



# Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

November, 2013

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## CFSC Annual Appeal 2013



Improving the justice system for youth at risk, supporting local initiatives, seeding peace, supporting Indigenous peoples' human rights, educating Canadians, working in partnership. You make all of this happen. For CFSC, 2013 has been a year full of challenges and successes that are making a real difference in people's lives. Your support goes where it counts - toward a world where peace and justice prevail. We only ask once a year, so welcome your consideration of supporting Friends' work.

Please - read our Annual Appeal for 2013 and make a donation today! <http://bit.ly/Appeal2013>

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## CFSC intervenes at Supreme Court on historic Tsilhqot'in title case

The Supreme Court of Canada can establish a framework for Aboriginal title that respects international human rights law and Canada's Constitution. The Tsilhqot'in Nation's case, before the court this week, will set an important precedent on Aboriginal title. CFSC and Amnesty International Canada were granted intervenor status in the case; we presented our arguments before the Court on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Read CFSC/Amnesty's full factum, and find links to videos and events here: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/tsilhqotin-title-case-supreme-court-canada/>

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## Educational event on conscientious objection a success



Over 50 people attended our public event with Rachel Brett, human rights representative at the Quaker UN Office Geneva, and Alyssa Manning, lawyer for many of the US war resisters. Rachel outlined the international standards regarding conscientious objection; Alyssa spoke to the cases in through the Canadian system. We are working towards having an audio file of the session available – if you are

*Rachel Brett (in purple) and Alyssa Manning (far right) pictured with US war resisters Jules Tindugan, Christian Kjar, Chuck Wiley, and Jeremy Hinzman in the garden at Friends House.*

Special thanks to event co-sponsors, the War Resisters Support Campaign and Toronto Monthly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

interested in accessing it, email Orion at [cfsc@quakerservice.ca](mailto:cfsc@quakerservice.ca)

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## Highlights and news from the CFSC Meeting!



*Committee members and staff have a “Meeting for Eating” – a chance to replenish and, importantly, a time to form and deepen relationships.*

Friends from across Canada came together in Toronto from October 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> for CFSC’s bi-annual meeting of the board (which addresses overall governance, finance, and policy issues) and the program committees (which address the corporate peace and social concerns of Canadian Yearly Meeting, the national church body of Friends).

We have LOTS to share!

### **Indigenous rights**

- Following Canadian Yearly Meeting’s repudiation of the **Doctrine of Discovery** at CYM sessions in August, plans are now afoot to develop a “FAQ” on the Doctrine to inform Friends and to encourage them to carry forward this issue with their elected representatives.
- CFSC worked with many partners engaging with the official visit to Canada of the **UN Special Rapporteur** on the rights of Indigenous peoples, James Anaya. Our joint submission and the SR statement are on our website. We will work with partners on a follow up event, which draws attention to the final report and recommendations (to be released in 2014).
- The **UN Declaration booklets** are being re-printed, following distribution of 120,000 in English and 12,000 in French. Contact the CFSC office if your Meeting wants some.
- To better reflect our work and relationships with partners, CFSC approved changing the name of its Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee to the **Quaker Indigenous Rights Committee**.
- At the rise of our meeting, CFSC, Amnesty, and KAIROS issued a **joint open letter** to the premier of New Brunswick in response to the recent RCMP action to the fracking opposition lead by Elsipogtog First Nations. CFSC will develop an educational tool to share with Friends to help understand and best respond to such situations. To read the letter, visit: <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Open-Letter-to-Premier-of-NB-Nov-2013-.pdf>

### **Peace and sustainability**

- A highlight of the year is the **production of new book** “*Four Elements of Peacebuilding: How to Protect Nonviolently*” by Gianne Broughton, longtime CFSC staff person. The book will be available electronically on [www.quakerservice.ca](http://www.quakerservice.ca) next week; a distribution plan for hard copies is being finalized.
- Over the next few months, Matthew Legge, the new Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Program Coordinator, will **visit partners** in Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and

the UK (meeting of Quaker service agencies). These visits enable us to monitor the work that CFSC supports, and plan forward alongside our partners. QPASCC Associate Sheila Havard will accompany Matt to the DRC.

- We received an update about a recent meeting between the Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches and Public Health Canada, and about the development of a web forum for discussing **synthetic biology**. CFSC is awaiting responses from meetings who are undertaking discernment on the issue of synthetic biology – responses are due to the CFSC office by December 31. We have been encouraged by the thoughtful work undertaken by Meetings so far.
- Building on the World Council of Churches’ and Canadian Council of Churches’ decisions to **foster Just Peace**, and recognizing the unique contribution that Friends can make with the addition of compassion as an essential element of peacebuilding, CFSC wishes to collaborate with ecumenical partners in developing and delivering a program that strengthens peacebuilding skills and education, using the four elements framework (power based, rights based, interest based, and compassion based). Work will be underway in the months ahead to scope out our role in such an undertaking.

### **Justice**

- Immediately following the CFSC board weekend, its Quakers Fostering Justice program hosted a **two-day workshop** with guests from across Canada, and Europe, to explore the following two issues that emerged from consultations with organizations working in restorative justice and with youth at risk:

*a) Knowledge brokering* - There is no systematic linkage of research and bodies of practice in the different areas that informs the bigger picture of “...a system that supports youth at risk”. Everyone puts out information, but nobody takes on an information management role. Very little is also done to understand how information can be translated into action. This indicated to QFJ the possible need for some kind of “knowledge brokering”. Participants embraced this and put forward ideas and resources to launch a pilot information brokering project by the end of November and plan to evaluate it in the spring.

*b) Working group on youth and justice* - In 2012, the UN Committee on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) reviewed Canada’s Third and Fourth Reports to the UNCRC and the concluding observations included recommendations ([http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/Canada\\_CRC-Concluding-Observations\\_61.2012.pdf](http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/Canada_CRC-Concluding-Observations_61.2012.pdf)) for action on the implementation of the rights of the child in Canada and juvenile justices issues (paras. 85-86). Participants explored the feasibility of forming a working group to follow-up on the recommendation in between the UNCRC reviews.

- Two **justice-related grants** were renewed during the weekend: one to a women’s shelter in Newmarket, Ontario that pays for a children’s taxi service, which enables children at the shelter to continue their education at their regular school if now living far from its location and the other to The Open Circle program in Winnipeg to continue the work on the database that will better enable matching volunteer visitors with those in prison who are working towards their release and reintegration into the community.
- On November 23 in Toronto, the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted will be having a **celebratory gathering** on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Philip Smith, Clerk of QFJ, will attend on CFSC’s behalf.

- CFSC will endorse the **Joint Statement on the Physical Punishment of Children and Youth**, developed by a national coalition of organizations facilitated by the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). “Based on an extensive review of research, the Joint Statement provides an overview of the developmental outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment. The evidence is clear and compelling — physical punishment of children and youth plays no useful role in their upbringing and poses only risks to their development...” Read more at: <http://www.cheo.on.ca/en/physicalpunishment>

### Discerning change

- CFSC members and staff spent time together in a discernment session regarding our current internal structure and how it might better help us to **live out the Spirit** in our work and witness in the world, our role as employers (and employees), our stewardship responsibilities in governance, etc. It is good for us to reflect, especially when a structure is not giving sufficient life to those who live and work within it – volunteers and staff – life being the foundation of the Spirit. When we hit this juncture, it is a time to discern appropriate change that will further enable joy and fulfill our call and responsibilities. This work initiated last year and is under the care of a long-term discernment committee, which is working with the Executive Committee between meetings of CFSC as a whole.

### Giving thanks for faithful service



CFSC members and staff said goodbye to **Gianne Broughton** in her staff role as the QPASC Program Coordinator at our meeting. Quoting the minute of appreciation that was recorded, “*Gianne has served CFSC with passion and dedication for 15 years as Program Coordinator... For Gianne, working for CFSC was more than a job, it was a Quaker leading. Her skills at facilitating productive discussion, integrating ideas, and putting them into understandable words have made a major contribution to what CFSC is today. ... Compassion was the hallmark of her approach. ... We thank Gianne for her years of devoted work for Canadian Friends.*” Gianne has brought

thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, care and concern, to the relationships that form the basis of work of CFSC. We shall miss her presence, her many gifts, and look forward to working with her on shared continuing concerns – like her fabulous new peacebuilding book!



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

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