


Canadian Friends Service Committee
E-Newsletter

March, 2013

News from CFSC board meeting



Pictured: Board and Staff

4th row - staff: Jane Orion Smith, Matthew Legge, Jennifer Preston, Gianne Broughton; 3rd row: Justin Coutts, Lee Webb, Samson Nashon Madera, Philip Smith, Dereck Collins-Thompson, Fred Bass, Pete Cross, Trevor Chandler; 2nd row: Rob Hughes, Sheila Havard, Rachel Urban Shipley, Lana Robinson, Penni Burrell, Don Alexander; 1st row: Sylvia Lewis-Havard, Maggie Knight, Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg, Lesley Robertson, Glenn Morison, Sarah Chandler.

Friends serving on the board and staff of the Canadian Friends Service Committee gathered from across Canada at Friends' House in Toronto to meet from March 1st to 3rd. These times are always wonderful opportunities for fellowship, as well as business. The meeting felt particularly gathered and tender – and much was accomplished (added bonus!). Here are a few highlights from the meeting of the board and of CFSC's program committees:

Board:

We agreed to start doing “exit interviews” with board members, so that we can learn more from their experience and continue to improve the work and experience of CFSC. A process for this was approved (glad to share

it – email Jane Orion Smith at cfsc@quakerservice.ca). On a related theme, the Long-Term Discernment committee has been revived and they are picking up on some work done a couple of years ago, looking at our practices and structure and seeing how well it serves CFSC and Friends (as well as workload and other issues).

Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee:

Doctrine of Discovery – A draft document and resource package about the Doctrine of Discovery is being finalized to go to Monthly Meetings via the CFSC Liaisons. The Doctrine of Discovery emanates from a series of Papal Bulls and extensions, originating in the 1400s and used as legal and moral justification for colonial powers taking away lands from sovereign Indigenous nations during the European Age of Discovery. QAAC members and associates will be a resource in their Meetings as this moves forward. QAAC hopes to host a special interest group at Canadian Yearly Meeting in August focusing on this issue, and to have CYM consider and approve a minute that repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery.

TRC – Committee members are working on a resource for Friends to assist with engaging with local Truth and Reconciliation (www.trc.ca) events. Once ready, it will be sent to Meetings via CFSC Liaisons, and we will make it available on our website (and publicize it).

International work – continued engagement in Geneva and New York within the UN bodies that most actively engage in Indigenous peoples issues. This work then connects to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners on policy and legal issues in Canada. As an example, in April, Jennifer Preston will be going to

Geneva to meet with diplomatic missions during the period of Canada's Universal Periodic Review. "The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations ... the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed." (<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx>). To read the submission that CFSC and others made to the UN Human Rights Council, visit: <http://bit.ly/UPRsubmission>.

Quakers Fostering Justice:

Program focus – QFJ has been reflecting on its work and focus over the past year or more. They affirmed at this meeting that their work would principally focus on youth. And they minuted, "Quakers Fostering Justice' is not only our name but our goal. Fostering justice as healing is the ground from which our methods, processes and partnerships emerge. Our desire is to actively prevent harm, repair harm and move beyond harm by means that are healing for all concerned and for society as a whole. Our work arises from the context of Friends' vision of penal abolition." Various projects and ideas are now under consideration and development given this focus. Stay tuned.

Grants – QFJ awarded new grants to the following groups for small project work: York Region Elizabeth Fry – \$500.00 (help with the establishment of an E. Fry office in Newmarket, Ontario); Criminal Lawyer Duty Counsel Emergency Money – \$500.00 (funds to help those released by the court to return to prison to retrieve personal belongings, ID, etc.); Women's Shelter Taxi – \$500.00 (pays for taxis for children who otherwise might have to change schools as a part of relocation; enables continuity in their lives); and an Alternatives To Violence Project workshop focusing on trauma (to be held in Victoria, BC) – \$500.00.

Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee:

Synthetic biology – Meetings will be receiving educational resources, produced by the Quaker Institute for the Future and CFSC, which will help Friends to learn more about synthetic biology and related concerns as Friends collectively begin to address this emerging concern. Anne Mitchell, a QPASCC associate member working on this issue, has carried forward this concern to the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group, so there is hope that an ecumenical perspective may develop as we move forward in our communications with the government about directions of this emergent technology.

Strategic planning – Last year, Meetings were asked to complete a survey about the issues in which they and their members were engaged to help QPASCC (and CFSC more broadly) understand the level of interest and engagement on issues or projects under our care. Most Meetings have now responded, and this data was helpful to QPASCC in their work planning, and in their visioning of their purpose. They approved a provisional vision at the meeting: "Through partnership and led by Quaker testimonies, we bring about a world of lasting peace and sustainable communities." This vision will help shape program focus and work plan (work continuing out of this meeting). In addition, the results of the survey will be shared with Meetings (again, via those wonderful CFSC Liaisons!).

Using the E-Newsletter – Out of the survey, it became clear that it is good to remind Meetings that the CFSC e-newsletter is a tool they can use to network with other Meetings and find out what concerns they are engaged in. Email Jane Orion if interested or for details – cfsc@quakerservice.ca.

African Quaker Workcamp 2013

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of Friends Peace Teams – is sponsoring an intergenerational workcamp in Mutaho, Burundi from June 22 to July 27. Workcampers will build guest rooms for the Mutaho Women's Group Center - no skills needed. All ages welcome - including families. Learn more: dawn@aglifpt.org or <http://www.aglifpt.org>. Want to find out more from a former Canadian workcamper? Email Sheila Havard at havard_translations@hotmail.com.

CYM Youth Challenge 2013!

Under 35? Get yourself to Canadian Yearly Meeting this summer and be part of the 2013 Youth Challenge! There is \$25,000 in funds from the CYM Trustees to bring together at least 50 Young Friends and Young Adult Friends at CYM 2013, as funding can be a major barrier to attending CYM. So come to Kemptville, Ontario this August 16th-24th for fun, fellowship and special programming for Quaker youth and Young Adult Friends.

The Youth Challenge application form is online now at <http://bit.ly/YouthChallenge2013>. Once completed, email your answers to Maggie Knight, Young Adult Friend Clerk, at yaf-clerk@yf.quaker.ca. **The first funding deadline is March 15th** – please apply ASAP if you know you want to be at CYM’s annual sessions this summer! **The second funding deadline is June 1.** Forms for CYM’s annual sessions are now available online at: <http://www.quaker.ca/Events/gathering/> The registration form has information on costs accommodation/meals/registration which will help you determine how much funding support you will need.

Apply for a QEW Mini-Grant (and maybe donate to QEW too!)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), a CFSC partner organization, offers matching grants of \$350 to Quaker meetings and their partners who want to create a project that improves their environment. In 2011, QEW Mini-Grants funded a tree planting project in El Alto, Bolivia; the development of a native garden at Miami Monthly Meeting (Miami, FL); a rain garden in Sarasota Springs, New York; a drip irrigation system in Vancouver, BC; LED lighting for the West Virginia Friends Wilderness Center; and sericulture/apiary for the Kenya Munyu Youth Group. Does your meeting have an Earthcare project you’d love to do? Download the QEW Mini-Grants 2013 application here: <http://bit.ly/QEWGrants>.

In addition, if you are a Canadian donor to Quaker Earthcare Witness, you can now send your cheque to CFSC (and it will be tax-receipted) – just note on your cheque that the funds are for “QEW” and we will make sure that they get there! We are pleased to be working in closer cooperation with QEW!

Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change

Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change is the first Inuktitut language film on how climate change is affecting Inuit peoples. It “takes the viewer ‘on the land’ with elders and hunters to explore the social and ecological impacts of a warming Arctic”. The 54-minute documentary is available for streaming at <http://www.isuma.tv/lo/en/inuit-knowledge-and-climate-change>.

New KAIROS resource on resource extraction

Canada is home to 75% of the world’s mining and exploration companies. Canadian stock exchanges raise 40% of all mineral exploration capital worldwide. “Remember the Land” tells the story of peoples from the Global South who are engaged in struggles to protect the land that they know and love; the land that sustains them materially, culturally and spiritually; the land that has its own deep, inherent worth.

Shot in May 2011, this 11-minute video shows a gathering that brought together church leaders and grassroots activists from around the world (Hannah Ivanoff and Gianne Broughton attended for CFSC).

View the video online for free (<http://vimeo.com/54105569>) and download the Study Guide (<http://bit.ly/XcLXCp>). Or order the video and study guide (\$10): <http://bit.ly/WDkIEI>

If you plan a public screening, use one of KAIROS’ posters: <http://bit.ly/Tm6ZCi>. Email us and email Sara Stratton (ssatton@kairoscanada.org) about your event, and CFSC and KAIROS will help publicize it.

Young Adult Friends (YAFs) conference on simplicity – June 14 – 19 at Pendle Hill

Continuing Rev_l_tion: Be Brought Low, and Back to the Root – A Young Adult Friends Conference on Simplicity

will be a powerful, action-oriented six-day gathering for Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35). The program will include inspirational speakers, workshops and trainings, worship and worship-sharing, fellowship, discernment of gifts and ministry, service and direct action. At its core, this conference is about providing the foundational skills and training to inspire revelation – or revolution – as YAFs strive to live into Spirit-led relationship with ourselves, our communities and the earth.

Application forms and information are at <http://www.pendlehill.org/yald>. Applicants will be notified within 2-3 weeks of submitting their application. Program fees are \$300 per participant. There is a “Bring a Buddy” discount for individuals who register before April 1, 2013. Apply now, and encourage a F(f)riend to apply too – if they apply, you will receive \$50 off your conference cost. There are scholarships available; interested individuals should also consider asking their monthly/yearly meetings or communities for financial assistance. Questions? Contact Emily Higgs at ehiggs@pendlehill.org.

Canadian School of Peacebuilding – courses on offer this June, apply now

The Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP) invites peacebuilders and those interested in developing peacebuilding skills to gather in Winnipeg, MB in June to partake in a wide selection of five-day courses on peacebuilding, justice, reconciliation, conflict resolution, etc. They can be used for professional and personal development or for academic credit. Courses serve practitioners, activists, students, NGOs, faith groups, and professionals. Each 5-day course is \$495 for personal or professional development or \$695 for academic credit. To learn more and to apply, visit <http://csop.cmu.ca/>.

Round up of some of our most popular recent posts

For those who have yet to “like” us on Facebook or who have not checked our Twitter feed of late, here are a few links to resources that we’ve shared in the last month. This is also a reminder that if you want timely news around issues of concern to Friends check <http://bit.ly/CFSCFacebook> and <http://bit.ly/CFSCTwitter>.

Incomplete but potentially a useful resource to start conversations – infographic on Aboriginal poverty: <http://www3.tv.o.org/sites/default/files/Aboriginal-Poverty-infographic-LRG.gif>

A form to tell the Federal Government not to purchase attack drones: <http://www.ceasefire.ca/?p=14962>

A nice looking tool which reports on the ethics of popular food brands: <http://www.behindthebrands.org>

Although some assignment deadlines have already passed, it’s not too late to sign up for this free online course *Aboriginal Worldviews and Education* (also many other interesting free courses are available): <https://www.coursera.org/course/aboriginaled>

A map of women’s rights around the world (click on countries for more details): <http://777voting.com>



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 - we work in cooperation with a wide range of partners.

<http://bit.ly/CFSCFacebook> | <http://bit.ly/CFSCTwitter>

Please encourage others to subscribe to the e-news at <http://bit.ly/ENewsSignUp>

Read past issues at <http://bit.ly/PastNews>

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