



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

E-Newsletter

March – April 2012

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News from the CFSC board meeting – March 2-4th



CFSC board and staff learn how to use technology in our work from Glen Newbury of Islandside Studio; Glen designs our website and *Quaker Concern*.

CFSC Individual Grant

David Millar (Montreal Meeting) was awarded a grant towards attending the 6th World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April. David has been very involved in Friends World Committee for Consultation's Global Change Consultation, which will report at the conference. David will also lead a "thread" discussion on sustainability issues during the week-long event.

Biotechnology

Work will begin towards the development of a Quaker statement on synthetic biology. This concern came forward through Anne Mitchell, CFSC Associate Member who serves on the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group. The CCC recently signed on

to a global declaration called "Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology". Learn more about synthetic biology by reading this declaration: <http://bit.ly/xNRq0N>

Uranium/nuclear energy

Dale Dewar (Prairie MM) received funding to support her attendance at an international planning meeting of the International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). They will be planning a conference examining the effects of uranium mining on indigenous lands and human health (June 13 - 15, 2013, in Saskatchewan). Dale's work will contribute toward the coming year's program work of CFSC's Friends Uranium and Nuclear Working Group, which has members in Saskatchewan.

CIDA

All of CFSC's project applications to CIDA in the past three years have been rejected (four proposals). It's a complicated story, but changes at CIDA have made the application process unpredictable and onerous for a small agencies like CFSC and its partners. We will seek more information from CIDA in order to clarify their expectations, but in the interim CFSC has had to make budget cuts to the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Program Committee, affecting both the level of staffing available to the committee. We regret this development.

Middle East

CFSC will organize a special interest group at Yearly Meeting so that Friends can consider a response to the request from Ramallah Friends Meeting that Friends consider participating in the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign to end the occupation of Palestine. Watch future editions of E-newsletter for background information. Find Ramallah's Epistle and other resources at: <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/peace-policy/resource-kit-palestine-and-israel/>

DR Congo election monitoring

We are grateful for the richness of the experience of sending five Friends to [observe the elections](#) in Kinshasa in November; we continue to hold Congolese Friends in the Light as their country copes with escalating security problems.

Racial discrimination against Indigenous peoples

CFSC submitted a [joint Alternative report](#) on Canada's response to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with more than 20 other Indigenous and human rights organizations. In February, CFSC attended the session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Geneva where Canada was under review. The CERD has issued their report and (post-board meeting) CFSC and partners issued a media release raising up the CERD's call for Canada to take comprehensive action end discrimination against Indigenous peoples. Read it: <http://bit.ly/wUvZeV>

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples

Jennifer Preston (staff), Monica Walters-Field (Toronto MM), and Don Alexander (CFSC board) will go to the UN in New York to attend this year's [Forum](#) which is focusing on the theme "The Doctrine of Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)".

Truth and Reconciliation

A number of CFSC board members have been involved in [Truth and Reconciliation](#) events across Canada. CFSC encourages people to participate in regional and national events. The next national event is in Saskatoon (June) and there is an upcoming regional event in Toronto, Ontario.

New Draft Declaration on Indigenous Rights

The Organization of American States (OAS) had prepared a [Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#); there are concerns that it not lower the bar from the rights contained in the UN Declaration. Jennifer will attend the upcoming April meeting in Washington; the OAS needs support from civil society.

Restorative justice grants

Several grants were awarded to small-scale projects doing innovative work in prisons. *Instruments of Change* (Vancouver, BC) is a non-profit organization that uses the arts as an educational tool to empower people to become instruments of transformative change in their own lives; they will use their grant (\$500) to offer a Ladies Rock Camp, drawing on the talents of local musicians to offer 10 weekly workshops (starting March 29) to the women at Fraser Valley Institution. *North Point Douglas Women's Centre* (Winnipeg, MB) will receive a \$1000 grant to offer its "Walking School Bus Program" which helps to ensure that young children in this poor neighbourhood get to and from school safely. Regular attendance in elementary school is essential if children and youth are to be able to succeed later in school. *Spring House* (Spring Hill, NS) will receive \$500 to support their work providing affordable accommodation and meals for families visiting inmates at the Springhill Federal Institution; families come from all over Atlantic Canada. Other grant applications are still in a process of discernment – hopefully there will be more to report in the next E-Newsletter!

Restorative justice at the international level

Read about explorations towards more CFSC work at the international level in the next [Quaker Concern](#) – now in restorative justice. The article, by the Quakers Fostering Justice program committee’s Co-Clerk Sarah Chandler, will feature recent positive developments with regard to involvement with the international network of Quaker organizations involved in justice issues, cooperative work with the Quaker UN Office, and the upcoming review of Canada's report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Annual Appeal – update

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

Your generous support has reduced our shortfall by more than half, however, we are still \$16,500 short of our 2011-12 goal of \$205,000. If you have not yet given, please consider supporting our Service Committee: <http://quakerservice.ca/what-you-can-do/donate/>

(Note: individual and Monthly Meetings' donations to Canadian Yearly Meeting do NOT support CFSC programming. To support CFSC's peace and social witness, please give directly to CFSC).

Young Friends: apply to attend Youth & Militarism Conference (Germany)

Halifax Friends Meeting has launched a project to enable two Quaker youth (18-35) to attend the War Resister’s International Conference “Countering the Militarisation of Youth” to be held June 8-10th in Darmstadt, Germany. The conference will provide opportunities to analyse the different ways that youth are being militarized and at strategies to resist the militarization of youth.

Interested Young Adult Friends (18-35) should look at the conference information at <http://wri-irg.org/militarisationofyouth>.

Full information and guidelines about applying for financial support to attend, or contributing financially towards this initiative, can be obtained from Roger Davies at rogerdavies@eastlink.ca.

Bill C-31 – refugee rights under threat

The Canadian Council for Refugees (of which CFSC is a member) is seriously concerned that Bill C-31 would create a two-tier system of refugee protection in Canada. It makes refugee protection in Canada dangerously vulnerable to political whims, rather than ensuring a fair and independent decision about who is a refugee. It also includes costly measures to detain refugee claimants and to revoke the status of refugees who are now permanent residents. Bill C-31 must be withdrawn and replaced with legislation which is fair, affordable, and independent, and which complies with the Charter and Canada’s international obligations. Join the CCR in calling for amendments to Bill C-31. Help to raise awareness of these costly government proposals: for refugees and for Canadian taxpayers. Information: ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-reform and <http://www.amnesty.ca/protectrefugees>

Tax time! Are you a CO to having your taxes used for militarism?

Friends are founders of Conscience Canada, the “peace tax” organization that facilitates the public witness for Canadians to have the right to have their taxes not used for military purposes, much as we can refuse to serve in the military. For resources to complete a Peace Tax Return this tax season, visit www.consciencecanada.ca

Pastoral Care Workshop – April 26th, Ottawa

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections is hosting a day-long workshop called “*Leading out of Pain – Victims’ Pastoral Care: The Search for Spiritual Healing from the Impacts of Violence*”. Cost: \$25. Location: Friends Meeting House, 91A Fourth Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario. **Deadline to register: March 15 – contact ASAP if interested.** For information visit: <http://ccjc.ca/2012/01/25/ccjc-to-host-workshop-on-pastoral-care-april-26th/> or email Schuyler Playford, CCJC staff, at SPlayford@ccjc.ca If you do decided to go, let us know – send a note to qfj@quakerservice.ca.

“In Search of a Moral Economy” – lecture now online

Marilyn Manzer (Annapolis Valley Meeting) delivered the Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture, “In Search of a Moral Economy”, to a full house during Canadian Yearly Meeting’s annual sessions in Windsor, NS in August 2011. In describing her life-long journey of concern on this issue, she wove together threads of economics, history, philosophy, music and beauty and presented an alternative vision to our current economic model. You can now listen to the lecture online at: <http://www.quaker.ca/Publications/SPG/>. It was also published as a [Canadian Quaker Pamphlet](#).

AGLI Workcamps in Burundi, Rwanda, and Kenya (June – July)

Thought about volunteering for an overseas workcamp? CFSC overseas partner, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), is offering three workcamp options in cooperation with local Quaker Meetings from run June 23 – July 28 (Cost: minimum of \$2300 USD and return airfare). No skills required, all ages welcome. Go to www.aglifpt.org and click on “workcamps” or “volunteers” for more information and an application. Want speak with someone who has volunteered? Email Sheila Havard, CFSC board member, at havard_translations@hotmail.com

Ever been asked to serve on the board of CFSC (or thought about it)?

Service on a Yearly Meeting committee, such as CFSC, can be deeply enriching and seed longstanding friendships with Friends from coast-to-coast. If one does not understand what the service entails, it can be confusing, frustrating, and overwhelming. We want the experience of CFSC to be a good one; we have information available on our website (www.quakerservice.ca) that will help both Monthly Meeting Nominating Committees and Friends considering such service.

CFSC’s “*New Member Orientation Package*”, sent to Friends just appointed to CFSC by CYM, will give Friends who are thinking about serving on CFSC a good overview including specific responsibilities of board members and the Executive Committee. Download the package and other resources at: <http://quakerservice.ca/contact-us/board/>. CFSC Liaisons have been sent more information, which they have available for interested Friends.

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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