



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

11th Month 2012



Students receiving training on safe labour techniques in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Support the promotion of justice and peace: CFSC Annual Appeal and Report 2012

Once a year we have the opportunity to share with you an Annual Appeal and Report. Already in the mail, it touches on all of the many ways in which your support helps to achieve our shared vision of a world where individuals and communities are freed to reach their fullest potential.

This year's Annual Appeal and Report explains the impact supporters like you have, from improving maternal and child health in Iraqi Kurdistan, to restorative justice work in BC, to promoting Indigenous rights in Canada and around the world. View it online at: <http://bit.ly/Uyh1ou>.

Please consider making a one-time or monthly donation this year to support these and so many other important initiatives.

You can donate online through CanadaHelps:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?charityID=s43255>.

You can mail donations, payable to "Canadian Friends Service Committee", to:

Canadian Friends Service Committee, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5R 1C7

Questions? Just call 416-920-5213 or email info@quakerservice.ca.

*(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).*

Grants and activities move forward at CFSC meeting

The board and staff of CFSC, Friends from across Canada, met on 26-28 October at Friends House in Toronto to do its business. Here are some highlights.

Grants

Long-time partners Dan and Mary-Lou Smoke received a grant towards the operations of their syndicated radio show, "Smoke Signals", which educates the public about Indigenous peoples' worldviews and cultures. "Smoke Signals" has an online presence where you can watch videos, read articles, etc. Check them out: <http://ctvnewslondon.ca/SmokeSignals/index.html>.

Another Indigenous partner, Kontinónhstats, the Mohawk Language Custodians Association, will receive a follow-up grant towards the printing of booklet versions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Last year, CFSC provided funds to support the translation of the Declaration into Mohawk. English and French language booklets are available from CFSC and there is an electronic version of the booklet: http://issuu.com/karinzylsaw/docs/un_declaration_rights_indigenous_peoples.

A start-up grant was awarded for a Circles of Support and Accountability initiative in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Wonder what these circles do? Read more: <http://ccjc.ca/practice/cosa/>.

Visitation and education

Since the last CFSC board meeting, staff have visited and offered program at both Meetings (Vernon, Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto) and Ryerson and York Universities, presenting about the work of CFSC, Indigenous rights issues, and discernment and service work. This fall, the General Secretary will visit Hamilton and Peterborough Meetings, and is planning a visit to Coldstream. Meetings are welcome to invite staff to visit and offer program. Contact cfsc@quakerservice.ca.

We continue to encourage Friends to participate in Truth and Reconciliation events – local and national. Information will be sent to Meetings through CFSC Liaisons about how Friends can engage in the TRC. For more info, visit: www.trc.ca.

CFSC is continuing its work towards developing resources that help Friends look at synthetic biology as a spiritual concern. A letter of concern on the subject is being prepared this week for relevant federal ministers.

CFSC is supporting Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) Associate Member Elaine Bishop (Winnipeg Meeting) to attend the Urban Peacemakers: Strengthening Resiliency in Aboriginal Youth meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan in November. Elaine is the Executive Director of a CFSC-funded project, the North Point Douglas Women's Centre in Winnipeg, MB.

CFSC is also supporting Glenn Morison's (Winnipeg Meeting) attendance at the Restorative Justice Conference in Winnipeg from November 18-20. Glenn is a board member of CFSC, serving on QFJ.

Policy work

CFSC joined others in making a submission on Canada's human rights performance regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights to the UN, where Canada will undergo a Universal Periodic Review in the spring. CFSC continues to monitor the progress towards a Declaration on Indigenous Rights under development at the Organization of American States (OAS).

Work is continuing towards a resource for Friends about synthetic biology. In addition, Friends' concerns and questions were raised in a letter to Christian Paradis, the Minister of Industry.

Other

CFSC has approved a new policy on how it uses the personal information of donors, staff, volunteers, etc. which will bring it into compliance with federal legislation. We remind donors that we do not share your information and that internal access and use of your information is protected and restricted. This privacy policy will be posted under the "About Us" dropdown menu on www.quakerservice.ca.

Quakers Fostering Justice spent part of the weekend looking forward (and back) as it developed objectives for its work rooted in its vision, mandate, and goals as a part of a planning process.

Information from the survey of Monthly Meetings is still being compiled. A number of Meetings have not responded, and this information is vital to the planning work of CFSC as we want to understand the work in which Meetings are actively engaged.

Restorative Justice Week 2012 (Nov. 18th to 25th)

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections has developed resources for faith communities who wish to explore the concept of restorative justice in their own lives and communities. This year's Restorative Justice Week is fast approaching, and the theme will be "Diverse Needs; Unique Responses". Events are already being planned in various places across Canada. Find out more: <http://ccjc.ca/restorative-justice-week-2012/>.



Ecumenical resource available from KAIROS

KAIROS has developed a new document, *Seeking Shelter*, inspired by the Advent traditions in Mexico and Central America. Sections of these resources may be useful for local ecumenical events during Advent, First Day School, or adult education at Meetings. *Seeking Shelter* is available for purchase in PDF or hard copy: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/shop/>.

Prisoner of conscience charged

Friends continue to support and seek justice in the case of conscientious objector to war, Kimberly Rivera, whom Amnesty International has labeled a “prisoner of conscience”. Canadian Friends have been active in ensuring Kim’s well-being. We are awaiting clarification on the charges being brought against Kim, but at this time it appears that she has been charged with being Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and with Desertion.

Local Friend Bill Durland, who has a degree in Military Law, and Michelle Robidoux, of the War Resisters Support Campaign, have both been to visit Kim at the Fort Carson military base, providing her with donated items like a laptop and phone, and connecting her with an art therapist to help her work through the stress she’s under.

Canadian and American Friends and other supporters have also made donations to Kim’s husband Mario to help the family as he and his four children re-establish themselves in the US.

Letters and cards of support can be sent to Kim Rivera through her lawyer: James M. Branum, Attorney at Law, PO Box 721016, Oklahoma City, OK, USA 73172 or via email to girightslawyer@gmail.com with “Kimberly Rivera” in the subject line.

Resource on mining, violence, and solidarity for Remembrance Day

A new resource produced by the Mennonite Central Committee can be used by faith communities in advance of Remembrance Day. The resource connects us with those who suffer violence due to unjust mining practices – an issue which affects CFSC partners in the Great Lakes region of Africa, Guatemala, and elsewhere, including Canada. Get the 2012 *Peace Sunday* packet: <http://mcccanada.ca/peace/peacesunday>.



Through practical assistance, policy dialogue, research, and education, CFSC works toward a world in which peace and justice prevail. The values and practices we embrace are not exclusive to Quakers and we work in cooperation with a wide range of partners. [Learn more](#).



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