Canadian Friends Service Committee/Secours Quaker Canadien

UN PERMANENT FORUM

Indigenous Peoples & Development Goals

By Monica Walters Field and Jennifer Preston Howe

n May, Monica Walters Field and Jennifer Preston Howe represented CFSC at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The theme was Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples. At the United Nations Millennium Summit, in September 2000, all UN member states committed to a set of measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they are called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This September the UN General Assembly will review progress. The Permanent Forum focused on the first two MDGs: (1) the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, addressed under good practices and barriers to implementation; and (2) the achievement of universal primary education, addressed under language, cultural perspectives, and traditional knowledge. The theme for the Forum in 2006 will continue with the other MDGs.

Annually the Forum opens with a high level panel and this year's included Louise Arbour, former Canadian Supreme Court Justice and current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She stressed that poverty is a denial of human rights. She emphasized that MDG programmes must be inclusive, that Indigenous Peoples must not be marginalized; programmes must not be at the expense of Indigenous Peoples; the definition of poverty must be seriously considered; and there not be sustainable



Sherry Lewis, Executive Director of the Native Women's Association of Canada, with Monica Walters Field, of CFSC, share time at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. During this time Sherry announced the confirmed financial support of the Canadian government for the Sisters in Spirit Campaign.

reduction of poverty for Indigenous Peoples without recognition of their rights. We were reminded that income based measures don't give adequate realities of poverty for Indigenous Peoples, and are particularly not useful in remote areas. Poverty cannot simply be measured in financial terms; the definition of poverty must include material and spiritual needs.

It was encouraging to have many UN agencies present and involved in the work of the Forum. The agencies reported on their work with Indigenous Peoples and engaged in dialogue with the members of the Forum (the Forum consists of eight Indigenous representatives and eight States representatives). Chair Victoria Tauli-Corpus challenged the panel members, UN agencies, and States to produce concrete proposals to include Indigenous Peoples in the MDGs, not just acknowledge the lack thereof. UN agencies and States were reminded that, while reports and statements give information and set out positions, there is a gap when it comes to policy implementation. Forum members wanted to hear concrete implementation suggestions and best practices.

CFSC and sister organizations American

Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Quaker United Nations Office-New York (QUNO-NY) co-hosted a thematic luncheon at Quaker House for the third year. The theme was the second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Kenneth Deer (Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake) chaired the informal discussions, and we had Indigenous representatives from each region of the globe. Also invited were resident UN NGOs to further engage them.

Recommendations for the second decade and practical suggestions for implementation were developed and presented to the North American Indigenous Permanent Forum member Willie Littlechild. Joshua Cooper of the Hawaii Human Rights Institute made an oral intervention to the Forum to report on the recommendations.

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Should Friends change our focus from prison to penal abolition, that is the abolition of punishment?

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QUAKER CONCERN Canadian Friends Service Committee/Secours Quaker Canadian

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Quaker Concern is the newsletter of the Canadian Friends Service Committee, and regularly features articles on its concerns. Quaker Concern is sent to all CFSC donors, and is also available on request.

Canadian Friends Service Committee

exists to unify and expand the concerns of Friends in Canada. Established in 1931, CFSC supports action around peace, global justice, solidarity with Aboriginal Peoples, reform of the criminal justice system (including prison abolition), and other social justice concerns of the **Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)** in Canada.

Donations toward CFSC are received with gratitude. We rely on contributions from individuals to continue our work. CFSC is a registered charity for income tax purposes. We would be happy to send information to you about any aspect of our work.

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KEEPING UP WITH CFSC

Sisters in Spirit

After some delay, the Native Women's Association of Canada has received approval of federal funding of \$5 million over 5 years for the Sisters in Spirit Campaign, which is supported by the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee. The Campaign will raise awareness around violence against Indigenous women. For more information on the Campaign, visit www.sistersinspirit.ca.

Grants Available, Interns Welcome

CFSC has grants available for Meetings and for individual Friends and attenders for social concerns related work. Applications are generally considered at the fall and spring General Meetings of CFSC. Applications for fall should be submitted by late September. CFSC has a Young Friends Internship Programme (see ad this pg.). For information, please contact Jane Orion at <cfsc@quaker.ca> or at 416-920-5213.

QC by e-mail, on web

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CFSC E-Newsletter

You can now sign up for the monthly CFSC E-Newsletter on-line at http://lists.quaker.ca/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/cfsc-e-news.

Meetings, as well, are welcome to use the E-Newsletter as a way of networking and sharing information on your justice work with other Meetings and Friends. For information, email Jane Orion at cfsc@quaker.ca. The E-Newsletter is also available on-line in the "News and Events" section of www.cfsc.quaker.ca.

Plenary on Prophecy

In June, Jane Orion Smith (CFSC General Secretary) was the plenary speaker at Inter Mountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM), which covers states in the southwestern USA. IMYM has about the same number of members as Canadian Yearly Meeting, with many small worship groups and meetings. The plenary is titled, "Shaking the Foundations: A Call to Prophesy in the Society of Friends" and is available at: www.cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/documents/Prophecy.pdf

Successful visit by British Quaker

Alan Pleydell, of Quaker Peace and Social Witness (Britain YM), visited Canada in June at the invitation of CFSC to speak about non-violent forms of intervention in crisis situations. He met with Friends and interested members of the public in various cities; ecumenical partners KAIROS and Project Ploughshares; other NGOs; and the defence establishment in Halifax. He also gave a guest lecture to Political Science students at Dalhousie University and visited the Quaker United Nations Office (OUNO) in New York. An audio file of an hour-long phone-in show with Alan is available online at

<www.cbc.ca/maritimenoon/phonein.html>

Friends' racial justice conference

The first annual North American conference for racial justice and equality within the Religious Society of Friends will occur 31 March – 2 April 2006 in Burlington, VT, USA. The conference, themed "Are We Being Faithful to Our Testimony?", will bring together Friends from across North America to worship together, share about racial justice work, and develop a supportive network. To stay informed, email < mlopes@snet.net> or write Maureen Lopes, 25 Old Farms Road, Madison, CT, USA 06443.

Are you of the Friendly Persuasion?

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Toronto's Quaker Committee for Refugees

By Brydon Gombay, with contributions from Fred Franklin, Eusebio Garcia, and Pinayur Rajagopal

he genesis of Toronto Monthly Meeting's Quaker Committee for Refugees can be traced to the determined efforts of Nancy Pocock to help refugees from El Salvador in the early eighties. This has expanded to include refugees from many countries so that now the Committee's clientele is international, and the work national in scope, since Toronto is one of the chief entry points to Canada for refugees. The Committee is able to provide these services free of charge, thanks to the generosity of CFSC and many other supportive donors, including Toronto Monthly Meeting for office space in Friends' House.

All who knock on the door of that office meet Eusebio Garcia, the Committee's Settlement Worker and the only paid member of the Committee. Eusebio offers orientation, guidance and referrals where appropriate. He helps with filling out immigration and social assistance forms, translation of documents, access to legal aid. etc. His expertise in finding housing in a city as expensive as Toronto, without having to resort to city shelters, is the result of years of experience and is the source of much gratitude. He works in conjunction with other agencies in Toronto that aid refugees, as well as spending one day a week on loan to the Toronto Refugee Affairs Council (TRAC) assisting detainees at the Toronto Immigration Holding Centre — be they refugee claimants, refused claimants or others in difficulty. His caring and respectful ears have heard many sad stories; in the listening alone he provides invaluable help to those who are frequently under enormous stress.

Fred Franklin is a member of the Committee and a seasoned Friend with almost four decades of Quaker prison visiting and service on Inter-Church Coalitions for Human Rights in Latin America and for Refugees. Fred is a founding member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) and is presently chair of the TRAC detention committee, responsible for the oversight of TRAC's office



Children give their rapt attention to one of the performers at the refugee Christmas party, a popular annual event sponsored by the Refugee Committee and held at Friends' House.

at the Detention Centre and its programs there.

Fred is one of the many who are deeply concerned with those who cannot come to Eusebio's door because they are detained in jails on Immigration Hold. Some are refugees or refused claimants. Some have served criminal sentences or, with no criminal record, are there for other reasons. Many of them the Government intends to deport. All are likely to remain jailed for many long months for processing purposes rather than for punishment, although long detention has real consequences. People remain, with minimal access to outside help or advice, under a cloud of apprehension and uncertainty of their fate or length of detention. This situation creates a great deal of mental and emotional strain. Through Fred, the Refugee Committee is part of the Ontario Detention Network which is committed to improving access to help and information for those so detained

Friends have many times been exercised over unjust treatment of minorities in the name of National Security. At the West Detention Centre (where Fred still visits regularly) three men, all Muslims, have been detained for several years on Security Certificates: detained on the basis of secret evidence not disclosed to them or their legal counsel. They live under the constant threat of deportation to likely torture or death. Friends are active in drawing attention to the grave injustice suffered by them, as well as

their wives and children who are legally in Canada. This process, in which life and death decisions are made in secret on secret evidence, is contrary to natural justice; we vigorously object to it as Quakers and as Canadians.

Special Events

This year marks the 15th Anniversary of Camp NeeKauNis (the Quaker camp) opening its doors to refugee families so that they may experience the joys of 'summer camp'. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of Friends and many helpers, it was possible to offer three days of relaxation and companionship on Georgian Bay to 87 participants, some whom had just arrived in Canada.

The Christmas Party is an annual event of welcome and acceptance. Again with the forbearance and help of Friends, Toronto Friends House is filled with music, children playing, puppetry, singing, gifts for the children and the traditional telling of the Christmas story.

"Whisperings of Hope/Common Ground" were two very successful exhibitions of artwork by refugees and Friends. The exhibits showed fine original work and provided opportunities for newcomer artists to make connections with fellow artists.

Welcoming, accepting and providing assistance for refugees is now more

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Is it a crime?

By Marc Forget

ince its inception the Quaker Committee on Jails & Justice (QCJJ) has focused on issues of justice in the realm of crime and our society's response to what we call criminal acts. In 1981 QCJJ promoted the acceptance by Canadian Yearly Meeting of a minute in support of the abolition of prisons as our primary social response to crime. The question, however, of what constitutes — or should constitute — a crime has rarely been examined by Friends.

Before discussing the most appropriate or productive response to crime, shouldn't we first establish what a crime is? The answer may seem ridiculously simple at first glance: a crime is an act that harms someone or society as a whole. However, when we begin looking at various acts that cause harm we quickly realize that many of them are not currently considered crimes. Furthermore, some acts we have for a long time identified as criminal seem to cause very little or no harm.

Criminal law is generally used to address behaviour that is deemed to be harmful or unwanted, but it is not by any means the only approach we as a society use to address harmful behaviour. For a variety of harmful behaviours we use regulation, surveillance, public education, reward or therapeutic intervention.

The Law Commission of Canada (references below) uses the term "the reflex to criminal law" to describe how we may be relying too heavily on criminal law to address complex social issues. One of the many problems with this reliance on criminal law and its system of punishment is that it is extremely expensive. The financial costs are astronomical, and the social costs have never even truly been assessed.

As Canadian Friends maintain our position on the abolition of prisons, should we perhaps, as the International Conference on Prison Abolition¹ did, change our focus from prison to penal abolition, that is the abolition of punishment (not to say there are no consequences to harmful behaviour)?

Even if we did, and began to advocate



Marc Forget, a member of Calgary Monthly Meeting, shares his thoughts on the question of "What is a crime?" in this, his final article as a member of the CFSC staff.

for the end of our reliance on punishment as our primary response to crime, there would still be a need to explore what crime is in the first place. Why do we classify one harmful behaviour as a crime while we identify another one as a health problem, another one as safety issue, and yet another one as an acceptable response given the circumstances?

As we know it, criminal law is said to be a punitive response to a perceived problem². In the case of many 'crimes' one has to ask, "What kind of problem is it—and in whose perception?" Why, for instance, is it a crime to use marijuana, cocaine or opium, while it is perfectly legal to drink alcohol to achieve similar mood alterations? Murder is considered the most serious offense, but if the state trains its citizens to murder, provides massive killing machinery, and organizes the invasion of another country where innocent people will be murdered, many continue to view it as 'security' or even 'humanitarian intervention'. Shoplifting is seen by most as a crime, but stealing from one's employer, even in a substantial way, is considered 'normal.' Why is private gambling a crime, but government-run lotteries and casinos are not?

Does labeling an act or behaviour as criminal reduce its incidence in society?

Even with highly punitive sanctions, it seems that it doesn't³. In 1969 the "Report of the Canadian Committee on Corrections: Towards Unity: Criminal Justice and Corrections"(a.k.a. the Ouimet Report) stated that, "No conduct should be defined as criminal unless it represents a serious threat to society, and unless the act cannot be dealt with through other social or legal means"4. Yet, since the publication of the report many more acts and behaviours have been added to the Criminal Code of Canada.

Why have we developed a reflex to use criminal law to address harm? How can we resist this reflex? Why do we treat some people as criminal and not others? Is it sufficient to determine what is and is not

harmful? What does our reliance on criminal law say about our society?⁵

These are difficult questions, with no easy answers. However, Friends' values and testimonies can help shed some light on the path to a more just society. It is only through great diligence, and a willingness to dig very deep and challenge some of our most deep-seated beliefs that we will begin to find some answers.

In the coming months, QCJJ will be bringing some of these questions to your attention, in the hope that together we can gradually develop some of our own solutions.

Marc Forget is the Programme Coordinator for the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice. He completes nine years of service with CFSC in August.

- 1. For a short history of ICOPA, visit http://www.justiceaction.org.au/ICOPA/ndx_icopa.html JusticeAction is organizing ICOPA XI to be held in Tasmania, Australia, February 2006. Contact QCJJ for details doi.org/doi.or
- 2. Law Commission of Canada, "What is a Crime? Challenges and Alternatives".
- 3. Ibid.
- 4. Report of the Canadian Committee on Corrections: Towards Unity: Criminal Justice and Corrections, 1969.
- 5. These questions appear in "What is a Crime?"

Staff changes at QCJJ

t the end of August, Marc Forget (Calgary MM) completes nine vears of service as the Programme Coordinator of the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice. During his tenure, Marc has made many contributions to the advancement of restorative justice principles among, and beyond, Friends, in Canada and around the world. Marc has challenged Friends to think about what justice really means in the aftermath of harm. How do we continue living peaceably with one another? His engagement with Young Friends has been particularly valued. We will miss Marc's many abilities, and his great sense of humour, concern for others, and warmth.

Friends will have an opportunity at Canadian Yearly Meeting to say goodbye to Marc and to meet the new QCJJ Programme Coordinator,

Meredith Egan, a member of Vancouver Monthly Meeting.

Meredith has worked extensively in restorative justice, community organizing, prison issues and visitation, and Quakerism. She is a recent member of QCJJ, so brings this experience to the position along with the skills she acquired as the Coordinator of the Centre for Restorative Justice at Simon Fraser University, where she will continue to serve. "I am looking forward to continuing



Meredith Egan (pictured with Brigid and Grace, her 11-year old twin daughters) will join the CFSC staff as QCJJ Programme Coordinator on 15 August. Meredith also works part-time for the Centre for Restorative Justice at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC.

the work of QCJJ, exploring how we can further advance the work of Friends in this field, and how the Committee can serve Friends who work to bring justice to our communities. I am excited that I will be working more intentionally where spiritual discernment and justice intersect," Meredith shared.

She lives in Mission, BC, with her four children.

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There is a federal tax incentive to donate securities. The taxable gain on securities is reduced from 50% to 25% if the security is donated in-kind to a Canadian charity. Therefore, the donor pays 50% less tax on capital gains than if the securities were sold—even if the proceeds were subsequently donated to CFSC. The donor also receives a charitable tax receipt for the value of the gift when it is received by CFSC.

For more information on our investment policy or portfolio, or to receive the Planned Giving Kit, contact Jennifer or Jane Orion at 416-920-5213, or <cfsc-office@quaker.ca>

Earthcare is a prophetic witness



Louis Cox and Ruah Swennerfelt of Quaker Earthcare Witness cosy up on the last night of Intermountain Yearly Meeting with Jane Orion Smith, CFSC General Secretary, and Ted Church, a past Clerk of IMYM from Albuquerque, NM.

In June, I had the pleasure of visiting the annual sessions of Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) in the US southwest. It was held at Ghost Ranch, in northern New Mexico, a Presbyterian retreat centre which was also once the home of artist Georgia O'Keeffe. With an altitude of 6,800 feet and a climate drier than a bone, it was quite a change from Toronto.

IMYM had invited me to speak about a call to prophesy for the Society of Friends, that is, to hear and respond to the voice of the Divine. The environment—wonderful desert land and sky formations, daily worship and fellowship—certainly encouraged such listening. Even within the discouraging US political climate, IMYM Friends are concerned about issues such as cross-border migration at the Mexico-US border, US foreign and defense policy, and environmental issues involving land and water.

I knew no one in IMYM when I went; now I have new and wonderful friends. I was pleased to see a few familiar faces too. Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, staff for Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) which is a partner of CFSC and CYM, were also visiting IMYM. This was a timely opportunity to catch up on their prophetic witness on

Earthcare among Friends in North America.

QEW is a spiritually-centered network of Quakers and like-minded people in Canada and the US seeking ways to integrate their concern for environment with Friends' long-standing testimonies for simplicity, peace, and equality. QEW encourages Friends to explore the spiritual roots of humanity's relationship to the Earth, seeking a transformation in attitudes toward the Earth and all living beings.

Through education, visitation, and program work, QEW supports informed, spirit-led action on all environmental issues: pollution, toxic wastes, conservation, recycling, energy use, global warming, loss of species and habitats, loss of arable lands, and population pressures. QEW is also a major supporter of La Bella Farm, a sustainable agriculture project in Costa Rica, which involves caring for land that was threatened, while caring for people who had no land. They also publish a bimonthly newsletter, *BeFriending Creation*.

This year, QEW instructed its committees be mindful in their work that the organization's primary mission is outreach to the Religious Society of Friends. "We're really trying to focus on our original goal of raising concern about Earthcare to the same level as peace and justice", said Ruah when asked about their renewed outreach programme, in which QEW representatives carry the Earthcare concern to Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings.

"Personal contact is often very important," said Louis with regards to engaging people. "We are not speaking just to the intellect but are asking Friends to labour together to strengthen and deepen our spiritual relationship with all Creation, which underlies and integrates all of our concerns for peace, justice, equality, and care of the planet", he said.

Unlike Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), IMYM does not have a formal relationship with QEW, but Ruah and Louis are hoping to cultivate one. Much as in CYM years ago, there are a number of individual Friends who are active in QEW activities.

Even so, notes Ruah, "It is interesting how many Monthly Meetings have not minuted their concern for Earthcare, sustainability, or whatever one wants to call it." Given the landscape in which IMYM Friends exist, Earthcare is a real issue—there are water rights issues, limited agricultural production ability,

Continued on next page

Earthcare

Continued from previous page.

etc. that impact on people's access to the essentials of life. Many people in the Southwest have to collect rainwater as a matter of course to meet their water needs.

Back here in Canada, our relationship is deepening. QEW and CFSC have just signed an agreement wherein QEW will support the work of the Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP), which works on intellectual property rights issues which have grave implications for biodiversity, traditional knowledge, patenting of life forms, etc. Starting 1 July, people living in the USA can financially contribute to this work by making a donation to QEW (address below), designated to "QIAP".

Interestingly, even as QEW is on a growth path in awareness-raising and actioninspiring, their Long-Range Planning Committee proposed a goal that, in 25 years, "We declare ourselves a success and lay ourselves down", shared Ruah. "Others will have taken up the cause so successfully that we would not be needed", added Louis. Talk about a prophetic witness! Would that Friends can rise to the occasion.

Canadians can make a charitable donation to QEW by cheque to "Canadian Yearly Meeting", designating QEW (mail to: CYM, 91A Fourth Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1S 2L1). QEW (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature) can be reached at: QEW, 173-B North Prospect St., Burlington, VT, USA, 05401-1607. Tel: 802-658-0308.

Email: <info@quakerearthcare.org> Website: <www.quakerearthcare.org> Jane Orion Smith is the General Secretary of CFSC.

Refugee

Continued from page 3

important than ever. The current political climate of fear and suspicion of 'the stranger'is not only setting up barriers to all who come here but has also produced ever tougher laws and additional bureaucratic hoops. The acceptance rate for refugees has dropped drastically in the last two years. The Committee's need for financial support for this important work is ongoing. Until conditions of greater security, allied with social and economic justice, prevail in the



At the UN Permanent Forum, CFSC works with Human Rights partners. Here Monica Walters Field (CFSC) takes notes in the plenary with colleagues Marie St. Louis of Rights & Democracy and Joshua Cooper of the Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights. Human Rights NGOs support Indigenous representatives, and each other in statements to the Forum.

Development goals

Continued from page 1

We continued relationship building with Indigenous representatives and NGOs, which strengthens our work and enables mutually beneficial cooperation. QAAC's presence at the UN also involves our relationships with Canadian bureaucrats, and we had opportunities to meet with them about the Forum, other UN work, and domestic issues.

We attended many side events including a panel discussion co-sponsored by the American Indian Law Alliance and the Seventh Generation Fund exploring the importance of rescinding the Papal Bulls of the XV and XVI centuries. These Papal Bulls have been used for years to rationalize the unequal application of international and domestic law with adverse effects on the survival, cultural integrity, and equal legal standing of Indigenous Peoples around the world. Another highlight was a film on the Indigenous survivors of the tsunami in

Indonesia, and the reconstruction partnership with the Assembly of First Nations in Canada.

We thank Nancy's Very Own Foundation for generous support which has enabled our work at the Forum for the past two years.

We are grateful, too, for the welcome and support we received from QUNO-NY, the ongoing Quaker presence at the UN. Anna Morgan, the intern assigned to assist us. wrote, "We were pleased by the high level of interaction between the CFSC. AFSC and QUNO participants and would hope to see more such collaboration in future years." Events of the weeks were full, thought provoking and keenly passionate. There were continuous reminders of the huge efforts worldwide to have the rights of Indigenous Peoples recognized, promoted, and protected. We were glad to be there. Monica Walters Field is a member of QAAC and Toronto Monthly Meeting. Jennifer Preston Howe is the Programme Coordinator for QAAC.

homelands of those who are forced to flee to a new life here, we need to urge our government to increase the numbers of refugees admitted to Canada, and to provide them more assistance than we offer at present. They have a great contribution to make to our country, and should be welcomed accordingly.

Toronto Refugee Committee will gladly share information, network and strategize with other Monthly Meetings that are

assisting refugees.

Please contact:
Quaker Refugee Committee,
c/o Friends House,
60 Lowther Avenue,
Toronto, ON, Canada, M5R 1C7.
Tel: 416-964-9669; Fax: 416-920-5214
Email: <tmm@web.net>
Brydon Gombay is the new Clerk of the TMM
Committee for Refugees and an attender of
Toronto Meeting.

S H

We give thanks for the many contributions of CFSC members who are rotating off the Committee or completing six years of service: Sharon Ackerman (QCJJ Clerk), Linda Cameron (QAAC), Sarah Chandler (QAAC Co-Clerk), Meredith Egan (QCJJ), Peter Earley (Young Friends Representative), Tamara Fleming (QPASC), and Janine Gagnier (QPASC Clerk). We welcome new members to be appointed at Canadian Yearly Meeting's annual sessions in August.

Marc Forget (staff) will lead a week-long program using 'forum theatre' techniques to explore justice with Young Friends at Canadian Yearly Meeting in Alberta.

Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee (QAAC) Co-Clerk **Tuulia** Law is representing Friends at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva, Switzerland in July. The theme of the meeting is traditional knowledge.

On July 1, CFSC's Gianne Broughton (Ottawa MM) departed for Bujumbura, Burundi, where she will help rebuild the American Friends Service Committee's peace program in the Great Lakes Region of central Africa. AFSC's program will contribute to efforts to bring an end to the cycles of war, and to promote reconstruction and healing, within and among Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Look for updates from Gianne in Quaker Concern or the CFSC E-Newsletter.

Sarah Chandler (CFSC member) and Marc Forget (staff) acted as facilitators at the annual Canadian Human Rights Foundation International Training Program, held in Quebec in June. Monica Walters Field (CFSC member) attended as a participant with a particular interest in Indigenous rights.

Muriel Duckworth (Halifax MM) is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her many contributions towards peace and justice and the advancement of women. Muriel is a founding member of the Voice of Women for Peace and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW), among other organizations. Muriel is one of 1,000 women nominated for this year's Prize. Muriel, now 97, remains active in social concerns.

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