



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

June, 2014

CFSC at the UN Permanent Forum

CFSC staff Jennifer Preston and Monica Walters Field (Associate member) just returned from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. CFSC was in attendance for the 13th year, working with many partners on joint statements (which one hopes will be integrated into the final report and recommendations of the Forum), meeting with Indigenous, UN, and state representatives and participating in various events. Additionally, CFSC was able to help orient KAIROS, the ecumenical justice organization of which Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) is a member, as it took a delegation to the Forum for the first time.



*Joanne Ottereyes (Eeyou Nation),
Coordinator of Quebec Native
Women, delivers joint statement on
good governance at the UNPFII.*

This year's theme was "Principles of good governance consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46".

Read joint statements from CFSC and our partners:

Good Governance - <http://quakerservice.ca/news/joint-statement-good-governance/>

Human Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - <http://quakerservice.ca/news/joint-statement-human-rights-un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples/>

Synthetic biology

By combining biology, computer technology and engineering, one can manufacture DNA, insert that DNA into a living cell, and have that cell create new life forms - forms untested by the challenges of evolution. Quakers are among the few groups paying close attention to this emerging field. Friends', grounded in our testimonies, have an important role to play in response to synthetic biology. How do we address the ecological, social, and spiritual aspects of synthetic biology?

This will be the topic of a Special Interest Group at this year's Canadian Yearly Meeting (to register, go to: <http://quaker.ca/news-and-events/cym-gathering-2014/>). Find background documents and a summary of discernment from Meetings at: <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/economics-and-ecology/biotechnology/>

Listen to a very interesting discussion of synthetic biology on CBC's May 21 edition of *The Current*: <http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2014/05/21/expanding-the-alphabet-of-life-with-artificial-dna/>

Children and family of the incarcerated

Friends are actively involved in the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC), an ecumenical coalition which seeks positive change toward a more restorative and community building approach to justice.

The newest edition of CCJC's bulletin focuses on a concern that CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice program committee carries - the effects on children and youth of the incarceration of family members. Read more: <http://t.co/aHabdsIxPg>

Ethical reflections on fracking

KAIROS has released a discussion paper on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). Interested Meetings are encouraged to use the paper for reflection and discernment, and to share their responses about this issue as a concern for ecumenical action through KAIROS with Friends' representative on the KAIROS board of directors, Jane MacKay Wright (janemw@amtelecom.net) by September 1.

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/sustainability/climate-justice/ethical-reflections-on-fracking/>

CFSC's website spring cleaning

For those who haven't visited us lately, the CFSC website has been updated over the last few months with most pages featuring new information, pictures, and links to resources. Why not have a look?

<http://quakerservice.ca/>

Quaker records now on Ancestry

"Do Quaker records hold secrets about your lineage?", asks a new mail out from Ancestry.ca. Many of the early settlers in North America were Friends and Ancestry notes that they were "fastidious record keepers". You can search the Quaker records - now including Canadian content thanks to the persistent work of Canadian Yearly Meeting's Records Committee:

http://search.ancestry.ca/search/group/quaker_collections?o_xid=59402&o_lid=59402

International Conscientious Objectors Day

May 15th was International C.O. Day. As a way to remember and honour C.O.s of past and present, CFSC has written to the Minister of Immigration, Chris Alexander, regarding the government's position that US War Resisters may be inadmissible to Canada as they deserted, and desertion is against the law under (Canada's) *National Defence Act*. CFSC does not accept this interpretation under law, and has communicated this back to the Minister. Please see our article in the last issue of *Quaker Concern* (<http://bit.ly/QCSpring2014>) to learn more about the issue.



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