



# Canadian Friends Service Committee

## E-Newsletter

May, 2014

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### Peace and the Commemoration of War

The commemorations of World War I (100th anniversary of its start in 1914), World War II (75th anniversary of its start in 1939), and the Battle of Normandy (70th anniversary, 1944) are an opportunity for Friends' Meetings to engage Canadians in conversations on peace. Meetings or individual Canadian Friends who are planning events, historical research, articles, letters to local news outlets, etc. are encouraged to inform CFSC so that we may share the information more widely.



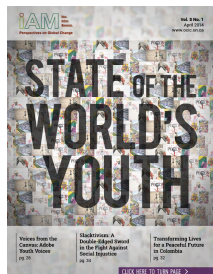
We will be posting information to a newly created page of our website: <http://www.quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/commemoration-war/>

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### New videos from CFSC co-sponsored Indigenous land rights forum

CFSC co-sponsored and participated in a forum - *Turning Point for Indigenous Land Rights* - while the Tsilhqot'in title case was before the Supreme Court of Canada. Videos from the event are now online at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHafeQAqShdRliZo-FYJTOcKPyXSZge4r>

More about the case: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/tsilhqotin-title-case-supreme-court-canada/>



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### State of the World's Youth

CFSC is a member of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC). You may be interested in their yearly e-magazine, *iAM*. The newest issue focuses on the state of the world's youth, an area of particular interest when considering international issues ("problems without passports") given that the world's population is younger than it ever has been.

The magazine features an article by CFSC board member Rachel Urban Shipley titled, *Children of Prisoners: The Impact of Incarceration*, which is a focus of the work of the Quakers Fostering Justice program committee of CFSC. You can read *iAM* at: <http://content.yudu.com/A2to8h/iAMVol5/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=>

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### Will Canada ratify the Arms Trade Treaty?

Through CYM's membership in Project Ploughshares and other avenues Friends have been encouraging the creation of an international arms trade treaty for many years. Although the treaty just turned one year old, Canada has still not signed or ratified it. Read about Canada and the Arms Trade Treaty on Ploughshares' blog:

<http://ploughshares.ca/2014/04/att-ratifications-climb-with-no-help-from-canada/>

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### Fully autonomous "killer robots"

It might sound like science fiction, but all indications are that research is underway to produce robotic

weapons that are fully autonomous. Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) has signed on to the *Interfaith Declaration in Support of a Ban of Fully Autonomous Weapons*, while noting that we do not support any form of warfare or the development of any type of weapon, whether controlled by humans or operating autonomously. Read the *Interfaith Declaration* and our cover letter:

<http://quakerservice.ca/news/cfsc-supports-preemptive-ban-autonomous-killer-robots/>

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## Smoke Signals – Indigenous radio program

CFSC is a long time supporter of Dan and Mary Lou Smoke's *Smoke Signals*, the longest running Indigenous Community or Campus Radio program in Canada. *Smoke Signals* has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Specialty Program. The show has thousands of listeners every Sunday evening, tuning in from as far away as the US, Europe, and Asia.

You can read more about *Smoke Signals* and listen to it live from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm EST by clicking "listen live": <http://chrwradio.ca/content/smoke-signals>

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## WorldPride hosts international human rights conference, June 25-27 (Toronto)

The WorldPride Human Rights Conference 2014 (WPHRC14) is an exciting gathering of activists, artists, educators, journalists, policymakers, students, and others engaged in LGBTI human rights around the world. The conference is a unique opportunity for a global dialogue about LGBTI human rights, ranging from performances to presentations, politics to policies, and activists to academics. To learn more about it and to register, visit: <http://thereadingsalon.ca/wphrc14/>. Pride Toronto is hosting WorldPride – a 10-day (June 20-29) global celebration of queer culture. Learn more at: <http://www.worldpridetoronto.com/>

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## Canadian School of Peacebuilding



The Canadian School of Peacebuilding at the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, will be running sessions from June 16-20 and 23-27. Classes include Peace Skills Practice, Exploring Indigenous Justice and Healing, Restorative Justice with Youth and Schools, and Arts Approaches to Community-Based Peacebuilding. For more course information and to apply visit: <http://csop.cmu.ca/> or call 204-487-3300

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## Private sponsorship of refugees

Meetings or individual Friends interested in sponsoring a refugee may find this recorded one-hour webinar helpful. There are other resources of interest on the site at well:

<http://yourlegalrights.on.ca/webinar/private-sponsorship-refugees-program>

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

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