



Canadian Friends Service Committee  
**E-Newsletter**

May, 2015



CFSC is co-hosting a symposium on Free, Prior and Informed Consent on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at the University of Ottawa, Fauteux Hall, Room 147 (registration starts at 8:30 am)

Participate in the symposium online by registering at: <http://quakerservice.ca/FPICRegistration>

There will be a reception the previous evening, Tuesday April 19th, from 7-9 pm at the Wabano Centre, 299 Montreal Road, Ottawa. The reception will feature a keynote presentation by Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).

**Agenda for the day includes:**

- Panel 1: Status of FPIC in Canadian and international law
- Panel 2: FPIC in Indigenous peoples' protocols and customary laws
- Panel 3: Engaging with investors and corporations
- Panel 4: Overcoming challenges in implementation

**Background**

Supreme Court decisions and international human rights standards including the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* recognize the right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to make their own decisions about development on their lands and other important issues.

Indigenous peoples are asserting their right of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in dealings with corporations and government regulatory processes and through the adoption of their own protocols. Investors and industry associations are also increasingly referring to FPIC in their own policies. While the federal government continues to deny the existence of this right, FPIC has become an increasingly important factor in decisions about energy and resource development in Canada.

For more information:

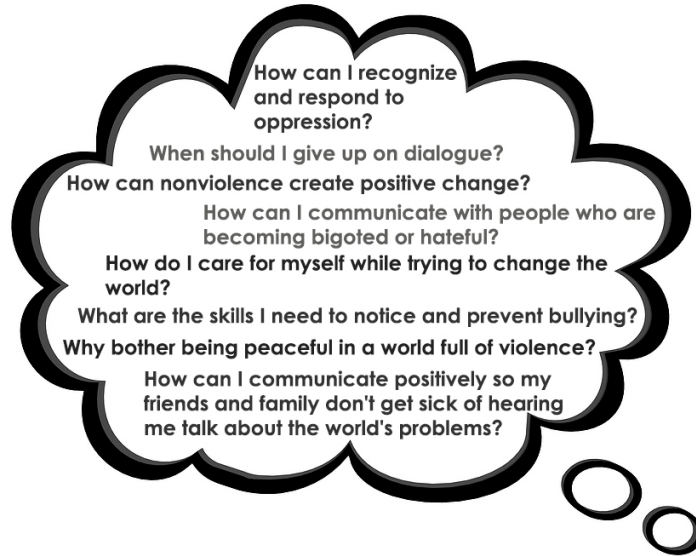
<https://www.facebook.com/events/882570585149119/> (you can visit even if you don't have Facebook)

Please share widely among your networks. Download a poster for your bulletin board at <http://www.quakerservice.ca/FPIC>

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## Registration now open for Radical Nonviolence camp

Do you ever have questions about nonviolence?



Now's your chance to come to Camp NeeKauNis and take part in community and skill building activities on these topics and more! Swim, enjoy the woods, stay in a cabin, learn from expert facilitators, and contribute to rich discussions and group exercises.



**Radical Nonviolence**  
A camp for young peacemakers  
Aug 24-30, 2015

The camp is run by CFSC and will have optional silent worship, but it's open to all 16 or older, whatever your faith or non-faith.

Register now at <http://www.quakerservice.ca/camp>

Contact [matt@quakerservice.ca](mailto:matt@quakerservice.ca) or call 416-920-5213 for more information.

*Please share widely among your networks*

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## Walk with refugees

The Canadian Council for Refugees (of which CFSC is a member) invites you to organize or join an existing Walk with Refugees. You'll find all the tools and resources you need for your walk at:

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-walk>

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## Heart Gardens

In recognition of former students of Indian Residential Schools and their families, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, KAIROS and Project of Heart invite children and youth across Canada to create Heart Gardens. Create a heart and decorate it in

your own way to honour those lost to residential schools. Include a message about why reconciliation is important to you. Then, register your heart garden to help show how Canadians are acknowledging our histories and committing to reconciliation: <http://www.fnarcingsociety.com/honouring-memories-planting-dreams-2015-register>

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## **Til the Cows Come Home**

Canada's prison farm system has been an international inspiration and by all accounts a success. Prison farms are one form of rehabilitation. However a shift in Canada's policies toward more punitive approaches to justice has seen the closure of the farms. Til the Cows Come Home, a film which CFSC has sponsored screenings of, tells this story. Find out how you can watch the movie and find out more about the issues at: <http://www.prisonfarmfilm.org/>

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## **Work camps in Africa June 20 - July 25, 2015**

The Africa Great Lakes Initiative of Friends' Peace Teams has announced its 2015 work camps in Rwanda and Kenya. Work campers stay in dormitory housing, construct buildings together with local team members (no experience is necessary, although good health and willingness to do manual labour is), and may elect to stay and participate in Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC) training, which brings together community members with painful grievances to build understanding and trust.

Workcampers are expected to fundraise at least \$2,300 plus the cost of airfare. Learn more by contacting Dawn Rubbert [dawn@aglifpt.org](mailto:dawn@aglifpt.org). Please note that CFSC is not responsible for this work camp and any safety or other concerns you have should be discussed with the organizers.

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## **Blogging from the United Nations**

Jennifer Preston, Monica Walters-Field and Rachel Singleton-Polster are representing CFSC at the United Nations in New York for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ever wonder what goes on at these UN meetings? Find out more on their blog! <http://quakerservice.ca/UNPFIIBlog>

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## **Canada's involvement in Iraq and Syria**

In response to Canada's military involvement in Iraq and Syria, Canadian Yearly Meeting has joined with other members of the Canadian Council of Churches to issue a joint letter to government. The letter is a consensus view agreed to by churches representing 85% of Christians in Canada. It highlights a number of non-military actions important to building a just and lasting peace in the region. Read it at: <http://bit.ly/1CuKBaO>

Back in September CFSC wrote a blog post expressing why we oppose a Canadian military intervention as a response to ISIS/ISIL. This still describes our thinking: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/time-canadian-military-intervention-iraq/>

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### **Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)**

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