

Strengthening connections - learning and moving forward

By Penni Burrell

CFSC's Aboriginal Affairs program committee is blessed to have active members working locally from coast to coast. On the eastern side of the country, I have been participating regionally and locally to learn how to work as an ally with Indigenous peoples. With the Aboriginal Affairs Committee's support, I have learned to reach out to be part of activities and share resources to sustain and move forward.

At the regional level, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition - Atlantic (ARC-A), which was developed as a result of the conflict over fishing rights that unfolded in Burnt Church, NB ten years ago and has continued to work collaboratively with Mi'kmaq and Maliseet representatives, and concerned environmental organizations. It has been a pleasure to engage with this organization.

One of the most rewarding activities was a 10-year retrospective and future-seeking gathering. Thirty-five people attended - half were Indigenous, half were settlers (by settlers, I am referring to people who have come to this land, or their ancestors did. This is different than being *from* the land for thousands of years). When asked to identify the positive developments over the ten years, the answer was unanimous: the relationships developed in the room among those who attended. They were the people and organizations who had committed to the longstanding process necessary to develop trust and knowl-

edge on how to move forward together on common issues. We parted with plans to focus on a common concern regarding Mother Earth. We agreed that we need to act together to stop the desecration of her gifts, and particularly focus on preserving at-risk sacred spaces that had given sustenance and support to people for thousands of years.

At the more local level, identifying how to work on Indigenous issues has offered me an opportunity to learn how to deal with 'on the ground' challenges. There are two reserves near where I live, but outreach to them historically has been challenging. My tentative outreach has not been successful, and it feels as if we continue to live in two solitudes. Meeting separately in a group of 'settlers only' feels inappropriate - who are we to gather and talk about supporting Indigenous concerns without establishing a relationship with our Indigenous neighbours? CFSC has provided funds to enable interested people to attend regional events such as ARC-A and Pow wows. A small network of interested and committed individuals share information via an e-mail list serve, and are trying to offer multimedia presentations at social activities such as pot lucks.



CFSC Board member Penni Burrell visiting Tobique First Nation (in north western New Brunswick). Dan Ennis (left) is an elder who has helped to mentor Penni.

PENNI BURRELL

Learning about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

At the ARC-A meeting last year, a call went out to join together to work on implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Members of Tobique First Nation in northwestern New Brunswick, myself and another activist developed a number of activities to bring awareness of the need to have Canada endorse the Declaration without conditions. KAIROS Indigenous Rights staff, Ed Bianchi, attended to support in developing a regional strategy. Twelve people attended from various groups in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We established a "Say Yes to Indigenous Rights" campaign. We focused on the solstice, June 21, as the time to bring awareness of the need to create understanding of how the Declaration can be used with various issues such as land rights that were being challenged in New Brunswick courts regarding power dams on reserves.

Faith organizations were contacted in a variety of locations, and public events were held in six places throughout the Maritimes. The most visibly rewarding was in Fredericton.

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KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

Canada and USA endorse Declaration

On 12 November 2010, the Government of Canada reversed its position on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with a qualified endorsement. While CFSC has worked towards this for years, we are hesitant to offer praise due to the nature of the endorsement and the lack of commitment to date for the implementation. An endorsement that

looks like a public relations exercise is not what was hoped for. See our response and a joint response with many of our Indigenous and human rights partners at

<http://www.cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/un.html>

On 16 December 2010 the USA also reversed its position; with the endorsement of these two states, the Declaration is now a consensus instrument, enjoying support from all UN member states.

New Declaration poster

The ad hoc coalition that works on the Declaration, within which CFSC is an active member, has produced a poster version of the text of UN Declaration. Please contact the office for a copy – helen@quakerservice.ca or 416-920-5213.

Update from Bududa, Uganda

Barbara Wybar reports from the Bududa Vocational Institute in Uganda that, in 2010, enrollment was up and new staff have been hired. 17 students took the external graduation exams; those who have received their results all passed and are currently employed. Research revealed that all of the Institute's Nursery Teacher Training alumni are also all happily employed.

The school's tailoring department got a contract to make aprons and overalls for a company in Entebbe. A work/study program has been introduced which pays the students for their work on this contract, making it easier for them to pay their school fees.

Local TRC events promote understanding, healing

Vancouver Island Meeting is a member Aboriginal Neighbours, an ecumenical organization which sponsored, with some local First Nations groups, a successful Truth & Reconciliation event on 3-5 December 2010. The purpose was to give members of local churches with a history of residential schools an opportunity to hear the stories of school survivors from the nine local First Nation reserves. About 225 people participated in sharing circles, a feast, and a cleansing ceremony. Representatives from the national Truth & Reconciliation Commission were present to speak and to record stories on DVDs for the national archives. CFSC funded the event and was represented by the Clerk of our Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee, Lynne Phillips.

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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New website, new emails!



This winter, CFSC has moved over to a new domain that expresses what we do more clearly –

www.quakerservice.ca

A new website that integrates social media, is easier to navigate, etc. will

be launched this spring. Staff and the Clerk have all migrated to new emails – the new model for the staff addresses is to use their first name (please see the masthead for the staff list). The Clerk, Merrill Stewart, is at clerk@quakerservice.ca

Improving the survival rate of mothers and babies requires strengthening women's rights

By Dale Dewar and
Giianne Broughton

“Care to Care” – this project name expresses the motivation of a group of rural Canadian doctors who organize training teams to visit Kurdistan province in northern Iraq semi-annually – that is: health care providers caring for and supporting other health care providers who work under conditions even more strained than those of rural Canada. In the first week of November 2010, a member of CFSC’s staff has accompanied a visit to Iraq for the first time.

There is no sense of “war zone” in the two cities that we visited: Erbil and Duhok. As you walk through the streets, you see construction work going on in every direction and you are surrounded by people bustling about their daily business. On Fridays, the Islamic day of rest, families flock to the parks. Just below the central citadel in Erbil (built in biblical times), there is a park full of fountains. There is a large park in the river valley in the shadow of the hydro electric dam on the edge of Duhok, just down the hill from a popular archaeological museum on the site of an ancient Zoroastrian temple-cave. Taking your leisure outdoors with your family: it is a sign of peace and, in Erbil and Duhok, people delight in it.

Since Dale began these visits rural health centres have been opened, one after the other. Another very welcome sign of peace. From the first day of the training course, participants were telling stories about their patients at these rural clinics. It was a delight to watch them gradually become more animated as they shared their experience with other participants and asked more and more pointed questions about how they could improve their practice and reduce the risks faced by women in childbirth. This was the first course in which Asema Mohamad, a local Iraqi doctor who had attended earlier courses, joined the training team. Her advice, lectures and pres-



GIANNE BROUGHTON

On behalf of the participants, Dr. Maida thanks training team members Drs. Asema Mohamad and Janet Northcott. Care to Care members Dale Dewar, Jaelene Mannerfeldt and Maysoon Taha (all doctors) are absent from the picture.

ence at small-group practice sessions was a big help in creating that active learning mood.

Forty-two obstetricians completed the course “Advances in Labour and Risk Management International Program (ALARM-IP)”. Eight were from Mosel, where civil war is still killing people. Fifteen were from rural areas. The course was held in English, the language of medical education in Iraq. Of these, eleven attended an extra day for “Train the Trainers”. In addition to improving knowledge and skills, the goal of the series is to produce competent local teachers to continue the course for one another and to extend it to nurses and midwives in their own language. In Canada, obstetricians are required to take an ALARM course periodically to maintain their certification. The standards of the course are carefully supervised by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of

Canada (SOGC). The Canadian members of the team that taught in Duhok are SOGC certified trainers.

Roughly two-thirds of the course focuses on delivery-room procedures, and one-third focuses on the process of getting effective care to pregnant women, the role of respect for the women’s rights to life, reproductive health and education in that process. As the people best informed about what is required for safe pregnancy and delivery, obstetricians are encouraged to be advocates for women’s rights and to engage with all the other people in the process. For example, providing useful information to women and their families, training village birth attendants and clinic general practitioners and nurses, improving hospital admissions and

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Bearing Witness to the Toronto G20

By Maggie Knight

In the controversy that has surrounded the G20 Summit hosted in Toronto, Ontario in June 2010, there has been much to examine, from ill-advised overspending on gifts and ‘fake lakes’ to mass arrests of peaceful protesters and bystanders to the use of ‘black bloc’ tactics, including destruction of property and the fear that can produce. From a Quaker perspective, the events of the Toronto G20 raise profound questions about how to bear witness to such events, and how our lived experiences are central to informing our service and work. Some Friends were in the protests, others read about them from afar, and others still helped those who experienced trauma to heal; other Friends avoided the whole event, fearing that it would turn nasty and that any attempt to deliver an advocacy, peace or justice message would be lost in the circus.

I made the choice not to attend the G20 protests, primarily out of practical considerations about my summer employment (which, given the likelihood that I might have been arrested, seem justified), but instead I spent that last weekend in June doing what I could to bear witness from afar, and assist those participating. The role of social media (such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube) during protests rose to prominence during the Iranian elections in 2009, as activists used social networking to communicate. I was able to connect, compile, and relay information about the G20 protests using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, and blogs and articles from both independent and mainstream media, summarizing them in a long blog post of my own entitled [“The World Is Watching: G20 Media Summary to Date.”](#)¹ I was also able to reach back into the protest, informing those involved as to what was happening elsewhere.

For those unfamiliar with social media, Twitter allows anyone with an internet connection (in this case, often via cell phone) to post short messages; these are aggregated using searchable ‘hashtags,’ such as “#g20” and “#g20report”. Unlike Facebook, which allows you to see only the posts of your ‘friends,’ anyone can view posts to Twitter simply by searching for a hashtag you have used in your post. YouTube and Vimeo are, of

(his legal name) being forcefully arrested by police had been “doctored to create a certain impression” and expressed outrage that a Special Investigations Unit investigation had used the video; less than a week later, he publicly apologized to Mr. Nobody and withdrew those allegations based on forensic analysis of the video.

Social media can be a profoundly immediate source of information, conveying not only logistical information but also initial emotional reactions. Steve Paikin, host of TV Ontario’s flagship current affairs show “The Agenda,” tweeted from the site of the mass arrests on the Esplanade (east of the G20 conference site), conveying his sense of injustice (see text box).

Had Paikin waited until the next day to present a more traditional report, much of the emotional response would likely have been lost, or at least tempered and edited. In an age where state and private surveillance is increasing in public spaces, cell phones and digital cameras allow citizens to in turn record the actions of police. This is particularly important when actions against mainstream media limit their coverage and scare journalists away. During the Toronto G20, two National Post photographers, a CTV producer, numerous independent journalists, and several other mainstream journalists were detained despite displaying press badges; many more had equipment disabled or seized. Whether by posting from the streets or by tracking events from a computer thousands of kilometers away, social media is emerging as one new way of bearing witness and speaking truth to power.

While Friends can bear witness to the immediate experiences of protesters at events such as the G20, our long-standing concern for justice also enables us to bear witness at a more



Toronto Police and OPP officers arrest a demonstrator at Queen’s Park – pictures of the strong, well-armed police presence dominated the media during the G20 and pictures such as this have been instrumental in the process of determining when police exceeded reasonable force.

course, video-hosting sites; videos of events such as “Officer Bubbles” threatening to arrest a protester if the bubbles she is blowing touch him, the ‘kettling’ of a sodden crowd at the intersection of Queen & Spadina, and a crowd singing the last phrase of “O Canada” only to be rushed by police had a major effect in both speaking the truth of what was happening and fuelling public outrage.

This public outrage has, in part, continued to provoke a critique of Canada’s law enforcement, and has affected many in the Canadian public to question their trust in police forces (also fueled by the actions of RCMP officers in Vancouver’s International Airport during the Robert Dziekański case, a case affected by a public observer’s cell phone video). Indeed, Toronto police chief Bill Blair alleged that a video of protester Adam Nobody

¹ <http://maggieknight.wordpress.com/2010/06/28/the-world-is-watching-g20-media-summary-to-date/>

systemic scale. The types of injustice witnessed at the Toronto G20 are not unusual. What is unusual is that they were experienced by so many people in such a short period of time, and that many of these people are of a socioeconomic status and social group that is privileged and not usually subject to this treatment (e.g. Caucasian university students). While I have held a concern for justice issues for many years, this was my first experience of a vast number of friends and acquaintances being caught

up in violent situations or having degrading experiences at the hands of the police. Watching hours of YouTube footage, spending long days hunched at my laptop fervently tracking developments, and then organizing times for those who were there to speak about their experiences has had a profound impact on me.

The outrage I felt when hearing about friends being strip searched (including being asked to crouch and spread their cheeks for law enforcement), and learning of the conditions under which there were detained (including doorless washrooms; people not being



Average folks dressed for a day out at Queen's Park protesting – such images of “normal Canadians” exercising their speech and assembly rights were seldom seen in the media which focused more on the minority of protestors who committed acts of vandalism and disorder. Yet many non-violent protestors were arrested and held during the G20.

BEN POWLESS

allowed to use washrooms, resulting in incontinence; alleged sexual harassment by law enforcement; and being detained without access to needed medical attention) was tempered when I was reminded that these procedures are ‘common’ or ‘normal’ for those who come into conflict with the law. This does not reduce their degradation but raises questions about how dignity and respect for all people can be assured in the context of security operations.

Lee Webb, a Friend studying law in Toronto, participated in protests and was frustrated at both the undemocratic

(and possibly illegal) use of the *Ontario Public Works Protection Act*, which was used to help law enforcement constrain protest, and the use of anarchic ‘black bloc’ tactics which were responsible for invoking fear through burning cars and breaking windows, etc. Questions about what constitutes a ‘peaceful protest’ and the effectiveness of ‘government regulated’ protest remain, including Friends’ need to understand what happened and how to avoid violence in the future.

“The left should tell the ‘black bloc’-type protestors to stop piggy backing on protests. It seems hypocritical of violent protestors to ask for respect for ‘diversity

of tactics’ when they seem to hijack every major demonstration, thereby weakening the legitimacy of protests that try to be peaceful,” noted Lee. “At the G20, anarchists achieved nothing but solidifying the more radical left against the government, but what is that worth unless they become more politically engaged in a way that draws others in?”

Bearing witness to the Toronto G20 helps us to remember that social injustice and overzealous use of law-enforcement to control citizens does not only happen to “other people” or in other nations, and challenges us to cope with our own feelings about these events occurring on such a large scale in our own country. The lived experience of the Toronto G20 helps us to speak with authority when we discern our work for justice and speak truth to power as peace and social justice advocates.

Maggie Knight is a board member of CFSC, serving on Quakers Fostering Justice program committee. She is a member of Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting, sojourning in Montreal where she is a student at McGill University. More photos from the G20 by Ben Powless can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/dOfIk3>

Tweeting truth to power

TV Ontario's Steve Paikin's tweets during mass arrests at the Esplanade in Toronto give a sense of the moment and of the shock many Torontonians experienced during the G20:

“the journalist identified himself as working for “the guardian.” he talked too much and pissed the police off. two officers held him.... a third punched him in the stomach. totally unnecessary. the man collapsed. then the third officer drove his elbow into the man's back. no cameras recorded the assault. and it was an assault. the officer who escorted me away from the demo said, “yeah, that shouldn't have happened.” he is correct. there was no cause for it.

“...the demonstration on the esplanade was peaceful. it was like an old sit in. no one was aggressive. and yet riot squad officers moved in.

“...i have lived in toronto for 32 years. have never seen a day like this. shame on the vandals. and shame on those that ordered peaceful protesters attacked and arrested. that is not consistent with democracy in toronto, G20 or no G20.”

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

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Dan Ennis of Tobique First Nation and his son Jim collaborated on asking the City of Fredericton to endorse the UN Declaration and declare June 21, 2010 "Say YES to Indigenous Rights Day". It was proclaimed by the Mayor of Fredericton and well publicized.

At the local level, I have used CFSC's educational DVD that explains the roles Quakers had with the UN process of the creation of the Declaration. I liaised with the Wolfville Area Interchurch Council, and showed the DVD to a wide range of member churches. Questions arose about "where to next?", and some attended the "Say Yes To Indigenous Rights" event that I facilitated June 21 in Wolfville. Fifteen people attended, information was given regarding the details of the Declaration, and the need for support to have the Declaration adopted wholeheartedly, without conditions. A newspaper article in the local newspaper focused on what the issues were, and created awareness of the Declaration locally that had not previously existed. Reconciliation is clear in these small local ways where successful implementation of the Declaration will occur.

Reconciliation and positive forward relationships between Indigenous peoples and the settler population depend on people learning about each other, and reach out to find common goals. The relationships are critical and I urge others to take steps to engage with their Aboriginal neighbours. Attending Pow wows and local and regional gatherings is a great place to begin.

CFSC would like to take this opportunity to express our deep sorrow at the untimely death of Chief Noah Augustine of Metepenagiag First Nation, New Brunswick. Noah graciously permitted CFSC to re-print many of his poignant essays in our Aboriginal Rights educational package.

Penni Burrell is a member of the board of CFSC, serving on the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs program committee. She is also a member of Annapolis Valley (NS) Monthly Meeting.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Continued from page 3

dispensing services, participating in the collection of morbidity statistics. On the last day of the course, participants identify specific actions they can take in their own practices to improve respect of women's rights.

Doctor Asema's personal sense of mission was evident. In a country and culture where the lives of women are controlled by their fathers, brothers and even sons, when she was a girl, her father told her that "she could do anything that she wanted". She became an obstetrician and teaches at the university hospital. She and her husband built an 18 bed hospital with obstetrical capabilities. She was instrumental in arranging an appointment with the Minister of Health on the morning after the last day of the course. Our interview with the Minister of Health was drawing to a close when Dr. Asema leaned forward and said, "Doctor Taher, the course is not just about skills for delivering babies, it is also about woman's rights." Sensing that the minister might not be immediately enthralled with her vision, she went on to explain that women's rights included the right to seek medical help when it was required and not be barred from doing so by the family.

For this meeting with the Minister of Health, she traveled two and a half hours on a heat-heaved road from Duhok to Erbil – and would return to run a clinic in the afternoon. She has committed herself and several of her colleagues to organizing and teaching in the next ALARM course in Erbil in April or May of 2011. Women like Dr.

Asema will make a difference in the care and health of Iraqi women and the future of Iraq.

Gianne Broughton is the program coordinator of CFSC's Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee. Dale Dewar is a member of Prairie Monthly Meeting which, along with Toronto Monthly Meeting, supports the Care to Care project. The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) and the SOGC are also project partners, and the Canadian International Development Agency provides 3:1 matching funding.

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO WAR: STOP PAYING FOR IT!

Canada's military spending in 2009-10 was \$18.9 Billion and is projected to rise by \$1 Billion a year; this is 1/5 of the government's direct program spending (<http://bit.ly/fYb7X2>). Only 27 Canadian Forces members now serve on UN peacekeeping missions (<http://bit.ly/dQ3Ojd>). Is this your vision of peace-making?

CFSC supports Conscience Canada which seeks to establish a fund for those who conscientiously object to having their taxes conscripted to support militarism. Learn more about becoming a Conscientious Objector to Military Taxation, visit www.consciencecanada.ca

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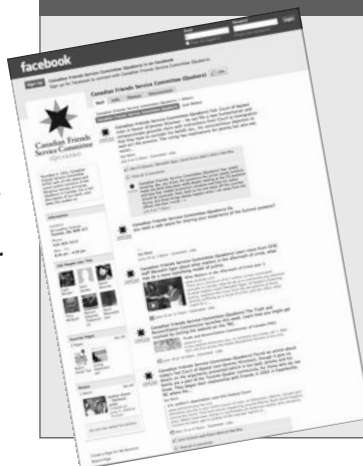
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A Memoir: “Life Lived Inside Out”

A prisoner escapes from a jail in Northern Ontario precipitating a massive, month-long manhunt, interrupting the lives of local residents. While at large, the fugitive collects almost two dozen captives, whose description of him defies the stereotypic image of wanton criminal portrayed by the media. Instead, they report a peculiarly erudite and sympathetic man who at times seemed chagrined and even remorseful at having been forced to ensnare them in his personal drama.

Bette Logan finds the escapee's story intriguing and decides to propose to him the idea of writing a book. What she discovers of herself through the gradual development of the

relationship will shape her as a human being and serve to propel her beyond the relationship and on to a life lived on her own terms. On this journey she encounters Quakers working for penal abolition and she herself becomes a “convinced Friend” (Bette is a member of Toronto Meeting). Her experiences with the Legal System and Correctional Services of Canada can help inform all of us as we struggle to find ways to increase public safety, and reduce victimization in our country. We encourage everyone to read this important expression of personal experience. “Live Lived Inside Out” is published by iUniverse. Bette can be contacted at LifeLivedInsideOut@hotmail.com

Kinshasa Quakers prepare to monitor elections in D.R. Congo

by Gianne Broughton

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the second election period since the peace accords of 2004 is approaching. Registration of voters is underway now, and the first in a series of elections will take place in October 2011 (National Assembly and first round of Presidential elections). Subsequently, over a period of 2 years, elections at provincial and municipal levels will unfold.

This is a crucial moment for peacebuilding.

Quaker organizations all over Africa (through their Quaker Peace Network, or QPN) have been developing “election monitoring” as a strategy for conflict prevention and reduction, and CFSC's long-time partner, Project Muinda, has begun to organize election monitoring teams working within the context of the neighbourhood peace cells that they established 15 years ago.

They organized three events in July and August 2010, supported by an additional grant from CFSC and Ottawa Monthly Meeting. The first was a gathering of peace cell leaders from 16 neighbourhoods in Kinshasa. The second was initial training regarding the task of election monitoring with a resource person from the national elections commission. The third event produced the bylaws necessary for this branch of QPN to be duly registered with the commission. Quakers from eastern Congo (North and South Kivu) and from Brazzaville joined in the latter two events, along with leaders from three provinces near Kinshasa.

In order to be prepared for the October elections, the intensive phase of training and coordination of election observers must begin in June 2011. Details of these meetings are available on the CFSC website (www.quakerservice.ca).

PLANNED GIVING



Giving

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In general, CFSC spends bequests over five years so that there is immediate benefit of the gift. Leaving CFSC a bequest is a way to extend your commitment to peace and justice beyond your lifetime.

For information, or to receive CFSC's Planned Giving Kit, which includes a range of giving options, contact Jennifer or Jane Orion at 416-920-5213, or info@quakerservice.ca

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Last summer, CFSC published a briefing paper by CFSC Intern **Rachel Singleton-Polster** (Vancouver Island MM) on the tar sands and health. In March 2011, a condensed version will be printed in the quarterly bulletin of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR). The ECCR is a church-based investor coalition working for economic justice, human rights, environmental stewardship, and corporate and investor responsibility (Friends are members of ECCR). When published, the Bulletin can be downloaded at: <http://www.eccr.org.uk/Bulletin>

In January 2011, Quaker International Affairs Representative **Tasmin Rajotte** was in Hyderabad, India attending biennial meetings of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC). She was both learning and facilitating learning - participating in a panel discussion on food security and the commons, facilitating a pre-conference workshop with a colleague from University of Gloucestershire. She stayed after the conference as consultant to the Indian agency Federation for Ecological Security (FES) to share the results of QIAP's extensive consultations on the commons over the past two years. She

will stop in London on her way home to consult with agencies based there on potential for shared work.

Sheila Havard, CFSC board member, will be departing for a four-week visit to Uganda in late January, and will assist **Mary Edgar** (who has received grants from CFSC to support her service work in Uganda) in the north where she is working with the West Nile Disadvantaged Women and Orphans Association (WENDWOA). Sheila will also visit the Bududa Vocational Institute project, also in Uganda. Both Sheila and Mary are members of Coldstream Meeting in Ilderton, Ontario.



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