



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

October, 2013



Working for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

Our Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee worked with a number of partners to release a statement on the 6th anniversary of the adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The statement highlights the need for Canada to respect the right of Indigenous Peoples to make decisions about resource development on their lands. Read a media release and download the statement at: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/canada-must-respect-right-indigenous-peoples-make-decisions-resource-development-lands/>

Our partners at Amnesty International have started a related campaign to, "Urge Canada to help safeguard the human rights of Indigenous Peoples affected by resource development projects at home and abroad." You can read more and send your message at: <http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1770&ea.campaign.id=22596>

In Toronto area? Come hear Quaker UN Office's Rachel Brett speak about C.O.

On Sunday October 27th, 1 pm - 2:30 pm, Rachel Brett, the human rights representative at the Quaker UN Office Geneva, will speak at Friends House in Toronto (60 Lowther Avenue) about work on conscientious objection at the international level. Alyssa Manning, lawyer for many of the US war resisters, will join her and speak to the Canadian situation. This will be a rare opportunity to dialogue with two of the most talented and interesting voices in C.O. issues.

Rachel has played an important role in providing guidance both to CFSC and the legal team working on US war resisters cases, given her expert knowledge of international human rights in this area. This will be a public event, so please feel welcome to invite other interested friends. Both women are engaging and knowledgeable speakers. Not to be missed! CFSC and Toronto Friends are hosting this event.

Canada must protect privacy against unchecked internet surveillance

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) joined an international coalition of over 270 organizations in calling upon Canada to assess whether national surveillance laws and activities are in line with international human rights obligations. We have endorsed a set of 13 Principles against unchecked internet surveillance. Find the full media release and a link to the 13 Principles at: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/cfsc-calls-canada-protect-privacy-unchecked-internet-surveillance/>

Sisters in Spirit vigils

The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada remains of deep concern to Friends. October 4th is the annual day to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. A vigil can take many forms from silence to feast. We encourage you to:



- Learn more from the Native Women's Association of Canada: <http://www.nwac.ca/october-4th-sis-vigils>
- Find out what is being planned in your area: <http://www.nwac.ca/2013-vigil-locations>
- And if so led, register your own event: <http://www.nwac.ca/programs/2013-vigil-registration>



Growing Justice: KAIROS Advent resource 2013

KAIROS, the ecumenical justice organization of which Canadian Yearly Meeting is a member, has released its 2013 Advent resource. In addition to its content from other KAIROS member faith traditions, this year the resource features Quaker content!

You can order a print copy for \$10 or a PDF copy for \$5. Find out more:
<http://www.kairoscanada.org/order/growing-justice-kairos-advent-resource-2013-download/>

Just peace in Syria

Canadian Yearly Meeting, the national church body of Friends in Canada, is a member of the Canadian Council of Churches. Council members have a number of connections in Syria and strong familiarity with the context of the conflict and with local needs. The Council, whose members represent 85% of Christians in Canada, has written a letter to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development John Baird about Canada's response to the current crisis in Syria.

The letter requests that Canada use diplomatic and political means to reach a just peace in Syria and states that military intervention is not an option. You can read the full letter at:
<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/uploads//Letter%20on%20Syria%20-%20Final%20EN.pdf>

A guide to the Kimberly Process

CFSC is a member of Partnership Canada Africa (PAC). PAC just released a resource about the Kimberly Process, which has been functioning since 2003 to prevent the trade of conflict diamonds. Interested in finding out more about the international diamond trade and efforts to prevent the sale of "blood diamonds"? You can download the guide at: <http://bit.ly/KimberlyProcess>

St. Lawrence Valley Regional Gathering, October 18-20

Friends will be gathering in October in Montreal for the St. Lawrence Valley Regional Gathering (which includes Meetings from Peterborough area east to Montreal). Participants will be:

- engaging in the Blanket Exercise (<http://www.kairoscanada.org/dignity-rights/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>),
- participating in PeaceQuest activities (<http://peacequest.ca>), and
- brainstorming about penal abolition.

To register contact Claire Adamson: adamsonclaire7@gmail.com



Practical assistance, policy dialogue, research, and education - CFSC works for a world where peace and justice prevail.

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