

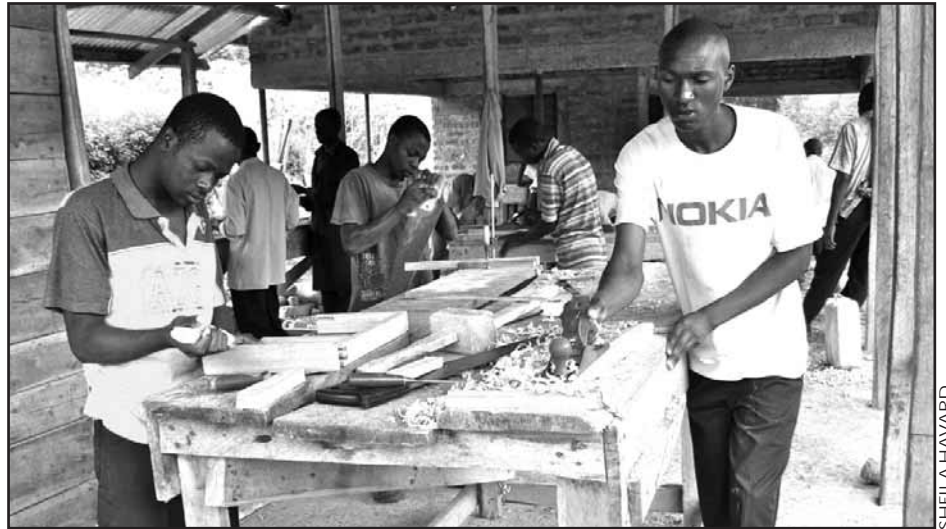
## Canadians and Africans partnering for peace and development

By Sheila Havard

In 2007, CFSC began a partnership with the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), an offshoot of the Friends Peace Teams (USA), a body supported by 16 American Yearly Meetings of all persuasions. AGLI started peace work in East/Central Africa in the late 1990s and has been involved in trauma healing workshops (particularly in Rwanda and Burundi), election monitoring (recently in Burundi), humanitarian assistance (after the Kenyan post-election violence) and work camps (constructing buildings for Friends' Churches in several countries).

Canadians of all ages - Friends and non-Friends alike - have provided financial support and volunteered with these projects through CFSC's partnership with AGLI. In 2010, CFSC arranged a Canadian speaking tour for Florence Ntakarutimana, Program Manager of the Burundi Healing and Rebuilding our Communities, which focused on trauma healing.

Another AGLI-affiliated project in Bududa, Uganda recently expanded thanks to the dedication and boundless energy of Barbara Wybar and her network of supporters. The Bududa Development Centre (BDC) and CFSC now have a direct partnership agreement in place to support a range of educational opportunities for children and young adults offered at Bududa.



The Bududa Vocational Institute offers training and education that provides young Ugandans with skills in fields, such as carpentry, that will provide employment and income security.

Since attending an AGLI workcamp in Bududa in 2005, I have returned every year to enjoy a combination of volunteering, sun and hiking. In the stunningly beautiful scenery, even routine tasks are sheer pleasure!

Nestled in the foothills of Mount Elgon, which straddles the Kenyan border, Bududa is both amazingly beautiful and lush, and isolated and impoverished. Uganda has one of the world's highest fertility rates; the Bugisu tribe's fertility is high even by Ugandan standards. Families with eight children are the norm. Due to various health, safety and security hazards, many parents have died, leaving households headed by the oldest children.

There is relentless pressure on the land. In two generations, crops have crept up the summits of the volcanic peaks, and peasants are encroaching on Mount Elgon National Park. Since non-agricultural employment has not developed, most people are unemployed or underemployed. A typical shamba or farmstead is less than one acre. Families grow subsistence crops and may own some animals, such as chickens and goats. Getting to own one cow is a great status symbol.

Parents thus consider education the only escape for their children. Unfortunately, whereas the affluent send their kids to private boarding schools in the capital, villagers must content themselves with rural schools where educational standards are lower. Universal Primary Education, introduced in 1997, has brought overcrowded classrooms (over 100 students). Teaching materials are lacking and students learn by rote. This schooling is far from free since parents must buy uniforms, shoes, pens and exercise books, etc.

The BDC was established in 2008 to provide hope of a sustainable livelihood. It consists of the Bududa Vocational Institute (BVI) and the Children of Peace (CoP). The Vocational Institute provides training in tailoring, bricklaying/concrete and masonry, carpentry and nursery teacher and computer skills. Most graduates have passed external exams and found employment, which is very encouraging.

The work/study program now enables students to pay their fees by digging and weeding the school garden. In addition, the tailoring department has

*Continued on page 4*

# KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

## CFSC starts work on Indigenous rights at OAS

In January, CFSC staff Jennifer Preston attended the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting in Washington, DC of the Working group on the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is working to produce a regional human rights instrument. This work includes particularities that are specific to the

Americas. CFSC plans to be further involved at the OAS, alongside many partners in the Americas.

## Celebrating CFSC's 80th Anniversary

Don Alexander (Pelham Meeting), CFSC's Treasurer, coordinated a special "CFSC 80th Anniversary" edition of *The Canadian Friend* (May 2011 Edition), the national publication by and about Canadian Quakers. Once published, it will be posted online at <<http://www.quaker.ca/Publications/cfriend/cfriend.html>>.

## Giving thanks for the life of our Friend, Hanna

Hanna Newcombe (Hamilton MM) died on April 10th. Hanna co-founded the Canadian Peace Research Institute, Peace Research Abstracts and Peace Research Reviews. A giant in her field, Hanna she received the Pearson Peace Medal and the Order of Canada for her contributions to peace.

## Good news for war resister

On 7 April, the Federal Court of Canada reaffirmed that there is evidence that Iraq War resisters are

targeted for punishment because of their political beliefs if returned to the USA. The judgment in the judicial review of Dean Walcott's case also confirmed that immigration officers must consider the war resisters' sincerely held moral, political and religious beliefs (concurrent with the July 2010 Federal Court of Appeal decision in the Hinzman case). Justice Yves de Montigny was critical of the immigration officer's reasons for denying Walcott's Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) application, calling them "disturbingly similar" to those provided in the case of Kimberly Rivera. Each case is supposed to be decided on its own merits.

Walcott, a former U.S. Marine, will now submit a new PRRA and new application for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. "This decision will have a positive impact on all Iraq War resisters' cases," said Michelle Robidoux, spokesperson for the War Resisters Support Campaign. Walcott came to Canada in December 2006 after serving two tours of duty in Iraq.

## 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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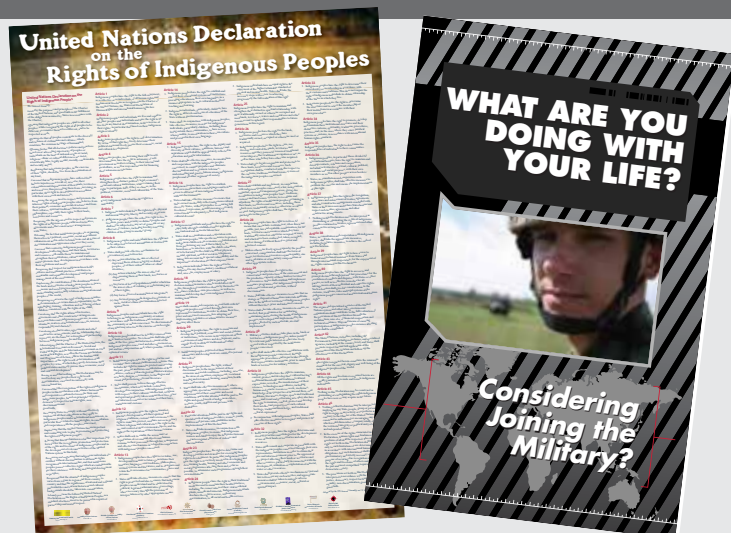
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## DECLARATION POSTERS; COUNTER-RECRUITMENT BROCHURES



Posters of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, double-sided in English and French, are available from CFSC. See them at <http://cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/un.html>. CFSC's counter-recruitment brochure can be used in local campaigns to educate youth to think about their goals and choices. To order these or other resources, contact us at [info@quakerservice.ca](mailto:info@quakerservice.ca) or 416-920-5213.

# Open Hearts, Clear Minds: A Vancouver Island Truth and Reconciliation event

By Lynne Phillips

“How do we honour the pain felt and inflicted?” Questions were from the audience of Aboriginal people, including residential school survivors, seated with representatives from four of the Christian churches that ran schools: Anglican, Presbyterian, United Church and Roman Catholic. Last December, we were 250 people in the First Peoples House at the University of Victoria, which reflects pre-contact Coast and Straits Salish Longhouses and is decorated with carvings from the Indigenous nations on Vancouver Island. The event was organized by an ad hoc group of First Nations and Aboriginal Neighbours (an ecumenical group of Anglicans, United Church people, and Quakers).

Aboriginal Neighbours has been working in alliance with Vancouver Island First Nations on Treaty negotiations, Sisters in Spirit and various social concerns. With the commencement of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), it was time to confront the past in the long and painful history of church administration of Indian schools for the Canadian government.

Residential school survivors advised us in our initial planning. We were honoured to work again with Chief Robert Joseph, Executive Director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) and Elder to the current TRC Commissioners. Over six months our committee grew to 40 with volunteers from nine First Nations and the Native Friendship Centre, the four churches, and Aboriginal Neighbours.

What was our agenda? Local church leaders asked for forgiveness on behalf of their churches with apologies and promises to continue the work of reconciliation. Residential school survivors gave eloquent testimonies of the pain, loss and humiliation that they endured, but often they expressed the hope that

together we will walk the long road of healing for our nations. Wilton Littlechild, a Commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, told his own story with humour and compassion for himself and for all survivors who live with the scars. Samaya Jardey, historian for the IRSSS, gave a powerful lesson in the arrogance of empire and colonization.

Comments from the evaluation sheets included: “I heard stories of strength, hope and passion in the plenary sessions that I did not hear in the groups. There was inspiration.” “I appreciated very much the way in which the history was presented, because it created an atmosphere of trust that helped persons to tell personal stories in the smaller groups.” “The truth is floating to the surface.” “My late dad told us not to be racist, not to fight family.”

The heart of the event was the Sharing Circles. The plan was to balance residential school survivors with church people, so that survivors could tell their stories to church people. Results? Tears and pain, distress and guilt, but sometimes also release, relief, compassion, empathy, insight and transformation. Responses on the evaluation sheets were reassuring. *Did the stories from people in the Sharing Circles increase your understanding of the impact of residential schools?* One person said: “To be able to talk and not told to stop.” “Know why granny said to be strong.” “The



MONICA WALTERS-FIELD

Lynne Phillips (CFSC board member), and Chief Robert Joseph at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2010, after a presentation by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Chief Joseph, Executive Director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) and Elder to the current TRC Commissioners, participated in the Victoria TRC event.

impact has been with me for many years, but the realization of the impact has provided more tools to help myself and help family, community in small ways.” “Having testimonies from people in the same room sure beats reading a book or watching a documentary.” “I understand too I was there and can never say I was not. I have received what Canada has to offer and it has come at such a cost.”

Aboriginal advisors remind us that this was only the first step on a long journey that will take decades to overcome centuries of oppression. However, this weekend exercise of head and heart gave us some evidence of intentions to change. “Because I felt accepted here, I will be willing to reach out more.” “I will say Hello. I will be kinder in thought, word and deed.” “Have always been respectful. Now, I'll have more insight and empathy.”

Continued on page 7

# Peace Cells in Kinshasa prepare to monitor elections

By *Gianne Broughton*

In February, I visited Kinshasa Monthly Meeting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Project Muinda is a peacebuilding project under that Meeting's care that is supported by CFSC and Ottawa Meeting. One of the purposes of the visit was to verify the feasibility of a revenue-generating idea to provide local funding for the peace cells and their planned election monitoring activities. The idea is to purchase an 18-seater minibus and use it in the inter-city public transport system, making one return trip per day between Kinshasa and Matadi (the port city on the Atlantic). The feasibility study showed that the minibus project could generate enough income to fund monthly training sessions for peace cells and election observers during 2011.

Thanks go out to Ottawa Monthly Meeting, which funded the purchase. The grant has just been remitted to Kinshasa, so we don't have a picture of the bus. Stay tuned for that photo in



GIANNE BROUGHTON

Members of the Ngiri-Ngiri neighbourhood peace cell in Kinshasa will be trained to help monitor the forthcoming elections in DR Congo and equipped to de-escalate conflicts that may arise (pictured with CFSC's Gianne Broughton, third from right).

a future issue!

The daily work of Project Muinda's peace cells over more than a decade has given the members trusted

standing in the community. This is a great asset to the added roles of election observer and conflict de-escalator. For example, if a dispute arises at a polling station regarding proper

*Continued from page 7*

## CANADIANS & AFRICANS

*Continued from page 1*

received a contract to make over 300 aprons, which will improve its sustainability.

The Children of Peace (CoP) are some 200 orphans and disadvantaged children. They are matched with sponsors who pay a modest fee and provide a caring contact. On Saturdays, the children receive extra schooling and free meals. This additional teaching has improved their academic results. Medical problems can also be monitored and treatment obtained. A teenager was recently treated for severe case of 'jiggers', a type of skin parasite, and an epileptic girl was diagnosed in hospital and treated. Without the program, her teenaged caregiver could not have paid the hospital. Children in the direst straits also receive dry beans or posho (cornmeal) to take home, and the program also pays the fees for the school

lunches that have recently been introduced in Uganda.

The CoP started seven years ago – before the BDC opened – and many children are now teenagers and sexu-



SHEILA HAVARD

Caroline and Doreen (pictured) sport new dresses sent by Friends from Coldstream Meeting in Ilderton, Ontario, which is a strong supporter of the Bududa project.

ally active. Some have dropped out due to unwanted pregnancies. In a male-dominated society, females are often submissive and anxious to please. In addition, there is much ignorance about safe sex, and mistaken beliefs abound. The older girls now attend the "Girls' Club" twice weekly and discuss personal matters with counsellors in an informal setting.

Volunteers of all ages and skills are vital to the BDC. They help in whatever way they can, by teaching, providing musical instruments, painting murals or maps of Uganda, etc. My interest being hiking, I scrambled up mountains to pay 25 home calls and report on orphans' home conditions. Based on the recommendations, four new latrines were constructed for families with no latrines or dilapidated ones. These visits gave me a picture of average living conditions: no or few mosquito nets, no mattresses except perhaps for

# Sustaining the commons, our future

By *Tasmin Rajotte*

In January 2011, I attended the 13th Biennial Conference for the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) in Hyderabad, India. ‘The commons’ involves the sustainable management of shared resources. My trip was sponsored by the conference’s first civil society host, the Foundation for Ecological Security in India. Over 600 participants from 70 countries attended. Unlike other scholarly associations, these meetings bring together academics, politicians, policy makers, civil society organizations, activists, representatives of intergovernmental and donor organizations, and people who live and work in the commons.

The theme was “Sustaining commons: sustaining our future.” The conference included keynote speakers, panels where about 500 papers were presented, side events, workshops, book launches, and policy forums on a range of themes. India’s Minister of Environment and Forests extended an invitation to participants for their input into the governments 12th five year plan (2012-17). Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 Noble Prize co-winner for

Economics for her work on governing the commons, spoke about her work in a keynote and in plenaries. Many participants said Elinor was an inspiration in their work. El Salvador’s Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Herman Rosa Chávez, spoke of introducing ecosystem risk reduction as a way to enhance resilience and reduce the impact of climate change and disasters such as earthquakes. He invited participants to his country to carry out research.

John Powell from the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucester (UK) and I hosted a full day pre-conference workshop on “Changing perspectives within policy processes”. Participants worked with forests in Kenya contending with violent conflict; Indonesian coastal communities dealing with the capture of resources and processes by private interests; and in communities involved in the Forest Rights Act implementation process in India. A key theme was how top down policy processes were imposed on communities. Participants discussed successful interventions in dealing with the resulting problems and explored what made them successful. They then discussed the application of these strategies to new problems that they were facing.

A day was allocated for field trips to visit a range of local commons. I visited one in Zaheerabad, Medak hosted by the Deccan Development Society. We met women who were some of the poorest of the poor and also dalits, who are the lowest group in the Indian social hierarchy, hearing their story of how they were able to break away from indentured labour by becoming self sufficient in producing their own food. They developed an extensive network of seedbanks, improved their access to land, education and health, and achieved sovereignty over the media through

community radio and video production. They now have an incredible diversity of indigenous vegetable and crop varieties—many lost in other parts of India—and are exploring making their area a Biodiverse Heritage Site. Genetically engineered cotton and eggplant crops and the impact on their communities was a



Tasmin Rajotte, QIAP Representative, with the loom that was developed at a QIAP seminar to help explain the concept of the commons and the interrelatedness of all things.

JANE ORION SMITH

the caregiver, unboiled drinking water and one starchy meal a day. Knowledge of a child’s home conditions allows timely monitoring and intervention if there are problems.

Altogether, the BDC impresses me; in fact it inspires me. I spend much of my time at home planning my next visit! Not to mention, conveying my excitement that a genuine dent, however small, is being made in an intractable problem.

For 2011 workcamp information (Rwanda and Burundi) contact <dawn@aglifpt.org> or visit <www.aglifpt.org>. For more information about Bududa and Children of Peace, please email Sheila Havard at <havard\_translations@hotmail.com>.

Sheila Havard (Coldstream Meeting) is on the Board of CFSC. She serves as the Clerk of the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee of CFSC.

major concern. Maintaining and sharing the diversity of seeds was a key source of their autonomy, survival and pride.

Key themes from the conference were climate change; forests; the impacts of external global forces such as the increasing privatization of land and resources; better recognition of the commons; and new business models for financing work. Many organizations, including IASC, discussed the increasingly difficult environment in which to secure funding, how the grant-based model was changing and the need to find new ways to finance the work in this area. QIAP has also experienced this difficulty and as a result is, sadly, in the midst of winding up the Programme. During this difficult process, we are reminded of our successes along the way and rejoice in whatever momentum towards justice that we have been able to generate through QIAP.

*Tasmin Rajotte (Ottawa MM) is the Representative for the Quaker International Affairs Programme, a position she has assumed in November 2001, when the Programme launched.*

# Department of Peace Opportunity to ‘professionalize’ peace

By Lee Webb

In February, I attended a conference in Ottawa that sought to enhance the role of peace work in the Canadian government representative from peace groups, alternative dispute resolution groups, civil society and government met with organizers from the Civilian Peace Service Canada, the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation, the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, and YOUCAN.

Half the participants were involved with institutional change and development, with about a quarter being involved each with violence prevention or criminal justice. Although Quakers fit within all of those categories, I found myself in the justice group.

We looked for the gaps that prevent more organizations from working toward peace professionalization today; and then reconvened and thought about ways in which we could move toward professionalized peace work. The most prevalent idea was that the information and training that goes into peace work ought to be collected and that standards of practice should be developed to give peace work more clout. The second idea was to attract more people to peace work through youth outreach. These ideas led the group as a whole to brainstorm action items that might lead to more youth engagement and a more widespread understanding of peace work.

The breadth of participation at this meeting was important and exciting. While there have been other peace initiatives over the years, perhaps few of them offered as many perspectives and possibilities on the mainstreaming of peace-making in Canada. Everyone in the room was thinking about how their organizations and skills could further peace in Canada and abroad. At the end of the meeting each participant committed to one action item. I committed myself to ask

Canadian Friends if any feel led to participate in this project. The areas in which the conference participants are seeking help is in the collection and management of peace resources, and the development of a professionalization model that might be implemented for peace work – similar to that implemented for social work in the early 20th century.

I believe that this is a project that Quakers are well positioned to support. Many Friends have committed their lives to peace work through CFSC and organizations like Christian Peacemaker Teams and Project Ploughshares. Others have extensive experience on working groups, insights into the how to work with youth, and how an area of work becomes ‘professionalized’. All these categories of people would be especially welcome - though anyone with interest is certainly also welcome.

For those that are interested in participating, there will be challenges. First, the diversity of voices in this group does not easily lend itself to a clear articulation of what kind of peace service the group is trying to create. For one, represented groups act locally, nationally and internationally; further, there is uncertainty about whether participants want to deepen opportunities that are already available, or create whole new categories of peace work – epitomized in the possibility of a department of peace.

The breadth of participation also leads to a diversity of

objectives, which may require compromises from every participant. A governmental peace service that can be deployed to diffuse conflicts may require, at least in the early phases, cooperation with the Canadian military. While this issue has likely arisen for those Friends actively engaged in the Department of Peace initiative, it is a difficult question to labour with as we seek our way forward to fostering a peaceful world. Needless to say, having a Quaker voice at the table will be incredibly important as this project goes forward.

Another challenge is that the meeting participants hailed from a disproportionately Anglo-colonial background. There were neither Québécois nor Indigenous representatives, which, if that deficit continues, will certainly hamper any domestic agenda that this group might have. Here again, Quaker witness and our relationships with Indigenous groups may prove helpful.

Despite these challenges and the long road ahead, I think there is a chance that this group may push Canadian peace work onto the national agenda more than any other group in the past 20 years.

If any readers would like more information for themselves or others please feel free to contact me at 416-531-7990, or <lee.webb@unb.ca>.

Lee Webb (Coldstream MM) is on the Board of CFSC, and serves as the Clerk of the Quakers Fostering Justice program committee.



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## PEACE CELLS

*Continued from page 4*

procedure, peace cell members who have been trained in the provisions of electoral law will be listened to because their good will and fairness are well known. Currently, the presidential elections are scheduled for this November, with two years of elections at different levels to follow (national, provincial, municipal). Congolese Quakers in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu will also be doing election observation work.

During my visit, I learned a lot about the practice of peace from members of the Peace Cells organized by Project Muinda. Please visit CFSC's website – [www.quakerservice.ca](http://www.quakerservice.ca) - for riveting stories of how these neighbourhood-based volunteers prevent violence, and for analysis of the peacebuilding challenges of the city and the country.

*Gianne Broughton (Ottawa MM) is the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Program Coordinator of CFSC.*

## CONSCIENCE CANADA

*“War now depends more on money than on personnel; it only took 12 men to drop the bomb over Hiroshima, but it took millions, perhaps billions, of taxpayer's dollars in Canada, Britain, and the US to develop that bomb.”*

~ Edith Adamson, 1982

We invite you to help keep alive Canada's peace tax organization which the late Edith Adamson (Quaker) helped found.

For information about or to contribute to our work, contact us at:

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**Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)**

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## VANCOUVER ISLAND

*Continued from page 3*

Aboriginal Neighbours was told by the TRC that our event was both unique and a successful local event. There are essential elements for potentially controversial political and emotional events. There is a need to recognise that there will be distrust. This can be diminished through organizational leadership from First Nation residential school survivors and their support groups. We wove a safety net with the help from local FNs, from the IRSSS and the Nanaimo Tsow-Tun Le Lum who sent trauma counsellors to support anyone who might be “triggered” by the past. Humour, laughter, and social times are essential. We had a feast and celebration on Saturday night. Closure was

offered through a final and deeply moving Coast Salish cleansing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

It was a good beginning. Hear our words. “I am a story (a survivor).”

*CFSC produced an information sheet about the TRC and participation in it, available at <<http://bit.ly/jfsPIJ>>. A package will also be mailed to Meetings this spring. You can follow developments of the TRC at <[www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)>.*

*Lynne Phillips (Vancouver Island MM) is the Clerk of the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee of CFSC and a member of Aboriginal Neighbours.*

# FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

CFSC is delighted that **Hannah Ivanoff** (Yonge St. Meeting) will be serving as CFSC Intern this summer. Hannah recently completed a BA in International Development and Political Economy and Administrative Change at University of Guelph, including a semester in Guatemala.

**Meredith Egan** (CFSC staff) has co-authored a new book, "The Power of Story and Restorative Justice" (published by MCC Canada). It explores the intersection of story-catching and restorative justice. To order, email <resources@mennonitecc.ca>. Hard copy: \$10 + shipping; PDF download:

\$5. To read more, visit <<http://canada.mcc.org/restorativejustice/storycatching>>.

From 19-26 February, former intern **Rachel Singleton-Polster** (Vancouver Is. Meeting) was at the UN 55th Commission on the Status of Women as the Canadian representative on the delegation of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The delegation offered workshops, participated on panels, and met with country delegations about non-formal education (Guiding is the biggest provider to girls and women worldwide) and violence against women and girls on behalf of their 10

million girl members in 145 countries. Rachel also visited with the Quaker UN Office.

CFSC is sending representatives – **Jane MacKay Wright** (CYM's Kairos Board rep), **Lee Webb** (CFSC Board), and **Hannah Ivanoff** (CFSC Intern) – to an ecumenical conference on mining being hosted by KAIROS in Toronto (1-3 May). It will bring together Church leaders and activists from around the world concerned about resource extraction issues; Indigenous and civil society partners affected by resource extraction; and church investment staff and/or pension trustees.



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