



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

E-Newsletter

October 2012

Remember and honour missing women at Sisters in Spirit vigils

On 4th October, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and its partners will hold Sisters in Spirit vigils across Canada, including Parliament Hill. They will join First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and their supporters in communities to honour their missing and murdered sisters, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and friends. This is a concrete way to express commitment to right relations and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. There are 129 vigils planned across Canada. Look for one in your area: <http://www.nwac.ca/programs/2012-vigil-locations>.



CFSC welcomes Matthew Legge – new Administration and Communications staff



Next week, Matthew Legge joins CFSC having worked with small and medium-sized NGOs and grassroots groups in Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and South-East Asia. Matthew has spent his longest stretches outside of Canada living in rural Indigenous communities in Guatemala and Venezuela. Matthew has a background in program management and has been responsible for the day-to-day administration tasks of various NGOs. He has helped develop and update non-profit websites and has been responsible for other communications from Twitter and Facebook to mail outs, brochures and annual reports. Matthew is a strong advocate of resource and lesson sharing in the non-profit sector, and contributes to this through his involvement on the board of directors of the [Ontario Council for International Cooperation](#). Matthew studied Anthropology at the University of Toronto, where his focus was on Indigenous spiritualities, Indigenous rights, and human diversity as expressed through cultures around the world. Matthew is fluent in Spanish and is learning Turkish.

Workshop on volunteering in jails and hospitals – 13 October, Toronto, Ontario

Toronto Monthly Meeting is hosting a workshop for those interested in volunteering in jails and hospitals on Saturday 13 October, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. The workshop will give consideration to a Quaker volunteer program at the Toronto South Detention Centre (to open in 2013) and explore how Friends can help with the spiritual program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Presenters include Sandy and Steve Duckworth (Simcoe-Muskoka Meeting), who will share their experience as Quaker volunteers for Alternatives to Violence programs. Registration and refreshments at noon; workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. To confirm attendance contact Ginny Walsh at walsh.ginny@gmail.com before 5:00 p.m. on Friday 12 October.

Prison Farm concern - correction

Last month, it was noted that a co-op bought farmland at Frontenac Institution; the land has not been sold, but it is correct that the co-op bought some of the cattle. For more information on the prison farm issue, contact Quaker prison chaplain Kate Johnson (kaleidoscopekate@gmail.com) or visit: <http://tinyurl.com/9377mh4>.

Kimberly Rivera, Conscientious Objector to War, deported – what you can do now



An appreciation dinner was hosted at Friends House for Kim Rivera (centre) and a core group of her supporters. Thanks to Judith Amundsen and Lyn Adamson for organizing.

Tens of thousands of supporters across Canada asked the Minister of Immigration to let Kim stay in Canada; this was not granted and, on news of her departure from Canada on 20 September, the government bench cheered in Parliament. Kim was arrested immediately and is now in Colorado at Fort Carson, the military base where she was stationed, awaiting word of how her case will proceed; her family (husband Mario and four children) has returned to their hometown in Texas.

On 16 September, an Appreciation Dinner was hosted for Kim at Friends House in Toronto where Kim spoke of the love shown to her and her family, and offered thanks to everyone for efforts made on their behalf: *“No matter what happens, my experiences in Canada have changed me forever. Through people like you and so many others I have met, I discovered whole*

new worlds. I discovered myself. No matter what happens, nothing will ever take that away from me.”

What can you do now? Amnesty International has declared Kim a prisoner of conscience; write to officials in the US to ask for her immediate release: <http://tinyurl.com/8mlwhp8>. Letters and cards of support can be sent to Kim Rivera c/o All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 North Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, 80903.

Celebrating 5th Anniversary of UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Commemorating the 5th anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous and human rights partners, including CFSC, jointly released a statement to mark the occasion and speak to continuing concerns regarding the Declaration's implementation (<http://tinyurl.com/99k2a6d>).

In addition, CFSC co-sponsored a webinar hosted by the Assembly of First Nations on the issue of Free, Prior and Informed Consent; it can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/9qzx49n>. CFSC staff person Jennifer Preston also participated in a panel at the University of Ottawa, which can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/8ep2vc9>.

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.

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