



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

November, 2016

New Annual Accountability Report



Have you seen our 2015-2016 *Annual Accountability Report*? It's a mobile friendly webpage explaining the past year with highlights of how your donations to CFSC have been put to good use. Visit <http://report.quakerservice.ca> or contact us to request print copies.

This work is supported by individuals who value the ways CFSC works and share the vision of a world where peace and justice prevail. We only ask once a year and now is the time: **please [make your 2016 donation](#)**.

Breaking news - Ontario approves anti-BDS motion

"It is deeply troubling when we see extremely important and powerful words like antisemitism being compromised through misuse to promote a political agenda... Simply put, the Government of Ontario has taken the path laid out for it by lobbyists seeking to silence legitimate nonviolent protest," reads a statement released today by CFSC.

Earlier today Members of Provincial Parliament debated a motion to "reject the differential treatment of Israel, including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement," without any acknowledgement in either the motion or the debate of why the BDS movement exists or what its actual aims or methods are.

"Have the politicians making these decisions spoken with the wide range of supporters of BDS, including Friends, who collectively support a boycott of the products of illegal Israeli settlements?"

"We seek justice and peace for all. We acknowledge that we have much to learn and that our perspectives are never complete. We hope to learn in conversation with Israelis and Palestinians, and Jewish and Palestinian Canadians. We hope to learn in a Canada that respects its citizens' rights and refrains from cynically attacking the very values underlying a peaceful society, while

claiming to be attacking hatred. We seek a world where hatred, whether in the form of antisemitism in Toronto or the unconscionable blockade of Gaza by Israel, is overcome through nonviolence."

Read the full CFSC statement *Just peace is the dream of BDS* at:

<http://quakerservice.ca/JustPeaceBDS> and learn more about CFSC's positions on BDS at <http://quakerservice.ca/FAQ>

Pipelines approved, Indigenous Peoples vow to see they're never built

Many Friends have been active in the work to build a green energy economy instead of constructing new pipelines. Canada has now announced its approval of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. For those who feel led to take action, one source is via the Coast Protectors site: <http://www.coastprotectors.ca/> - a campaign of CFSC's long-time partners the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). CFSC has previously written in support of nonviolent protests against pipelines: <http://quakerservice.ca/BurnabyMountain>

Christmas for children with an incarcerated parent

At CFSC we recognize that the children of incarcerated parents are deeply affected by the separation brought on by incarceration. This separation often impacts the financial stability of the family which is most evident during the holiday season. We recently became aware of the Angel Tree Christmas Program and we'd like to invite Friends and meetings across Canada to volunteer some time this holiday season.

Angel Tree supports the children of incarcerated parents by purchasing, wrapping, and delivering a Christmas present to the child of a parent who is currently incarcerated, on behalf of that parent. This supports the child in knowing that they are cared for and remembered during the holiday season.

Gifts will be at a cost of \$30 maximum. For Friends who require additional information or who wish to participate, please contact CFSC's criminal justice program coordinator Yugita Hogan at gfi@quakerservice.ca or 416-920-5213. Additional information can also be found at: <http://prisonfellowship.ca/angel-tree-christmas/>

Canada renews support of Palestinian refugees

You may recall that last month Canadian Yearly Meeting joined with other churches in calling for restored funding to the United Nation's agency UNRWA. UNRWA provides education, medical care, and other essential services to Palestinian refugees. We are pleased to see that Canada has now committed to funding UNRWA at \$25 million per year. Churches have written to thank the government for this renewed funding, noting,

"It is encouraging that the Government of Canada has pledged CDN \$25 million annually to support education and healthcare for vulnerable Palestinian children, women and men. By adopting these measures Canada is demonstrating strong leadership in responding to the needs of one of the most vulnerable communities in the world. Thank you for the quick and generous response on this issue...."

For this to be truly effective in the long-term, efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in the region are urgently needed. We urge the Government of Canada to support initiatives that result in peace with justice between Israel and Palestine."

Reflections on Muskrat Falls

The Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Project at Muskrat Falls has been contentious since construction began in 2013. Recent studies by Harvard University scientists have shown that if the dam reservoir is not fully cleared of vegetation before flooding begins, there will be a significant increase in toxic methylmercury in the watershed. Learn more about the situation on the ground in a brief blog post by Friend Christina Tellez who has been involved in local grassroots efforts to prevent methylmercury contamination. <http://quakerservice.ca/news/muskrat-falls/>



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