



Canadian Friends Service Committee **E-Newsletter**

April, 2017



PAROLE AND ITS ROLE IN REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

New handout explains the importance of parole

CFSC is pleased to share a new double-sided flyer *Parole and its role in rehabilitation and community safety*. While the term "parole" may be familiar, most of us don't actually know much about it, including why it matters, or how it helps or harms people. This handout explains parole and answers key questions about its place within Canada's criminal justice system.

Please contact CFSC to request free print copies of the flyer or find it at:

<http://quakerservice.ca/parole>

American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A newly updated analysis written by CFSC associate member Paul Joffe examines recent developments in the Americas with respect to Indigenous Peoples' human rights. The paper looks at the establishment of the *American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and comments made by Canada, the United States, and Colombia.

<http://quakerservice.ca/AmericanDeclaration>

Joint letter on court challenges

Canada's Court Challenges Program has historically provided funding for challenges under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that advance the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

CFSC applauds the recent reinstatement of the program but has joined in a joint letter raising specific concerns. These concerns include: challenges that are in opposition to the rights of marginalized groups could now be funded; and Aboriginal and Treaty rights (Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982) are not included in the list of claims that can be funded. Read the joint letter at: <http://quakerservice.ca/CourtChallenges>

Weak oversight of national security

A recent blog post by the coordinator of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (CFSC is a member), highlights the major problems with Bill C-22. http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/tim-mcsorley/liberals-bill-c-22_b_15695114.html

The Bill is seeking to establish a parliamentary oversight committee for Canada's national security agencies. Amendments to give the oversight committee sufficient powers to do its job have been removed from the Bill, effectively proposing an oversight committee with so many limitations that it seems not much better than no oversight. It may in fact be worse than nothing, creating a false sense that true oversight exists.

This is concerning to Friends as we recommended in our submission on national security that greatly strengthened oversight is urgently needed (read out submission at <http://quakerservice.ca/nationalsecurity>). The present government came to power promising increased oversight of national security, and to repeal the "problematic elements" of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015 (Bill C-51). To date this has not happened.

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities

For many years, CFSC has been enthusiastic about Quaker peacebuilding work in the Great Lakes region of Africa. This has included supporting multiple Canadians to attend international training sessions in Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC).

The 10th international training to be an HROC facilitator is being offered in Rwanda from June 25 to July 15, 2017. HROC is a powerful way of bringing together communities that have experienced deep trauma, by beginning to reestablish care and trust. Learn more at: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/healing-rebuilding-communities-training/>

Note: CFSC does not run this program and as such is unable to accept responsibility for security risks if you choose to participate.

Let justice roll

Let Justice Roll: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a new resource from the ecumenical justice coalition KAIROS. It reiterates Canadian churches' commitment to the full implementation of the *UN Declaration* called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. CFSC joined other churches and KAIROS staff in supporting the drafting of *Let Justice Roll*. Access it at <http://quakerservice.ca/LetJusticeRoll>



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