international treaty, the **Nagoya Protocol** which deals with access to genetic resources and benefits arising from their utilization. CFSC signed a joint submission supporting many of our Indigenous partners, read it here: <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Nagoya-Protocol-GCCEI-Joint-Submission-on-Canadas-possible-signature-and-draft-domestic-policy-FINAL-Oct-28-11.pdf>.

There are grave concerns around the violation of Indigenous peoples' human rights in this Treaty as

well as the domestic implementation proposals that Canada has proposed.

The 3rd national gathering of the **Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** has just completed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. CFSC board member Penni Burrell represented us, and was working as a volunteer. Words of wisdom from Commissioner Littlechild, "*We have discussed the title 'truth and reconciliation' as a committee often. We believe there should be five words to communicate what is needed: Truth, Forgiveness, Healing, Justice, and then Reconciliation: the most important one being Justice*". More can be found at <www.trc.ca>.

Justice

Immediately following CFSC's board meeting, a submission was made to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST) which is studying **Bill C-10**, following the Bill's passage of 2nd Reading in the House of Commons. This is the stage at which the public and the cross-party membership of the committee can look at the Bill in greater detail and bring forward their concerns or support for the Bill, including suggested changes, etc.

CFSC submission on the omnibus crime bill (C-10) calls on the Government of Canada to "put resources into building a society that supports people to fulfill their greatest potential rather than into reactive punitive measures." CFSC's submission is posted at: <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/201110-CFSC-Bill-C-10.pdf>. Called the "most comprehensive agenda for crime reform since the introduction of the Criminal Code", information on Bill C-10 can be found at www.bit.ly/mri66 and www.bit.ly/ov9mdm.

Peace

Don Woodside (Hamilton Meeting) received a CFSC Individual Grant to help with the costs of installing two granite walkway markers to recognize Quaker **conscientious objection to war** during the war of 1812-14. Don is part of a Quaker-Mennonite group working on ways to witness to peace during this bicentennial. The Quaker markers will be in a Peace park in St. Catharines and at the Archives building in Port Colborne near Lake Erie. Quaker settlement in the Niagara area was the start of later settlement in Toronto and Western Ontario. The text on them will read: "Since 1660 Quakers have been guided by their Peace Testimony to reject war and practice nonviolence. In 1793 the government of Upper Canada recognized the right of Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren in Christ to conscientious objection. During the war of 1812 many Quakers refused to serve in the armed forces or provide material support. *'A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it. Let us then try what Love will do.'* William Penn 1693."

Overseas development projects

Uganda

Sheila Havard, CFSC board member from Coldstream Meeting, is visiting the Bududa Learning Centre in Uganda. She first visited Bududa as an Africa Great Lakes Initiative workcamper several years ago. The Learning Centre is a vocational secondary school with 65 students enrolled. It also has a program for accompanying orphan children, which provides them food, simple health care, and an after-school program. Sheila will be hiking up the mountains to visit them in their homes. Read about Sheila's travels on CFSC's blog page: <http://quakerservice.ca/news-and-resources/blog/>

South East Asia

After several years of waiting for "way to open", Bob Clarke, former CFSC board member, and Helen Clarke, who serves on CFSC's Finance and Personnel Committees, are off to south east Asia. The Clarkes and partner organizations in Sri Lanka and Indonesia have been able to organize Community Based Self-Reliant Peacebuilding workshops that will take place in the partners' offices during November-December. The workshops will strengthen their capacity to use a method of developing

peacebuilding skill that brings out each person's innate abilities to resolve conflict non-violently, in community-based collaboration with others.

Iraq

The final visit to Iraq of CFSC's current "Care to Care" project contract with CIDA will take place in early December. In April 2011, CFSC applied for funding for a second phase of this project to give in-service training to physicians attending childbirth and is awaiting a decision by CIDA.

Democratic Republic of Congo

CFSC has organized a five-member team to accompany local Quaker peace workers during the November presidential election period in DR Congo. The delegation will be sending reports every few days during their two-week visit; reports will be posted on the CFSC website blog:

<http://quakerservice.ca/news-and-resources/blog/>

Ecumenical action on climate change/COP 17

Having a moral responsibility to address global warming, religious leaders of faith communities throughout Canada have released a *Canadian Interfaith Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change*. Carol Dixon, clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting signed for Friends. This is among the first times that such a broad interfaith effort at a faith leaders' letter has been undertaken in Canada.

This work is done in the lead up to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), being held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November – 5 December 2011.

Additionally, KAIROS has issued a briefing paper, entitled, "*Is Durban the world's last, best hope to avoid climate disaster?*" On 14 November, the KAIROS Board is to issue a statement in advance of the meetings in Durban. Jane McKay Wright (Toronto Meeting) represents Friends on the Board of KAIROS.

All documents are (or will be) available under the "economy and ecology section" on CFSC's educational resources page: <http://quakerservice.ca/news-and-resources/educational-resources/>

CFSC Young Friend Internship – application deadline: March 1st

The internship is open to 19-29 year olds and runs from May 1 – August 31. Information and the application package are at: <http://quakerservice.ca/what-you-can-do/cfsc-summer-internship/>

Learn about CFSC Grants

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

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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