



## Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

March, 2015



### Welcome Keira Mann!

We are pleased to welcome Keira Mann as our 2015 CFSC Program Assistant! (Formerly the CFSC Internship, the position has been revamped.) Keira is a student of international development and law at Dalhousie University and has a strong interest in human rights, peace and refugee issues.

Many of you will get the chance to meet Keira at Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) in Prince Edward Island this summer, or at *Radical Nonviolence: A camp for young peacemakers* - which CFSC will be offering at Camp NeeKauNis from August 24th - 30th (details to follow in a future edition of the E-News!) When Keira starts work with CFSC in April, you will be able to contact her at [keira@quakerservice.ca](mailto:keira@quakerservice.ca).

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### Responding to Canada's Anti-Terrorism Legislation

The new Anti-Terrorism Law (Bill C-51) has far reaching implications for Canadians. CFSC is a founding member of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (you can read about the history of Friends' work on this concern on our website <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/human-rights/civil-liberties/>). ICLMG has done an excellent job of compiling information and links related to the new Anti-Terrorism Bill, C-51, which you'll find in the past three issues of their News Digest:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1110839102458/archive/1120227734298.html>

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1110839102458/archive/1120152964404.html>

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1110839102458/archive/1120074720185.html>.

A news release from the our partners at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs expresses their deep concerns with Bill C-51's likely infringement on Indigenous Title and rights:

[http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/News\\_Releases/UBCICNews02201501.html](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/News_Releases/UBCICNews02201501.html)

Finally, charity law firm Carters have released a brief which considers the implications of Bill C-51 for charities and non-profits (like your Meeting):

<http://www.carters.ca/pub/bulletin/charity/2015/atcylb39.pdf>

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### SAGE news on Restorative Justice

Friends are members of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC). The most recent issue of CCJC's SAGE e-bulletin is all about the journey and process of restorative justice. What is required to make restorative justice effective? Have a look: <http://ccjc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SAGE-no-8-Final.pdf>

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### CFSC supports new bill on UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Canadian Friends Service Committee supports Bill C-641 *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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Jennifer Preston, CFSC's Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator, was in Ottawa recently as part of a panel discussing the implications of the Bill and what other countries around the world are doing to realize the *Declaration*.

In our assessment, passing the Bill would contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation. For many years we have worked with Indigenous partners and others to draw attention to the need for full and effective implementation of the *UN Declaration*. Canada has officially endorsed the *Declaration* and Canadian courts can use it to interpret Indigenous peoples' rights. The proposed legislation would go further, requiring a review of all Canadian laws to ensure their respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples. This would be a significant and positive step in honouring the Nation-to-Nation relationship. We urge you to contact your MP and express your support for Bill C-641.

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## Updated list of service opportunities

CFSC has updated a list of service opportunities for Young Friends and others seeking to have a direct experience of service work with a Quaker organization (or one with Quaker roots). The list of opportunities includes voluntary and paid positions, more and less structured programs, opportunities of shorter and longer lengths, and ones within Canada as well as many other parts of the world. Have a look and please share this list with Young Friends and others in your Meeting: <http://quakerservice.ca/what-you-can-do/service-opportunities/>

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## New Israel/Palestine resources

CFSC supported Linda Taffs (Vancouver Island Meeting) with an individual grant to participate in a witness trip to Palestine/Israel in December 2014. Linda was able to film a number of educational talks that her group heard. You can find links to them about half way down this page: <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/israel-palestine>

The United Church of Canada has recently produced resources to encourage honest discussion about Palestine/Israel that may be of interest to your Meeting as well. Discussion topics include: Is the United Church boycotting Israel? (Responses here are relevant to Quakers too, since Canadian Friends have the same position as the UCC - encouraging the boycott of illegal settlement products only.) Did God give Israel the land? Are Palestinians terrorists? Is the United Church anti-Semitic? Will there ever be peace in Palestine and Israel? <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/unsettling-goods/speak/talking>

We encourage Friends with questions or concerns raised by this material to be in touch with Matthew Legge, CFSC's Peace and Sustainable Communities program coordinator - [matt@quakerservice.ca](mailto:matt@quakerservice.ca).



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