



Annual Accountability Report 2014 – 2015

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. - Advice 27, Britain Yearly Meeting



CFSC Clerk Lana Robinson at Canadian Yearly Meeting 2015

As you read this *Annual Accountability Report* I hope you'll have a sense – one I've gained from my first year as Clerk – of how important and demanding the work and witness that CFSC offers the world is.

Because of the work of CFSC staff and volunteers, communities and families under stress have ways to resolve conflicts, to know and assert their rights, and to build support for responsible policies that directly affect them. CFSC engages in actions that bring the testimonies of peace, integrity, community, simplicity and equality to life in the pursuit of a more just world.

The perspectives that Friends bring to bear on complex and critical issues are respected and relevant to the organizations we partner with, and the communities and individuals who benefit from the work we do. We work hard to discern the best ways to support those we work with, and to be accountable to those who so generously support us.

It is my privilege to be involved with CFSC and I am constantly humbled and inspired by the deep and long lasting impacts of the efforts of our staff and volunteers to bring peace, justice and right relationship into a world that seems to call more loudly for these things with each passing day.



Lana Robinson, Clerk

Peace



A member of Mikongo Peace Cell in the DR Congo explains how he helps to resolve local conflicts thanks to skills he learned through CFSC supported trainings

Quakers have important perspectives when it comes to peacebuilding and sustainability, and CFSC helps to bring these into the world in a number of ways. Directly on the ground we support the peacebuilding work of Project Muinda in the DR Congo.

CFSC supports local actors in using nonviolence to solve conflicts, which we recognize is a key requirement when making the shift to a wider culture of peace. This work also provides a positive model of community-based peacebuilding that can be adapted and applied in other places. Project Muinda works through creating “Peace Cells” – groups of volunteers who work

together to respond to conflicts in their neighbourhood. When conflicts arise – typically domestic disputes or landlord-tenant disputes, people know to seek out the assistance of their neighbourhood Peace Cell, which has been very effective at keeping disputes out of dysfunctional courts and preventing them from escalating.

Again this year we've supported similar work in other countries through the Africa Great Lakes Initiative. We've also supported Palestinians to tell their stories of nonviolent resistance, peaceful work for change, and current events, through the International Middle East Media Centre. We do this so as to support local voices who otherwise feel more neglected by the international community. We believe that giving voices to those seeking to use nonviolent means to resolve conflicts is critical. Helping those with grievances feel heard and understood is one component of keeping those grievances from escalating into violence.

Over the past year our peace witness has included issuing public position statements on our own and with partners on topics including:

- Concern over the erosion of civil liberties in Canada – in particular through the “Anti-Terrorism Act” Bill C-51,
- Environmental concerns and our decision to have our financial investments certified 100% fossil fuel industry free,
- Israel/Palestine issues and our support for a boycott of the products from settlements, which Canada's policies call illegal and an impediment to the peace process,
- The opportunity for Canada to support international efforts to crack down on detention centres where torture happens,
- Our support of a ban on fully autonomous weapons (i.e. robots programmed to kill), and
- Our ideas for how Canada can be positively involved in building peace in Iraq and Syria.



Street scene, Jerusalem, 2014

Our concerns for sustainable and peaceful communities have led us to become engaged in the emerging field of synthetic biology. This is a rapidly evolving set of techniques, “genetic engineering on steroids”, bringing computer science and engineering principles to designing and creating living beings. We have participated in online discussions and a closed expert working group of the Convention on Biological Diversity to raise issues which are presently being largely ignored – the bigger context and the spiritual, ethical and ecological dimensions of synthetic biology. We’ve also been providing regular information updates because we realize that it’s difficult for the general public to engage in setting reasonable limits on the field if they don’t know what’s happening.

We continue to be a major supporter of refugee resettlement work in Toronto – an issue that has been very much on people’s minds, as we’ve seen a major increase in distress migration due to wars in particular. The free services offered at Friends House in Toronto are flexible to the needs of the migrants and make a significant difference in helping them gain status and integrate into life in a new country.

Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights



Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde reads a joint statement prepared by partners including CFSC during sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2015

This year CFSC has been involved in pivotal Indigenous rights events both internationally and domestically. From participation in the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s final report to grassroots education, CFSC works with dedication towards reconciliation in Canada through the implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

CFSC attended the closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Ottawa, and organized a panel on the doctrine of discovery and another on the *UN Declaration* – with over 50,000 online viewers! The videos of both of these events are on our website. CFSC was glad to facilitate this national educational event, as well as to work with the UN to recognize the efforts of reconciliation in Canada. CFSC has developed a resource kit of educational materials, queries, and opportunities for engagement to help Canadian Quakers, and others, respond to the *94 Calls to Action* issued by the TRC.

CFSC collaborates and plays a coordinating role with the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples on many initiatives. Highlights of the work this year were a submission to the federal government's review of the comprehensive claims process and co-hosting a public symposium on free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). The Coalition wishes to ensure that the narrative on FPIC focuses on international and domestic legal standards that affirm Indigenous Peoples' rights. CFSC is also working with the Coalition on research and discussion on the topic of genocide against Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



Ellen Gabriel, Jennifer Preston and Rachel Singleton-Polster joined thousands in Ottawa in the Walk for Reconciliation May 31, 2015

CFSC affirms the importance of our involvement in international mechanisms that focus on Indigenous Peoples. Staff and volunteers participate in a variety of United Nations forums where we provide written and oral statements, host events at Quaker House, meet with partners, UN

officials, and government representatives, attend educational events, and attend daily UN sessions.

We continue to undertake this international work on behalf of Friends World Committee for Consultation – an international umbrella Quaker agency. We are blessed with support from the Quaker UN offices (QUNOs) in both New York and Geneva. Local, grassroots education is also an important component of CFSC’s work on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This year, staff have engaged with local Quaker groups, and presented at Trent University, the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly, and the Ontario Council for International Cooperation.

We were honoured to be invited to speak in the community of Kanehsatà:ke for the 25th Anniversary of the Oka Crisis. We supported grassroots partners financially with grants to First Peoples Human Rights Coalition for an educational listserve, Ojibway Connections for traditional ceremonies, Smoke Signals to support a radio program, and Kontinonhstats, the Kanehsatà:ke Language and Cultural Center for an art show commemoration 25 years since the Oka Crisis.

Justice



David Summerhays and Rachel Urban Shipley display CFSC’s new resource on penal abolition

Quakers have held longstanding concerns with prisons and justice. This year we developed a new educational resource on penal abolition, *From Harm to Healing: Transforming the Justice System*. This is being used for outreach and engagement with Monthly Meetings and was launched at Canadian Yearly Meeting this summer.

A conversation and study piece, this resource provides Friends and others with queries for reflection as well as ways to get involved in criminal justice issues. Penal abolition, it clarifies, is the abolition of the punitive mindset that pervades society and justice systems, by transforming harmful approaches to ones that are healing. CFSC works towards penal abolition by discerning, developing and encouraging actions that actively prevent harm, repair harm, and move beyond harm in relation to the justice system. Friends are focusing on the increased use of good practices in considering the best interests of the child at every stage of criminal justice involving parents (arrest, charge, sentencing, incarceration and release) and support for alternatives that eliminate long-term harmful impacts on children of prisoners in Canada.



Program Coordinator Tasmin Rajotte passes out the resource on penal abolition during a session to explore these concepts.

This year, CFSC presented on this topic in Washington, DC, during the *Women and Justice Conference: Women, Prison and Gender-based Violence*. Practitioners, including judges, were attending this conference and it has been recognized that this is an area of growing concern and one that has not received adequate attention.

Further to the work on children of incarcerated parents, CFSC continues to support community projects through the funding of small grants. This year CFSC funded an art show and workshop

entitled *Ripped Apart or Stitched Together* at the National Restorative Justice Conference in Banff. Another grant was awarded to a women's shelter in Toronto for transporting women and their children to a counseling program for children exposed to violence, and also to the Canadian Families and Corrections Network for providing resources to families of offenders.

CFSC continues to support a column on peace and nonviolence in the *Out of Bounds* prison magazine based in William Head Institution on Vancouver Island. Across the continent in Nova Scotia, CFSC awarded a grant to Spring House, which supports families visiting the federal prison located in the community.

Individual Grants

This year Friends received grants from CFSC to participate in learning, discussion and work toward the abolishment of nuclear weapons, to undertake a witness trip to Israel/Palestine and share experiences through speaking to local groups upon return to Canada, and to support the work of CFSC at the *United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*.

Work within coalitions on behalf of Friends

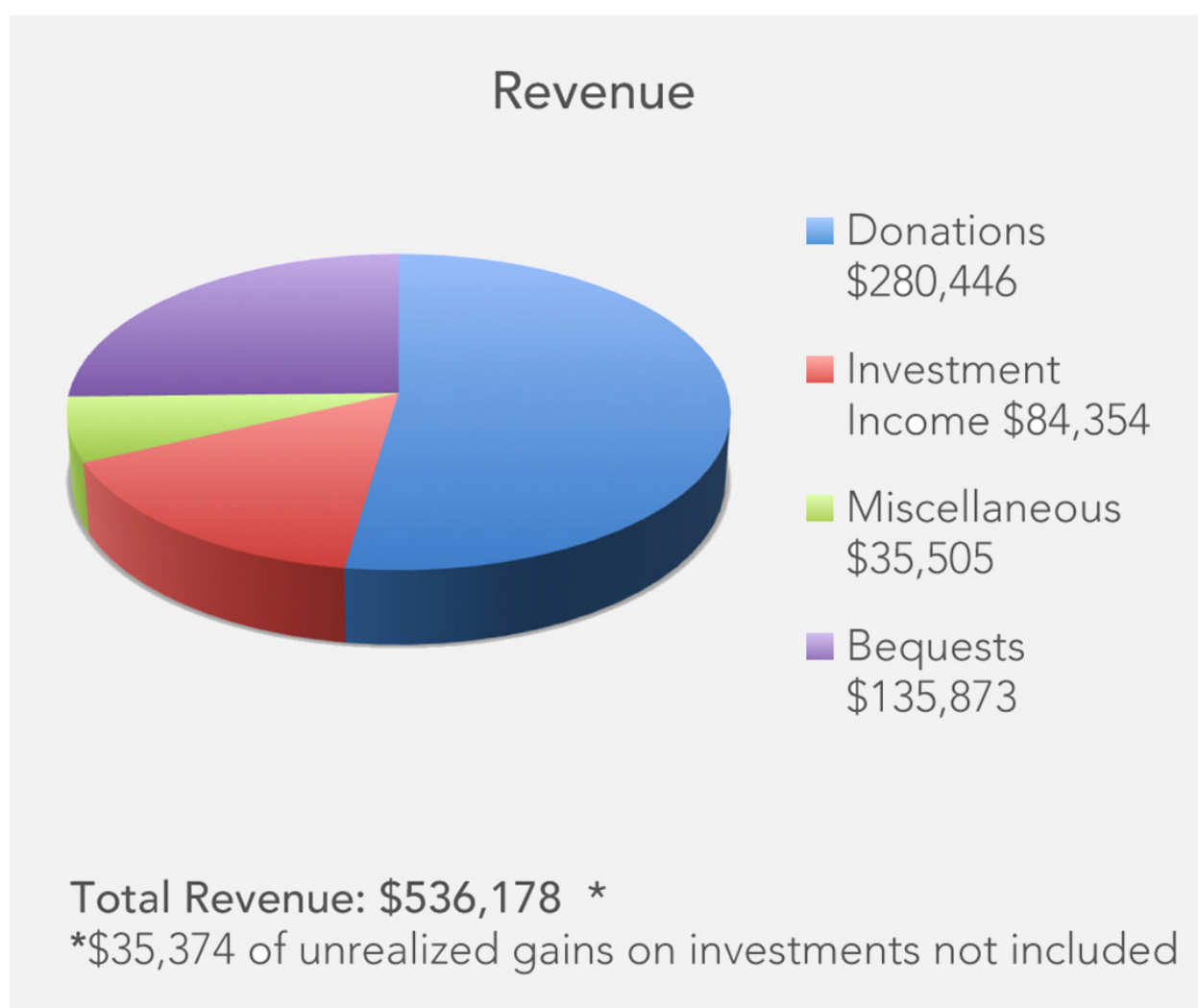


The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goal related to peace is projected on the United Nations offices in New York. Friends organizations including QUNO and CFSC issued a joint statement about the realization of this goal.

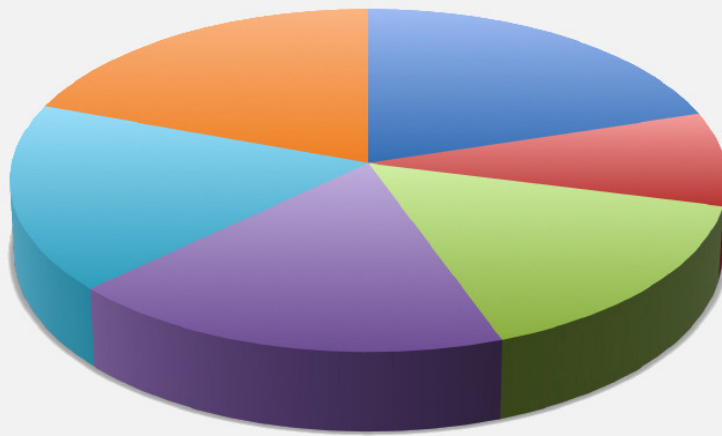
CFSC continues to fund and facilitate Quaker involvement with networks and coalitions including

- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives;
- Project Ploughshares;
- International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group;
- Ontario, Saskatchewan and Canadian Councils for International Cooperation;
- Church Council on Justice and Corrections; and
- Canadian Council for Refugees.

CFSC also partners with Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker Institute for the Future, and the Quaker UN Offices on several issues. Through these many diverse tables Quakers are represented at the national and international levels, having the opportunity to express their perspectives and work collectively with others on key shared concerns: poverty, peace, refugees, civil liberties, Indigenous rights, environmental issues, and more.



Expenses



■ Peace & Sustainability
\$93,384

■ Partnerships \$40,848

■ Justice \$71,851

■ Indigenous Rights
\$85,272

■ Education & Witness
\$82,092

■ Administration \$89,692

Total expenses: \$463,139

Closing words from our Clerk

It has not always been an easy task to communicate all that CFSC is and does. It has been an even bigger challenge to do so in a clear and concise way. Friends do so much! I hope we have succeeded in giving you just a taste through this *Annual Accountability Report*.

This year we're living into a new CFSC structure, a change not from a crisis but rather from recognition of how our work can be done more faithfully and effectively. As part of this new structure and the strategic plan we've built, CFSC hopes to offer a strong articulation through *Annual Accountability Reports* and other communications of who we are, what we do, how we do it, and *why*.

For more in depth information on all that we do, I invite you to visit [our website](#).

There are common threads that are true of all the work donors like you help to realize. It all arises from the same values, from the same sense of hope, regardless of the obstacles, and with the same responsiveness to where our efforts are most needed.

We build true partnerships. We bring people together in deep dialogue, we listen to different perspectives and needs, and we search for a shared way forward. Often, when the conditions are just right, this approach leads to major positive shifts in our world.

I trust you understand this, because you have a vision of a world where peace and justice prevail. Peace is not an end destination but the way we work together. **Please make a donation today to help this work continue.** Thank you for your trust and vision.