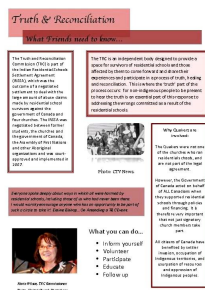




# Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

August, 2013

## How Friends can engage with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (<http://www.trc.ca>) seeks to learn the truth about what happened in residential schools and to inform all Canadians of this truth. The Commission “hopes to guide and inspire First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and Canadians in a process of truth and healing leading toward reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.”

CFSC’s Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee has prepared a document which will help to answer Friends’ questions about how they can be involved. We encourage you to read, share, and take action as led: <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Engaging-with-TRC-Events.pdf>

## Updated QFJ community grants application

CFSC’s Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee is offering community grants to support projects that are consistent with QFJ’s mandate and Quaker principles. **The next deadline is Oct. 1, 2013.** Please encourage qualified organizations you are familiar with to consider applying for a community grant. More information, including the application form, can be found on the community grants page: <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/justice/qfj-community-grant/>

Want to learn more about other grant opportunities through CFSC? Visit: [http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/cfsc\\_grants\\_0811.pdf](http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/cfsc_grants_0811.pdf)

## Joint Statements from Geneva

CFSC’s Jennifer Preston was in Geneva, Switzerland for the sixth session of the United Nations’ Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Together with our partners CFSC made two joint statements regarding:

***The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples***, which notes, “States cannot avoid Indigenous peoples’ human rights and related State obligations in the UN Declaration, by attempting to diminish its legal significance. ... The objective of Indigenous peoples and States in the decades of development was not to attain a solely aspirational instrument.” <http://quakerservice.ca/news/joint-statement-from-geneva>

***Access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples***, which highlights a range of issues all related to Canada’s failure to ensure access to justice for Indigenous peoples. <http://quakerservice.ca/news/joint-statement-access-to-justice-for-indigenous-peoples/>

## Queen’s names Quaker prison chaplain Kate Johnson as new University Chaplain

Congratulations to Kate Johnson, an Associate of CFSC’s Quakers Fostering Justice program committee and a member of Thousand Islands Monthly Meeting, on her recent appointment as chaplain of Queen’s University. Kate commented, “My own time studying at Queen’s was full of both joy and challenge and I am really looking forward to journeying with students through this time of huge growth in their lives.”

## Civil Liberties and New Technology

In a world of new technology and opportunities for the loss of privacy, there are so many different reactions to leaks related to US and other governments' domestic and international spy programs. (In case you haven't been following too closely, the Guardian (UK) describes the potential scale of the issue by saying, "...the US government - in complete secrecy - is constructing a ubiquitous spying apparatus aimed not only at its own citizens, but *all of the world's citizens...*" <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/07/nsa-brazilians-globo-spying>)

People from across the political spectrum are deeply troubled for a number of reasons, while others are not at all bothered or surprised, feeling that surveillance programs do not affect them as they are not "terrorists". Here is one take on the topic: <http://www.wired.com/opinion/2013/06/why-i-have-nothing-to-hide-is-the-wrong-way-to-think-about-surveillance/>

For those who are concerned about their online privacy, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (of which CFSC is a member organization) invites you to take a look at some of these options: <http://prism-break.org/> Stay abreast by signing up for the ICLMG email list from their homepage: <http://iclmg.ca/>

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## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting joins in recognition of UN Declaration

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) is the latest to adopt a minute of support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. PYM acknowledged with thanks the help of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) and CFSC's Jennifer Preston. In an email to CFSC regarding the decision, Kate de Riel, clerk of PYM's Indian Committee (established in 1795), said, "We appreciate so much the help from Canadian Yearly Meeting and Jennifer Preston, QUNO, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committees." To learn more about the UN Declaration: <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/indigenous-peoples-rights/un-declaration/>

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## Synthetic Biology Working Groups

Many Meetings across Canada have started working groups to engage in discernment on synthetic biology. It's not too late to start! The steps involved are:

- a. Group must have 3 roles: clerk, recording clerk, and internet go-between
- b. Group commits to read the information provided [the kit on CFSC web site, 4 booklets published by the Quaker Institute for the future (also available on-line) and web site links]
- c. Meets twice (once before Oct. 1, once before Dec. 1) for 2-hour discussions
- d. Prepares a report for its Meeting for approval before Dec. 31, 2013
- e. The Meeting approves sending the report to Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee (QPASCC) before Dec. 31

Contact QPASCC Program Coordinator Gianne Broughton at [qpasc@quakerservice.ca](mailto:qpasc@quakerservice.ca) with any questions.

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