



## Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

### E-Newsletter

January 2012

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### Quaker witness for peace in the DR Congo

CFSC's delegation to help Quaker colleagues in the Democratic Republic of Congo received official accreditation from DR Congo's Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante as election observers for the presidential elections held November 28, 2011. CFSC's team included: Eric Schiller, Sheila Harvard, Athena Madan (all Ontario), Dorothy Lander and John Graham Pole (Nova Scotia).

They participated in community-based conflict reduction activities in Kinshasa organized by Project Muinda, the local Quaker Meeting's Service Committee, who received accreditation for 100 local Congolese observers. Eric Schiller appeared on TV Ontario's "The Agenda with Steve Paikin" on 11 January. The show offers background information in understanding the DR Congo context, as well as addressing the recent elections. You can watch it here: <http://theagenda.tv.org/episode/141143/the-congo-crisis>. The next issue of *Quaker Concern* will include an article on the delegation's work.

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### CFSC Young Friend Internship – application deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>

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/>

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### CFSC, Amnesty, Kairos call for action on living conditions on reserves

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, a public statement was issued in response to the situation at the Northern Cree community of Attiwapiskat. Their unacceptable living conditions (housing, water, sanitation) are not unique, and the statement calls on the Government of Canada to "honour their constitutional and human rights obligations and work in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis communities and their representative organizations to develop systematic and sustainable solutions". Read the full statement here: <http://bit.ly/wC4LWA>

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### Annual Appeal – not too late to support our 2011-12 program!

**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 1990, CFSC has supported the vital community-based peace-building work of Friends in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which ranks 14th 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.

**THANK YOU** to the many, many friends of CFSC who responded to our Annual Appeal. Your support enables our programs that help end poverty, seed peace and justice, and share our Quaker perspective.

We have not met our financial goal yet, so if you have not yet had a chance to give, please consider making a donation to CFSC. The Appeal can be found 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).*

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## Justice in Palestine

Through a process of engagement with Canadian Quaker Meetings, a proposed policy statement was developed and approved by Canadian Yearly Meeting in 2009. This [statement](#) provides guidance for Quaker action. CFSC has gathered together a resource kit of information relevant to carrying out this policy. It can be found here: <http://bit.ly/AbIv9W>. Included within it are the 2009 Epistle from Ramallah Friends Meeting and the 2009 Kairos Palestine document, issued by the Church Leaders of Palestine. Here are the links to these two specific documents, which Friends are encouraged to read:

- <http://www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf>
  - [http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2010.Ramala-Friends-recommend-boycott-FICR\\_consultation\\_epistle.pdf](http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2010.Ramala-Friends-recommend-boycott-FICR_consultation_epistle.pdf)
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## 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>

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## Celebrating the Grace of God in our dear Friends ...

We were sad to hear of the passing of two Canadian Friends who gave much to the cause of justice.

Gordon Hirabayashi (Edmonton Meeting) died on 2 January at age 93. Gordon lived a remarkable witness for human rights and freedom. Gordon refused to comply with the Japanese internment during World War II and was imprisoned. Gordon, and several others, took their case to the courts, with the Supreme Court (USA) sadly upholding internment in 1944. Gordon's and others' cases were revisited in the 1980s after documents were found, that the US government previously suppressed, that proved that Japanese-Americans were never a threat. In 1987, their convictions were overturned and in 1988 the US government apologized and paid compensation to those who were interned. Read more about Gordon in an article in the *New York Times*: <http://nyti.ms/AAoqHj>. CFSC will acquire a film about Gordon's life; please contact [janeorion \[at\] quakerservice.ca](mailto:janeorion[at]quakerservice.ca) if your Meeting would like to borrow it.

Phil Esmonde (Victoria Meeting) died of cancer in Sri Lanka on December 27<sup>th</sup> at age 61. Phil co-founded the South Pacific Peoples Foundation, an international development agency based in Victoria, BC, and went on to do peace-related work around the world with the Canadian High Commission, Oxfam, British Quakers, Save the Children, and the Non-violent Peace Force. As said in one tribute, "Phil was ... passionately committed to nonviolence, justice and peace. He was courageous, energetic, and a persistent and skillful peacebuilder."

We give thanks for their lives and faithful witness, and inspiration to others.

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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>