



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

June, 2013

June 2 and 9, 2013: KAIROS Days of Action for Water



KAIROS invites Friends' Meetings to be part of a very simple act of solidarity during Meeting for Worship on June 2 or 9. We are taking action for right relations with Indigenous peoples and to help protect Canada's waters from recent changes in environmental legislation.

In late 2012, Indigenous peoples in Canada asked Canadians to enter into right relationship and to awaken ourselves to the impact of legislation that will weaken the protection of our environment and change our relationship with Indigenous peoples. For information on the impacts of Bills C-38 and C-45 and ways to participate in this campaign, please visit the Our Waters, Our Life campaign page (<http://bit.ly/15aaJd3>).

On June 2nd or 9th KAIROS is asking you to:

- Gather a small bottle of water from your local water source.
- Label it with the name of the water source, the name of the Indigenous traditional territory if you know it, and the name of your community.
- Take the water into Meeting for Worship, and, as led, Friends are invited to gather and reflect upon the gift of the Spirit that is water, to hold it in the Light as we pray for the healing and restoration for our waterways and all creatures that depend on them, and to pray for the courage to act to protect that which gives us life. A handout to use at Meeting for Worship can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/OurWatersOurLife>.
- Mail the water by June 11th to: Ed Bianchi, KAIROS, 211 Bronson Street, Suite 211, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6H5
- How to mail water? Put in a non-leak container (ex. travel-size shampoo bottle), wrap in bubble pack, put into a small box, and mail.

Let KAIROS (and CFSC) know that you will be sending some water (email sstratton@kairoscanada.org and cfsc@quakerservice.ca). Your water will be used in a collective action so that your voices, your watershed and the Indigenous traditional territory where you live are represented physically and spiritually.

Reminder to Meetings – Discernment

Meetings are reminded that CFSC is encouraging you to engage in discernment on two important topics: repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, and synthetic biology. Please contact us with any questions. We hope to hear from Meetings by **June 30th** about their decision to participate, or not, in discernment on synthetic biology – email your response to cfsc@quakerservice.ca.

Draft statement and resource package on the Doctrine of Discovery: <http://shar.es/jbvDP>

Information kit for consultation and discernment process on synthetic biology: <http://bit.ly/SynthBioKit>

Joint statements from United Nations Permanent Forum

Jennifer Preston, Program Coordinator for CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee (QAAC), and Monica Walters-Field, an Associate Member of QAAC, attended the 12th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (<http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>) on behalf of CFSC. Held in New York City from the 20th to the 31st of May, the Forum brought together more than 2,000 Indigenous participants from all over the world.

CFSC supported a number of partners in making the following joint statements:

- Culture - <http://bit.ly/175rg5B>
- Study on the extent of violence against Indigenous women and girls - <http://bit.ly/18zftKL>
- Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - <http://bit.ly/13Z3B3z>

KAIROS invites young and older Friends in west to intergenerational event in BC

From 24 - 27 October in North Vancouver, BC, *Elements of Justice* will bring together grassroots activists and wanna-be-activists (all newbies welcome!) from BC to western Ontario (west of Thunder Bay) including all western provinces and territories.

Elements of Justice is your chance to spend a few days in the rainforest delving deeper into the social justice issues that are close to your heart. It is an opportunity to learn from experienced activists while sharing your own wisdom and expertise; to explore and compare Euro-Christian and Indigenous worldviews; to celebrate and respect our differences; to begin building a movement for positive change.

At least half of the 150 participants will be young adults (18-35). Under 18s are welcome if accompanied by an adult who will act as a guardian. Families are welcome, and childcare will be available. This is an Ecumenical Gathering and all people are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation or no affiliation.

Read more about the gathering: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/get-involved/elements-of-justice/>

Online registration for *Elements of Justice* is open: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ElementsofJustice2013>

The registration cost is \$290. Friends are encouraged to seek financial assistance from their Meetings, and are also very welcome to apply for a CFSC Individual Grant for assistance (email cfsc@quakerservice.ca for the form – you will need a minute of support from your Meeting). For more information about the event, please contact: Shannon Neufeldt - events@kairoscanada.org or 1-877-403-8933 x221.



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.

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