

Truth & Reconciliation: a visit to 'Namgis First Nation

By Lynne Phillips

On 20 June 2009, Dr. Chief Robert Joseph, Hereditary Chief of the Gwa wenuk First Nation, led us through the doors of St. Michael's Indian Residential School, doors that he walked through decades ago at the age of six. We were there to bear witness to the lives of Indigenous children under the care of men and women who were hired through the churches and acted as agents of their government. Robert Joseph has a powerful story to tell, from his own experiences and from the many Indigenous people whose stories he heard when he was Director of the BC Indian Residential School Survivors' Society (see www.turtleisland.org/news/news-bobbyjoe.htm for an inspiring speech).

We were in the territories of the 'Namgis First Nation, a small and isolated reserve which occupies a third of Cormorant Island off northern Vancouver Island. This is a very small portion of their traditional land-based territory. The Kwakwaka'wakw peoples were mariners who roamed widely over the coastal ocean as far south as Puget Sound. The campaign to supplement the colonial names of Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait, and Puget Sound with the addition of Salish Sea reminds us that Indigenous peoples used these waters long before Europeans arrived. Some BC organizations that are mindful of colonial usurpation of former Indigenous territories add a tag to their addresses, such as "Traditional Territory of the Coast Salish".

I was there as a member of Aboriginal Neighbors (AN), a Vancouver Island

ecumenical group dedicated to bridging the gap between colonial and First Nations (FN) peoples. I am also a member of CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee (QAAC) which works in partnership with many groups such as AN. Aboriginal Neighbours was invited to accompany Mark MacDonald, the first National Anglican Indigenous Bishop, to the 'Namgis reserve. It was his first visit to the Anglican congregation of Christ Church, built in 1882. St Michael's School was established by the Anglican Church in the same year. In 1929 the Federal

Continued on page 6



LYNNE PHILLIPS

Kwakwaka'wakw totem pole with St. Michael's Residential School in the background in Alert Bay, BC. Learning from the past: essential for reconciliation.

ANNUAL APPEAL - UPDATE

Goal: \$195,000 Status: \$135,000

Thank you for responding to this year's *Appeal*
"The Power of Love, the Path of Peace"!

Funds are \$25,000 behind last year as of January 28th. \$195,000 in undesignated donations is needed from individual donors by 31 March to cover costs of CFSC's 2009-10 program, which includes medical training in Iraq, peace-building in the African Great Lakes region, and supporting human rights (Indigenous peoples, conscientious objectors, prisoners, victims of crime).

Please support our projects and partners. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.canadahelps.org or send a cheque to CFSC with the donor strip on page 8. Your support helps create sustainable communities in Canada and overseas through long-term committed projects and relationships.

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

The first three items ran in the CFSC E-Newsletter during the prorogation of Parliament as suggested issues to discuss with your MP during this time. CFSC still encourages such dialogue. To subscribe to the E-Newsletter, email <cfsc@cfsc.quaker.ca>.

Bill C-300: Regulating Canadian Extractive Industries' Activities Abroad

Bill C-300 would strengthen human rights and environmental regulations for industry operating overseas (see Summer 2009 *QC* article). C-300 was hotly debated in the House of Commons Standing

Committee on Foreign Affairs in October and November. Parliament's prorogation has delayed the Committee's reporting date until May.

To build on the unprecedented consensus achieved through the National Roundtable process, the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) and the Mining Association of Canada co-hosted a conference on 3 November. Federal civil servants from various government departments scheduled to speak on all conference panels all cancelled two working days ahead. The CNCA did not receive an explanation. More information and a copy of the CNCA letter are available at

<halifaxinitiative.info/content/monthly-issue-update-november-30-2009>. A good video on C-300 is at <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf563OSDOWs>>.

Refugee Appeal Division - why not implemented?

On 10 December 2009, Bill C-291, compelling implementation of the Refugee Appeal Division, was defeated at third reading in the House of Commons when the Speaker of the House broke a tie by voting against. Refugee claimants in Canada are currently denied the appeal granted in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (2001). Their fate is determined by a single Refugee Board member. Correcting this injustice is long overdue. An informative background is available from the Canadian Council for Refugees <www.ccrweb.ca>, of which CFSC is a member agency. CCR also has a report about the under-resourcing of the Canadian Consulate in Nairobi, which is the office that has been so reluctant to

issue visitors visas for CFSC project partners from Africa. Fortunately, they did grant Florence her visa, for which we are very glad (see article this issue)!

Action on climate change

Members of the World Council of Churches <www.oikoumene.org> delegation at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen unanimously criticized the Copenhagen Accord, which was negotiated in secret by a small subset of countries (the U.S., China, India, South Africa and Brazil). They recognized that, once more, the poorest people will be those most affected by this unfair deal. The Accord maintains that the scientific thinking for keeping temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius is important, but fails to make commitments to reduce emissions. The Accord can be found at <unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/107.pdf>. Canadian Yearly Meeting is one of two Quaker bodies that are members of the WCC.

New web resource

The Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee has launched a web page on the CFSC web site for materials on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Visit: <<http://www.cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/un.html>> to see resources produced by QAAC with domestic partners in this work.

CFSC could use a few Friends

Are you on Facebook? Why not "friend" Canadian Friends Service Committee? A great way to get short, occasional updates on our work and get info quickly emerging issues (like the Kairos funding crisis, etc.).

QUAKER CONCERN

Canadian Friends Service Committee/Secours Quaker Canadien

Quaker Concern is the newsletter of Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers). Published three-times a year, it features articles on CFSC projects and concerns of Friends. CFSC's **Annual Report and Appeal** is sent to all donors in late autumn.

Canadian Friends Service Committee, founded in 1931, exists to unify and expand the concerns of Friends in Canada. Our work is carried out by three program committees (Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee, Quakers Fostering Justice, Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee) and a special project under our care (Quaker International Affairs Programme).

Donations are received with gratitude (donations to QIAP need to be so designated). We rely on the support of individuals to carry out our work. CFSC issues tax receipts for donations over \$10.

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Earthquake in Haiti

CFSC does not have any projects or partners in Haiti. In situations where we have no partners or capacity, CFSC recommends credible agencies in Canada to those who wish to help:

- Mennonite Central Committee Canada <www.mcc.org> or 888-622-6337
- Médecins Sans Frontières <www.msf.ca> or 800-982-7903
- The United Church of Canada at 800-268-3781 ext. 2026

Victims of crime: holding on to what is important...

By Meredith Egan

“We need to affirm that we will hold on to what is important.”

– Wilma Derksen, mother of a murdered child, speaking to prisoners and staff at Mountain Institution (BC) in January 2010.

In partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Wilma Derksen (Victims Voice, MCC) and I met with prisoners, staff and victims of crime to consider the question, “What do Victims of Crime want from Prisoners?” We visited Mountain Institution and Kwikwèxwelhp Healing Village in Agassiz, BC and shared with more than 150 people over three days in January 2010.

What is important to crime victims and survivors? How can we focus more intentionally on meeting their needs? How can Quakers, organizationally and as people of faith, make a difference?

We know that:

- Crime causes an immense amount of suffering which, unresolved, results in enormous costs to our people;
- The majority of crime is never reported to police;
- Victims of crime in Canada are usually the forgotten participants in the formal “justice system”;
- Almost all of the more-than \$12.5 BILLION dollars spent annually on law enforcement, the courts and corrections is offender-focused (versus \$2.5 million on victim-focused concerns).¹

Those involved in CFSC’s Quakers Fostering Justice program have learned through our experiences that victims of crime are unique and so are their needs. When we listen carefully and attentively, there are themes that are nearly universally expressed by them, and as privileged listener we must speak about these needs in our Meetings, families and communities. As well, speaking this truth to power becomes an important focus of our work. They often tell us that:

- Victims need to be heard, and

believed;

- Victims need personal and community safety – immediately and long-term;
 - Victims need information about their cases, and all of the individuals involved;
 - Victims need tangible support (including restitution) with their struggles – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual;
 - Victims need to be empowered to own their story – the past, the ever-changing present and the future – and to decide with whom and when and how to share it.
- In late October 2009, some members of QFJ joined Friends in New Brunswick to remember Friend John McKendy one year after he was killed by a family member. We learned a great deal from this tragedy, and are compelled to work to change these situations in Canada. We learned that:
- There are grossly inadequate mental health resources available to those who need them. This can create unsafe and difficult situations in society;
 - Families headed by men, or single men, are very underserved when issues of safety and domestic violence are a concern;
 - Once the “legal case” is closed on a tragic crime, there are almost no services available to its victims, who are left to “figure things out” themselves;
 - Police services in Canada by and large are trained and mandated to solve crimes that have been committed, not to prevent crimes



Mountain Institution is a medium-security corrections facility in the Fraser Valley of BC. It houses about 440 inmates, of which one-third are serving life sentences. Meredith Egan, CFSC staff, regularly visits Mountain; in January, she went with Wilma Derksen, whose daughter was abducted and murdered in 1984. Wilma is the founder of Victims Voice which arranges meetings between victims and offenders.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA

that may happen. The two situations are very different, requiring different skill sets and priorities;

- Police accountability as to how they perform their duties is woefully inadequate in most parts of Canada.

Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) committee members consider victims’ concerns in all of our work. We now ask these questions:

- How does this reflect our understanding of God’s Light Within?
- How will this meet the needs of those most affected by crime – the victims?
- How does this help the prisoner become our neighbour?
- How does this increase public safety?
- Is this a good use of our limited resources?
- Does this increase the ‘relevancy’ of the current systems (addressing the >70% of crime currently unreported)?

Practically, QFJ is:

- Listening to those who have experienced harm carefully, intentionally and with curiosity and an awareness that we are learning. Considering their needs as a priority in our work;

Testimony to the human capacity to overcome war

By *Gianne Broughton*

Last fall, CFSC partner Florence Ntakarutimana of Burundi visited Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to share with Friends and the general public about her work in post-war reconciliation. For more than two years, CFSC had been trying to get a visa for someone from her organization, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC). Suddenly at the end of August, a visa was granted. HROC is a program of the Africa Great Lakes Initiative, a CFSC partner organization since 2007. Staff and board members of CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice and Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities program committees co-operated to organize about 20 events in 25 days. Florence attended part of CFSC's board meeting and the conversations that she stimulated showed us that *reconciliation* is a common theme of all of our work, including the Aboriginal Affairs program.

Florence told us the story of the development of HROC, which has branches in Burundi, Rwanda and eastern D. R. Congo. They built on the experience of Alternatives to Violence Project to design a three-day basic workshop that brings together people who had been on

opposite sides of the atrocities of the period since 1993 in these countries. During the first day, participants examine the definition, origins, symptoms, and



André Bucumi (left) and Florence Ntakarutimana (right) engage with members of the African Great Lakes diaspora who live in Fredericton. They talked about how AGLI is working to heal experiences of immense harm experienced during the genocide of 1993 in their homelands.

consequences of trauma, and come to trust that the workshop is a safe place to talk about terrible things. The second day is devoted to understanding loss, grief, and mourning, and participants begin to open up about their own experiences. Each person also has an opportunity to recognize the anger that they may still carry and generate constructive ways to deal with it. On the last day, participants reflect the building of trust and connections in communities with histories of betrayal, so that they can see how to build a new safety in their neighbourhoods.

The program also includes follow-up activities and a three-week training program for trainers and Healing Companions, so that the movement sustains and grows. Based on the principle that every person—victim and perpetrator—can experience trauma and has the innate power to heal and help others, HROC teaches that hope can exist even in the most desolate hearts, and Florence was able to give us a taste of this inspiring truth.

One of the most powerful events was a gathering in Fredericton. Vince Zelazny, CFSC board member, describes it, “We were gathered to celebrate the legacy of John McKendy,

Now I am Human

Before I attended the HROC workshop, I considered life like a burden: worthless. I was every time thinking how I could revenge the killing of my husband and relatives. You know, during the war, the Hutu killers came and selected all males in my in-law family. Afterwards they came asking for money and used the threat of rape. We then moved to the IDP camp with our children. Life is not easy here. Well, I do not know how I got invited to a HROC workshop. Surprisingly, I met some of my former neighbors there. It was not that easy after roughly ten years of separation. I was too suspicious.

The openness and compassion I saw in everyone in the workshop touched me. I then slowly began to accept that Hutu did suffer also during those days! I have decided to join a traditional dancing group; something which is unbelievable for Tutsi here in the IDP because there are Hutu in the group. I do get discouraged for I know on which ground they stand. Every week I go to the community for practice. Those women and girls have greatly helped me to bind my wounds. I feel different now. I am very proud of it. It is so sweet to hear folks saying that my face has changed from looking foggy to joyful. It is like I am a symbol of change! The cohabitation with Hutu in the community has improved as well. They now watch over my crops so that nobody will destroy them. I am sure that I would return as soon as I am able to have my house built. I am confident that life in the community is possible.

2007 Testimony of Spes Ntirampeba, a Burundian mother of 3 children (reprinted from “Now I am Human” by Florence Ntakarutimana “Peace Ways”, Fall 2007 Volume II Issue II, published by AGLI).

much loved university professor and attendee of Fredericton Worship Group, on the anniversary of his murder. John's trips to Burundi in 2007 and 2008 were his first trips overseas. Meredith Egan led a circle of 50 friends, colleagues, family, and former students for the purpose of remembering John's legacy of love in action. We first heard from a number of students who spoke of how John had inspired them to make the life and career choices they did, from working on behalf of sex trade workers, to joining a L'Arche community. Florence then related how John would pour himself into the work of the building of the HIV-AIDS clinic in Kamenge, and the messy, bare-handed vigour with which he applied himself and inspired others to the work with bricks and mortar. She spoke with



Florence Ntakarutimana enjoys company with Friends Martha McClure (former CFSC board member), Meredith Egan (CFSC staff) and Vince Zelazny (CFSC board member) in Fredericton, NB during her tour which brought together threads and themes of different parts of CFSC's work common to Canada and international work – conflict, peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation, etc.

gentleness but firmly and with an empathy whose authenticity was born of her own experience of losing loved ones to violence. The day was made less difficult by the grace we received from this gathering.”

Back in Burundi now, Florence is an integral part of HROC's work to fulfill the promise of reconciliation by addressing the challenge of

courage to keep building towards integrated community safety, what divisions in our own country can we not heal?

Gianne Broughton is the Program Coordinator of CFSC's Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee.

encouraging Burundi's political rivalries to be worked out more and more peacefully. In 2010, Burundi will have its second election since the war ended. Many community-based reconciliation groups formed in the wake of HROC's workshops are the foundation of the election monitoring and swift response system, to de-escalate any incitement to violence that may occur in some of the high-risk parts of the country.

If human beings have the capacity for overcoming the hatred that was fomented in Burundi and Rwanda, and the

The returns of peace

The 2009 Peace Tax Return from Conscience Canada (CC) is now available for downloading from <www.consciencecanada.ca>. It provides an option for Canadian taxpayers to redirect some or all of their military taxes to a peace fund, or if one would prefer not to do this or has no tax to pay, to support Bill C-390 which would make it possible for all Canadians to redirect military taxes to peace.

You can also see Conscience Canada's new Memo to the

Department of Peace Initiative on their website. It presents their hope that redirected taxes will eventually be used to help fund a Department of Peace. Such a move would resolve a thorny longstanding problem of how to redirect the funds so that they would be used for creative nonviolent conflict resolution, but remain within the government spending envelope.

If you have questions about the Peace Tax Fund, read the Conscience Canada article in an upcoming issue of the *Canadian Friend*, which tries

to answer some of the concerns which arose in a presentation at Camp NeeKauNis in 2008. Or look at their FAQs on the website. In addition, CFSC has available for loan copies of a short (under 15 minute) DVD about the issue of conscientious objection to paying for war. The video is produced by Conscience Canada with CFSC's financial support.

(Information provided by Don Woodside, Hamilton MM and President of the Board of Conscience Canada)

Quaker-Menno intervention refused

By Jane Orion Smith

The Federal Court of Appeal (FCA) has rejected a request from CFSC and Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC) to intervene in an appeal by US war resister Jeremy Hinzman. Hinzman applied for permanent resident status in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, but the application was rejected. The appeal will focus on whether punishment for desertion from the military - if it was motivated by a "deeply held" objection to war - could amount to "undue hardship" for the purpose of a humanitarian and compassionate application.

CFSC and MCCC argued that they could provide a unique perspective on the issue before the Court. Quakers and Mennonites form the core base of historic peace churches in Canada.

They resist participation in warfare; during conscription, the majority of their members have sought exemption as conscientious objectors. Jeremy Hinzman and his family are an active part of the Toronto Quaker Meeting.

The FCA refused the request on the basis that they were not directly affected by the issue, their intervention would not provide a "fresh perspective", and because Hinzman is represented by legal counsel who could raise relevant concerns.

Tim Wichert of Jackman & Associates, counsel for CFSC and MCCC says: "Quakers and Mennonites have a unique perspective to offer. Especially because the



JANE ORION SMITH

Jeremy Hinzman, Nga Nguyen, son Liam, and daughter Meghan (not pictured) are a treasured part of the Toronto Quaker community, which they have been involved with since their arrival in January 2004.

Federal Court has specifically said that the issue of conscientious objection raises a host of outstanding questions, begging for resolution".

'NAMGIS FIRST NATION

Continued from page 1

Government built a large four-story school building with a factory-industrial brick façade now deteriorated by weather and neglect. It sits on valuable land. Some Band members want it demolished, perhaps at a cost of \$1.5 million; others want it preserved as a memory-keeper to be modernized as an asset, which might cost around \$15 million.

The image that captured my imagination, however, was the welcoming totem pole at the entrance to the driveway. Cracks, chips, missing parts, and fading paint give evidence of its age and neglect. I speculate that the top figure is an owl, the middle figure a bear. Both figures tower over the tiny child at the bottom of the totem pole. The owl's brain has decayed; the bear has lost face. The smile on the face of the child is a bizarre contrast to the paws clutching its head.

The building is largely empty, the dormitory wings are derelict. North Island College and Bands have offered courses to the local population and remnants of educational efforts are evident. The classrooms are now offices for First Nations' bands. In one,

recent graffiti tells a sad story about memories and attitudes passed onto a new generation. The same message was printed on two chalkboards. "I HATE WHITES looked what they did to our people [erased] CARMA".

I have been a member of Aboriginal Neighbors for three years. I am beginning to understand the impact of residential school experiences on many Indigenous citizens. QAAC supports the goals of AN: to educate the settler population including United Church and Anglican congregations about the history of colonialism and the enduring 21st century consequences.

AN has sponsored events such as: forums to allow FN treaty negotiators to tell their experiences with the BC treaty process (2007); a conference and presentations on the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples by QAAC staff Jennifer Preston; a 12-week course, "Our Home and Native Land", taught by First Nations people. We have also responded to invitations from First Nations such as: Native Brotherhood celebration at William Head prison,

burning ceremony at Government House, funerals, memorial services, graduation ceremonies at the University of Victoria and the Pacific Naval Base in Esquimalt, public treaty table negotiations, and more.

"I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells. For when you are at that centre within you and I am at that place within me, we shall be one" (Chief Crazy Horse, Oglala Sioux, 1877). These words were presented at a powerful event on healing attended by members of AN in June 2008 sponsored by Simon Fraser University Interfaith Summer Institute "Indigenous Worldviews on Truth and Reconciliation: Working toward a Community-based Truth and Reconciliation Commission". This quotation poetically expresses the spiritual unity that CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee strives to realize with all of our partners, however diverse our origins and life experiences.

Lynne Phillips is a member of Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting and the Clerk of CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

Update on the KAIROS crisis

By Jane Orion Smith

The season of waiting for the return of the Light – Christmas – was anything but joyful or contemplative for KAIROS and its member churches (including Quakers).

On November 30th, KAIROS was informed – without reason – that its three-year funding proposal had been rejected. In the days ahead, very different reasons emerged as to why KAIROS was not funded: it did not meet CIDA's priorities (Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda in Parliament) and it was anti-Semitic (Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney at a conference in Jerusalem).

A letter from the Minister Oda to KAIROS on 4 December claimed that KAIROS did not meet CIDA's new thematic

priorities (Food Security, Children and Youth, and Economic Growth) and that CIDA only funds projects that deliver "results that make a real difference to the lives of those living in poverty." KAIROS' proposed work on good governance, ecological sustainability, and human rights clearly supports CIDA priorities. CIDA's own evaluator of KAIROS'

2006-2009 program wrote: "The KAIROS' program is very much in line with CIDA policies, particularly the United Nations (UN) Millennium Goals and with CIDA's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) priorities, Key Agency Results (KARS) and Strengthening Aid Effectiveness policy."

A couple of weeks later, Minister Kenney said that KAIROS was a leader in the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel and that this was the reason for them being

and many responded positively – thank you. KAIROS continues to encourage such meetings as there is clearly much mis-information about its programming and effectiveness. Visit <www.kairoscanada.org> for information, or call them at 1-877-403-8933. They have resources to help you.

KAIROS is where 11 member churches and related agencies meet and agree on a common agenda of issues challenging our world: human rights, climate change, resource

extraction, Indigenous rights. While some may see KAIROS as "radical", it is the common denominator of the churches work together, and the membership includes a wider spectrum of churches than one would think. It is a place where we find unity and where we seek to make a prophetic witness for change.

The impact of CIDA's decision

"This decision, which falls like a blow from a sword to our hearts, is likely to gravely hurt the great work of the promotion of human rights that we have achieved with KAIROS since 2006 in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Indeed, the support obtained from KAIROS has allowed us to help the victims of rape and of sexual violence as well as support capacity-building on human rights and the principles of democracy among our soldiers, police officers, security agents, tax collectors, territorial administrators, judges, local authorities, etc..."

Maurice Namwira, Executive Secretary, Héritiers de la Justice in the DR Congo (CFSC works with Maurice in DR Congo)

cut. This is not only false but concerning as it implies that the cuts were based on politics rather than the quality of the application.

At press time, there has been no reversal of the decision on the CIDA application. Many KAIROS supporters across Canada have met with or written their MPs. CFSC vigorously encouraged such action

Your donation to CFSC helps support KAIROS (we make the membership contribution for Quakers) and to get their resources into our network of Meetings and supporters.

Jane Orion Smith is the General Secretary of CFSC and was Friends' representative on the Board of KAIROS from 2001-2009.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Continued from page 3

- Encouraging awareness through education about the inequality of resources and systems to assist victims;
- Encouraging and supporting initiatives in New Brunswick with Friends and colleagues of John McKendry. Two examples are exploring the creation of a Peace Centre at St. Thomas University, and meeting with local RCMP to speak about crime prevention in cases of

domestic violence;

- Working with people who have been harmed by crime to offer and develop educational resources and training opportunities;
- Being involved in the Victims' Pastoral Care project in partnership, helping churches and Meetings understand and meet the needs of victims of crime (see ccjc.ca/victim_project.html for more information).

We will continue to work to be a compassionate force for good for those who have been harmed by crime, encouraging their meaningful participation and supporting their needs.

Meredith Egan is the Programme Coordinator for CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice program committee.

1. Email <qfj@quaker.ca> for references and statistical demonstration of these points or for feedback or ideas.

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Last fall, CFSC welcomed several new board members: **Al Crippen** (Victoria, Vancouver Is. MM), **Tamara Fleming** (Winnipeg, Prairie MM), and **Sarah Dick** (Calgary MM), **Nat Egan-Pimblett** (Young Friends' YM appointment). CFSC gives thanks for the gifts and generous time of departing board members: **David Greenfield** (Saskatoon MM), **Jessica Klassen-Wright** (Young Friends' YM appointment), **Linda Kreitzer** (Calgary MM), and **Monica Walters-Field** (Toronto MM).

Meredith Egan (Vancouver MM, CFSC staff), **Monica Walters-Field**

and **Kathy Bickmore** (both Toronto MM) traveled with **Christina Parker** to Hector's River Jamaica in January to meet with Jamaican Friends at Happy Grove High School to do groundwork for an August Peace Festival. Interested Young Adult Friends should contact Meredith at <qfj@quaker.ca>.

During February, CFSC board member **Sheila Havard** (Coldstream MM) is visiting Friends projects in Uganda and meeting up with **Mary Edgar** (Yarmouth MM) who is helping a women's organization in northern Uganda establish the Alternatives to Violence Project. Sheila will also visit

CFSC partner Project Muinda in Kinshasa, D. R. Congo.

In October, **Jennifer Preston** (CFSC staff) was a presenter at a conference on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, hosted by the Parksville/Qualicum BC Kairos group.

She also presented at an Aboriginal Neighbours event in Victoria and met with Friends in Duncan. Jennifer is available for presentations on the Declaration to Meetings and/or community groups, contact her at <qaac@quaker.ca>.



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