

Monitoring & protecting Canadians' civil liberties

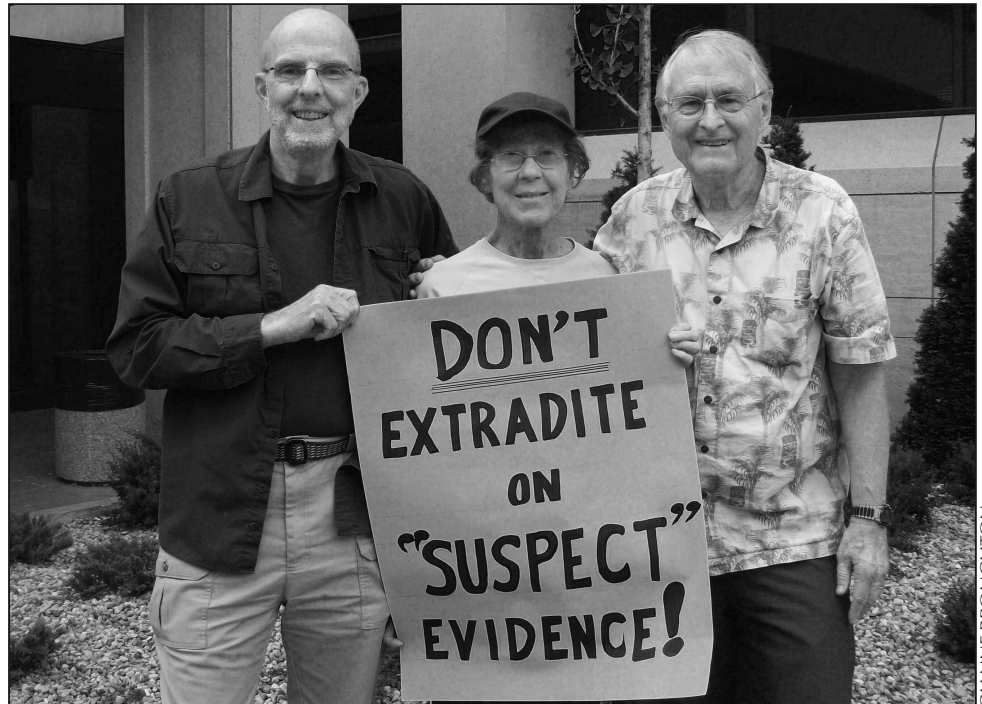
By Elizabeth Block

CFSC is a member of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG), a coalition of some 40 unions, professional associations, faith groups, environmental organizations, human rights and civil liberties advocates, and groups representing immigrant and refugee communities. It was established to counter the attacks on civil liberties precipitated by the events of 9/11.

Most of the work is done by the sole staff member, Roch Tassé. He monitors the actions of the federal government and its committees, writes letters, engages with MPs and other people, and promotes public awareness of the impact of anti-terrorism laws on civil liberties, human rights, refugee protection, racism, political dissent, governance of charities, international cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Three times a year there is a General Assembly, a meeting of representatives from member organizations, to update each other on actions and share information. CFSC's representatives have included Gianne Broughton, Peter Attack, Merrill Stewart, and myself. Between meetings, we keep in touch by email. Roch sends out extremely informative emails on many issues.

At ICLMG's last General Assembly in March 2011, the main subject discussed was the Canada-USA "Beyond the Border" declaration for a shared "security perimeter," which threatens to seriously undermine Canadian sovereignty by allowing the



Ottawa Friends Colin Stuart, Fran Schiller and Eric Schiller outside the courthouse in Ottawa, Ontario after Hassan Diab's hearing in June 2011. Hassan is fighting his forced removal from Canada (via extradition to France) to face allegations based on secret intelligence and flawed handwriting analysis.

USA to decide who is and is not permitted to enter Canada. It will limit Canada's ability to enact and implement its own immigration and refugee policies. It will make it increasingly difficult for the Canadian government to protect our Charter rights. This has already been illustrated by the USA's "Secure Flight" rules, which prevent some Canadian citizens from flying – even within Canada – even when they have been deemed by our courts not to pose a risk to our security.

ICLMG members recognize this issue represents perhaps the biggest challenge to civil liberties yet faced. If this agreement is fully implemented, Canadians will have lost any small gains achieved over the last decade, and our ability to influence government policies and practices to protect civil liberties and human rights will be reduced.

At previous meetings we have heard from the Canadian Council for

Refugees (of which CFSC is a member) on changes to the refugee determination process; from Mining Watch Canada on the activities of Canadian mining companies abroad; about the repression of citizens' dissent, not only at the G-20; and (from me) about the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Anti-Semitism on which the ICLMG maintains a watching brief.

The ICLMG, together with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, is party to a legal challenge of the Canadian regulations that implement the UN's No-Fly list, which kept Abousfian Abdelrazik from returning home from Africa for a year. What often happens when affected people mount legal challenges to the No-Fly list is that they are quietly "delisted", thus making their legal case moot. Even if Abousfian Abdelrazik is taken off the list, the case will go on, since the ICLMG and the

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

To follow is a “round up” of CFSC-related activity held during Canadian Yearly Meeting sessions, 5-13 August in Windsor, NS:

Business on the floor

Two items came to the floor from CFSC this year: (1) Yearly Meeting received the report from CFSC’s Uranium Working Group and considered a draft minute, based on consultation since last summer, regarding a corporate position on uranium and nuclear issues. Friends were in unity with the minute and approved it as a Minute of Record; to read the full text, see page 6. (2) In a spirit of deep appreciation, and some

sadness, CYM approved the laying down of the Quaker International Affairs Programme, a special program under the care of CFSC for nearly 10 years. QIAP’s accomplishments will continue to bear fruit into the future. The Meeting expressed particular thanks to Tasmin Rajotte, QIAP representative (staff), and Carol Dixon, QIAP’s long-time clerk. QIAP’s publications remain available at <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/economics-and-ecology/intellectual-property-rights-2/>

Special interest groups

Thirteen people attended a special interest group on promoting peace in Israel-Palestine. We shared our frustrations and hopes and learned from Sara avMaat, Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta and Lyn Adamson about their experience with non-violent action in Israel-Palestine. We examined the concept of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as Friends worldwide have been requested to do by Ramallah Friends Meeting in their epistle of March 2010 on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. 170 Palestinian and Israeli peace organizations have called for this kind of action, and Palestinian Christians ask for this kind of support in their Kairos Palestine document of 2009. After the lively discussion, Friends felt encouraged and more ready to engage their Meetings in a discussion of BDS and to take personal action. They appreciated the kit of educational materials provided (available at www.quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/peace-policy/). The KAIROS workshop entitled “Just Peace 101” is recommended to Monthly Meetings. Meetings can contact their local KAIROS group and offer to host a workshop, thus connecting in with others in the ecumenical community. Quaker participation in regional workshops to date has been appreciated. For information, contact Julie Graham at jgraham@kairoscanada.org. Friends warmly welcomed guest Lottie May Johnson to an interest group on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Lottie is a Mi’kmaq woman from Eskasoni, Nova

Scotia and a survivor of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. She is a Traditional Teacher for the Journey of Healing for Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselling Association of Nova Scotia. Lottie is also a member of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee, which serves as an advisory body to the TRC. Lottie’s presentation was both informative and deeply spiritually enriching. The next national event of the TRC will take place in Halifax, NS on the last weekend of October.

Thoughtful and hopeful discussion was had as Friends reflected on Minute 79 (“Justice is Possible”) approved by CYM in 2010 at an interest group, including ways we are addressing those harmed by crime at both the community and government level. The minute can be found at <http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/CYM-Minute-79-Justice-is-Possible.pdf>. For an overview of the forthcoming omnibus crime bill, read the following article at <http://natpo.st/mDLmNw>.

Quaker Study

Jane Orion Smith, General Secretary of CFSC, and Janet Ross, a biblical scholar, presented six sessions of material on the theme “Stand Still in the Light”. Fundamental aspects of our contemplative practice were explored, which is then lived out in our lives and social action.

CFSC 80th Anniversary

Patricia Thompson, who works in organizational and leadership renewal, led a reflective evening on Friends’ relationship to the work of CFSC. During our time, many wonderful memories were surfaced, along with principles that are important to carry forth into our next 80 years including compassionate listening, hope, love, perseverance, understanding, respect, etc.

Other

CFSC’s new website has launched! Visit www.quakerservice.ca. We also now have a CFSC page on www.wikipedia.org. Feedback welcome on both!

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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The Truth at work in the jails

By Keith Maddock

In the middle of the 19th century, after visiting the prisons of Paris, Elizabeth Fry addressed a letter to the King of France, with the prophetic words, “When thee builds a prison, thee had better build with the thought ever in thy mind that thee and thy children may occupy the cells.” She was uncompromising in speaking truth to power about the abuses she found in the criminal justice system. She was insistent that prison visitors must approach their vocation in a spirit of non-judgment and compassion, and Friends today have a reputation for consistent, compassionate service to those suffering from crime and from the abuses of retributive justice.

Quaker service in the Toronto (Don) Jail has continued for over thirty years. But it has faced many challenges and undergone many changes during that time. When I first joined the project 15 years ago, the focus was mainly on group discussions, with occasional guest speakers. The success of these gatherings became evident as more individual inmates asked for one-on-one visits. While group meetings continued, these more personal encounters required more intensive training and accountability. For example, I signed up for a correspondence course offered through Acadia University and received a certificate in “Prison Ministry.” In order to encourage other Friends to join in this inspiring though demanding work, I later wrote a Pendle Hill Pamphlet entitled, *Beyond the Bars: A Quaker Primer for Prison Visitors*, and am working on a sequel entitled, *Praying through the Bars: A Pastoral Testimony for Prison Visitors*.

The intervening years have seen many changes in our relationship with the institutional administration and chaplaincy. There have been strikes, lock-outs, lock-downs, and staff shortages which took a toll on the number of volunteers allowed access. About three years ago, staff shortages resulted in the necessity to lay down the group program and look for other means of service. While some volunteers continued one-on-one visits, I was asked by the chaplain to visit with prisoners in their cell units, talking with them through the bars, responding to their requests for stationery and art supplies, as well as spiritual reading materials. Some materials and some limited funds were donated locally in response to appeals to the Monthly Meeting and to the CFSC’s Quakers Fostering Justice program committee.



Keith Maddock has undertaken years of dedicated service as a prison visitor in the Toronto area, with connections being made along the way with both CFSC’s programs focusing on justice and on indigenous issues.

Prison chaplaincy – could it be your calling?

With increasingly punitive legislation leading to growth in prison populations, prison violence is also on the rise. The call for chaplains is being put out, especially to the Quaker community. Quaker chaplains have been recognized for their service within the corrections (prison) system and there have been informal inquiries about Friends’ further involvement in chaplaincy. Prison visitation and ministry, such as the work of Friends described above, is a way to test the waters of chaplaincy.

Information on serving as a chaplain within Correctional Service Canada (federal) can be found at <http://bit.ly/oDNVHf>. If you are interested in learning more about the process by which one becomes a Quaker chaplain, please contact the Canadian Yearly Meeting Elders with a Concern for Chaplaincy (Arnold Ranneris, John Calder and Beverly Shepard). Emails sent to qfj@quakerservice.ca will be passed on to the Elders.

One observation from visiting the cells concerns the diversity of religious and cultural backgrounds among the inmates. To serve any one religiously or spiritually-oriented group without responding to the unmet needs of others is not possible.

While those with Christian backgrounds seem to have abundant though often narrowly focused

resources, others such as followers of Native Spirituality, the Islamic, Sikh and Hindu faiths have received less consistent attention. Stationery and art supplies are universally appreciated, while obtaining readings from various faith communities present fresh challenges each week. Some can be met by referral to spiritual

and religious care providers in the community. But more specific readings, such as quotes from contemporary leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Thich Nhat Hanh, Chief Dan George, and even

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Quaker Concern • 3

International Advancement of Indigenous Rights UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By Jennifer Preston

We urge EMRIP to propose to the Human Rights Council ... that states, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, promote broader public awareness of and human rights education on the Declaration as a principled, universal framework for justice and reconciliation. States must fulfill their international obligations to uphold the human rights of all (from the Joint Statement by CFSC et al July 13, 2011).

On 13 September 2007 we celebrated the historic adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Only a few months later, the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council (HRC) established a new high-level body – the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

EMRIP's mandate is to provide advice to the HRC on the rights of Indigenous peoples in the form of studies and research. EMRIP meets annually and representatives of Indigenous peoples, member states, UN agencies, and NGOs participate in the meetings. EMRIP consists of five independent experts, one from each UN-identified geographic region. Currently, the expert from our region (Western Europe and Other) is Chief Wilton Littlechild from the Ermineskin Cree Nation of Treaty 6 in Alberta.

I attend the annual sessions of EMRIP, with the support of the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO); the 4th session was 11-15 July 2011. A key theme of this session was Indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making. EMRIP is finalizing a study for the HRC on this topic. A progress report was submitted to the HRC last year. In this session, participants had the opportunity to comment and contribute to the final study, a draft of which was circulated in advance. EMRIP's first study to the HRC was a "Study on Lessons Learned and Challenges to Achieve the Implementation of the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Education" (2009).

Each year the agenda also includes an



JENNIFER PRESTON

UN meetings, such as EMRIP, provide key opportunities for organizations to meet from around the globe. (back row) Paul Joffe, Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee); Stefan Disko, International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA); Jennifer Preston, CFSC; (front row) Ellen Gabriel, Kontinoh:sta'ts – Mohawk Language Custodians; and Adele Wildshut, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee. Jennifer, Ellen and Adele all serve on the Board of First Peoples Human Rights Coalition (FPHRC). Paul and Stefan act as advisors to FPHRC.

item on implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. At this session CFSC worked with several of our partners and made submissions on both topics. These are posted on our web site at <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/indigenous-peoples-rights/international-forums/>.

Kenneth Deer, Mohawk from Kahnawake and representing the Indigenous World Association, gave the joint intervention on implementing the Declaration. This included specific recommendations to EMRIP, including the quote at the top of this article. Another recommendation was that states, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, establish national plans of work to implement the Declaration with clear timelines and priorities. States should report regularly on the progress and shortcomings in implementing the Declaration to their national legislatures and to EMRIP.

This joint statement also expressed grave concern at the actions of the Government of Canada in which has made dis-honouring comments about scope of the Declaration:

In a complaint against Canada in the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the government argued that: the Declaration "does not ... change Canadian laws" and "it does not impose any international or domestic legal obligations upon Canada." Yet the Canadian government is well aware that UN treaty bodies and Canada's highest court rely on declarations and other international instruments to interpret human rights and related state obligations.

Ellen Gabriel, Mohawk from Kanehsatà:ke and representing Kontinoh:sta'ts – Mohawk Language Custodians, presented the joint statement on the study on Indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making. The focus was on Indigenous peoples' right to participate in international environmental standard setting processes, including climate change, biodiversity, access and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources and persistent organic pollutants. The joint statement highlights that, in international forums

and processes, unfair procedures are undermining the principles of justice, democracy, non-discrimination, respect for human rights and rule of law. Such procedures require redress, otherwise, the substantive rights of Indigenous peoples will continue to be adversely affected. The statement also emphasizes that:

As affirmed by UN treaty bodies, Indigenous peoples are peoples with the right of self-determination under international law. This status and right provide a foundation for, and reinforce, our human right to full and effective participation. This standard is affirmed in UNDRIP. It is also confirmed at the international and regional level, by a diverse range of human rights bodies, specialized agencies and special rapporteurs.

This oral intervention is linked to a detailed legal analysis submitted by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in advance to EMRIP and supported by 75 organizations globally, including CFSC. The longer submission, entitled “Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: Substantive and Procedural Injustices relating to Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights” is also available on the CFSC website.

The UN now has three main mechanisms dealing primarily with Indigenous Peoples, all guided by the Declaration as their normative framework. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a representative of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues participate at EMRIP. In addition, the Special Rapporteur has meetings with Indigenous peoples’ representatives to discuss specific situations of human rights violations. This is not part of EMRIP’s mandate and it is highly beneficial for Indigenous representatives to have the opportunity for a substantive meeting with the Special Rapporteur.

As the sessions are often in July, they coincide with the Quaker United Nations Summer School. Some of our partners, including the former Chair of EMRIP, Jannie Lasimbang, a Kadazan Indigenous woman from Malaysia, met with the students and discussed both EMRIP and the work of Indigenous peoples at the UN.

Each year CFSC and QUNO-Geneva jointly host a dinner for the experts and state representatives. These dinners give an opportunity for dialogue on the work of EMRIP and feedback from states at the HRC.

EMRIP has achieved success in the first few years of existence. This has increased the trust of the member states of the HRC to allow the experts room to make agenda decisions and to formulate the areas of work. Many states are seriously engaging with EMRIP with substantive interventions outlining domestic initiatives. While EMRIP is not formally a monitoring body for the Declaration, it is an excellent space for Indigenous peoples and states to evaluate both successes and challenges in the critical work of implementation. The coming year will include expanding the work on the right to participate in decision-making into preliminary work on resource extraction, a key concern for Indigenous peoples globally.

On the weekend prior to the session, I attended the preparatory Indigenous caucus meeting, and a preparatory meeting with the North American Indigenous caucus. These meetings provide opportunities for sharing priorities and coordinating on Joint

Statements. As a non-Indigenous organization, CFSC observes these meetings as an invited ally. EMRIP sessions have side events and workshops on related topics. A key one this year was a seminar offered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Toward an Operational Guide for National Human Rights Institutions: Possible good practices in addressing the rights of Indigenous Peoples”.

CFSC will continue to work with many partners on this critical international work at the EMRIP. We also collaborate to ensure ongoing progress at the domestic level. As an example, last fall Roger Jones (of the Assembly of First Nations and of the Chiefs of Ontario) and I did a presentation to the Ontario College of Teachers on the UN Declaration. It focused on the EMRIP study on the Right to Education and we made specific recommendations for how the Ontario College of Teachers can integrate international standard setting into curriculum development.

Jennifer Preston is the Aboriginal Affairs Program Coordinator for Canadian Friends Service Committee. She is a member of Hamilton Monthly Meeting.

JAILS

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Bob Marley, are readily available through the internet. As a result, I have managed to accumulate over time a wealth of short handouts, including biographies and quotations.

Meanwhile, the cost of such handouts and the changes occurring within the institution have required a continuing reassessment of priorities. The “Quaker Program” has expanded from being client-focused to networking with other faith and social service organizations. I have partially met this need by representing Friends on the Ontario (South-Central) Multi-Faith Council and the Ontario Government’s Advisory Council on Adult Correctional Issues. The Advisory Council, in particular, is an important venue for following the process of relocating the Toronto Jail (which is just to the east of downtown) to a new setting in Mimico (in the far west end of Toronto). The new site will

be a much larger facility where there will be more challenges and openings for volunteers. In order to keep friends informed and to encourage a wider base of participation in prison visiting, Toronto Monthly Meeting has set up an Oversight Committee to help evaluate the importance of continued outreach and to plan for the challenges ahead.

The need for community networking and oversight is more pressing than ever with the upcoming changes in federal legislation. If Friends are to continue speaking truth to power, our traditional commitment to personal and spiritually-oriented service in correctional institutions is essential.

Keith Maddock is a member of Toronto Monthly Meeting and has received financial support from CFSC for expenses incurred in his prison ministry work.

Unity on uranium

On August 11th, Friends at Canadian Yearly Meeting were in unity to approve a minute of record on Nuclear Energy and Uranium Issues. Such a minute, essentially commits us as Canadian Yearly Meeting to working on this concern until the vision is realized. As many know, this concern has been in a process of discernment for several years. CFSC will be preparing educational materials for Meetings (and wider use) in the coming months. To follow is the text:

Based on a variety of peace, environmental and health concerns, and with our testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Equality, Community, Integrity and Earth Stewardship in mind, we advocate and are called to work for a phase-out of (1) the use of nuclear fission-based energy, (2) the mining, refining and exporting of uranium, and (3) the exporting of fission-based nuclear power reactor technology and fissionable materials.

A phase-out of nuclear fission energy could feasibly occur in Canada over a period of fifteen to twenty years, and, internationally, over some twenty to thirty years. During the phase-out period, no new nuclear reactors would be built, existing reactors would be shut down as they reach the end of their operational lifespans, energy conservation technologies would be employed in all energy sectors, and renewable energy sources would be encouraged to continue to expand. Reliable studies show that such a phase-out is compatible with a parallel phase-out of coal, and a reduced and more efficient use of oil and natural gas in the context of climate change concerns. (See references at end of article.)

During the phase-out process, we affirm the right of affected workers to a just and reasonable transition process during which they may be retrained for work that is more ecologically sound.

We do not oppose the use of nuclear science in the field of medicine, acknowledging that nuclear medicine does not require the use of nuclear

fission reactors for electricity production, and that there is enough uranium already mined to provide the small amount of uranium needed in nuclear medicine for an estimated two hundred years.

We ask Canadian Friends Service Committee to work with other Quaker, faith-based and secular organizations, both in Canada and internationally, toward the goal of a phase-out of nuclear fission-based energy and of greater accountability and honesty around the health, environmental and peace concerns related to nuclear fission.

We recognize that we must change our own lifestyles in accordance with these objectives. We shall continue to advocate for greater energy efficiency and a shift to renewable energy alternatives, and to encourage ecologically sound energy practices in our own lives.

References:

Pembina Institute. Several publications, for example: "Renewable is Doable, Ontario's Green Energy Plan 2.0", August 2010. <www.pembina.org/re>

Lester Brown, "World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse", 2011. Earth Policy Institute.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Continued from page 1

BCCLA are also plaintiffs.

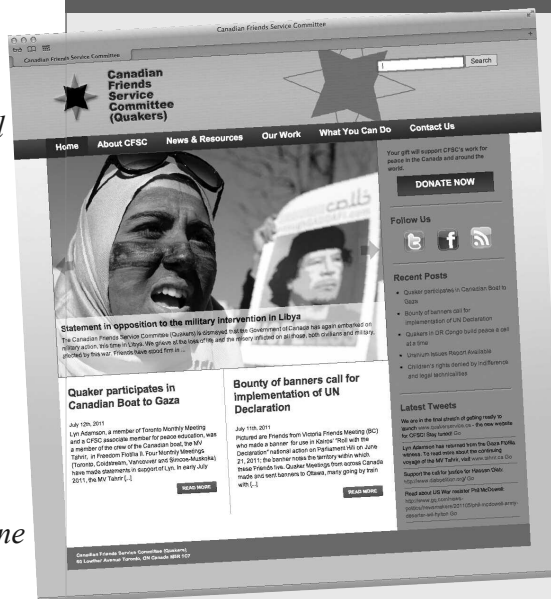
Canadian Yearly Meeting recognized the importance of protecting civil liberties when it recommended that CFSC join ICLMG in August 2002. We are fortunate to be able to depend on ICLMG members as partners in this work. As an activist myself, I find it useful, and encouraging, to have Roch and ICLMG members as colleagues.

All of ICLMG's funding comes from contributions from member organizations, including CFSC. ICLMG, fortunately, has some members, like the teachers' and professors' unions, who are able to give substantially. They do not receive any government funding. CFSC would welcome a Canadian Monthly Meeting partner on this work, to be engaged in the issues and help with financial support. Please contact CFSC if this is of interest to your Meeting.

By joining the *CFSC E-Newsletter* list serve, as an individual, you will receive information and appeals for action that come to us from ICLMG. And when you get these appeals, you can act! You can write letters, contact your MP, and so on, and encourage other people to do so too.

Elizabeth Block (Toronto MM) serves on the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee as a board member of CFSC. She also serves as CFSC's representative to ICLMG.

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Reflection on CFSC intern experience

By Hannah Ivanoff

As the end of my internship approaches I have begun to reflect back on my experiences. I have had wonderful learning opportunities with the varied aspects of CFSC's work. I learned about the work of CFSC's partners, how they function and what types of work they perform by attending several meetings with CFSC staff and board members. Shortly after attending an ecumenical conference on mining, hosted by KAIROS, I went to Ottawa to participate in the Canadian Council for International Cooperation's AGM with Gianne Broughton and Sheila Havard. To participate in discussion with prominent leaders in the international development field on what development effectiveness means and what role civil society organizations play in it was very inspiring.

In Montreal, I then attended the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group's (ICLMG) members' meeting. ICLMG is made up of organizations concerned with the erosion of civil liberties in the name of security in the post 9/11 era (see article in this issue). Issues discussed included the *Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act*, Bill C-4. The bill is aimed at combating human smuggling, but it has been widely condemned as violating the rights of refugees. The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), of which CFSC is a member, is very active in education and action on it. I prepared a CFSC "urgent action" on Bill C-4 (available at <www.quakerservice.ca> under "our work" in the "public engagement" section).

On return to Toronto, I worked on a CFSC educational report on the regulation of the Canadian extractive industry abroad (available at <www.quakerservice.ca> - "educational resources" section under "news and resources" menu). The issue connects many social justice issues, including environmental, economic and social issues, as well human

rights. Indigenous Peoples' struggle for control of their natural resources has a long hard history and continues today. Several sections of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples outline the established human rights norm of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to assert

Indigenous peoples' rights to control of their lands and resources.

Much of July was spent preparing for Canadian Yearly Meeting and the launch of CFSC's new website. Helping in time consuming task of migrating and developing information for it was a great learning experience. I gained the practical skills of web design, but I also learned a lot about the work that CFSC has accomplished.

CFSC hosted a Special Interest Group (SIG) on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) at CYM. The TRC is part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which was the outcome of a negotiated settlement to deal with the large amount of abuse claims made by residential school survivors against the Government of Canada and four churches. A residential school survivor, Lottie Johnson, spoke about her life and family. Friends and non-Quakers participated in a sharing of experiences that is part of the healing and reconciliation that the TRC aims to promote. Having researched the TRC to write a briefing paper on the issue for CFSC¹ it was very powerful to hear a personal story and Lottie made me think of things connected to the topic that I had not thought of before.



Lottie Johnson, guest speaker at the interest group on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held at CYM, with Rob Hughes, CFSC board member.

DONALEXANDER

I also had the pleasure of attending and participating in CYM's annual sessions, including business meeting, Quaker Study and other SIGs. Having not attending CYM in ten years it was wonderful to become emerged in Quaker process and community. One important part was spending time with Quakers young and old. I spent time with the new Youth Secretary, Katrina McQuail, participating in her discussions and plans for Young Friends. The Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting (CYFYM) also held their business meeting at CYM. Though numbers were small there were some good conversations about how to get more YFs to CYM and the possibility of renewing the connection with Friends in Guatemala.

One of the SIGs I attended at CYM discussed the future of Camp NeeKauNis. I grew up attending Camp and I still have a special connection to the place and many people I became acquainted with while there remain important in my life. I haven't been able to attend camp for the past 6 years and so I am very happy to be participating in Work Camp at the end of August to round up my internship at CFSC.

Hannah Ivanoff is the CFSC intern for 2011 and is a member of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting.

¹ The briefing paper on the TRC is in the "educational resources" area under the "news and resources" menu of <www.quakerservice.ca>.

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

At the rise of Canadian Yearly Meeting's annual session in August, a number of Friends completed their service on the board of CFSC, for which we offer our sincere thanks: Peter Atack and Robert (Bob) Clarke (both from Ottawa MM); Chris Abbott (Young Friend Rep); Lynne Phillips (Vancouver Island MM); Merrill Stewart (Wooler Monthly Meeting); and Vince Zelazny (New Brunswick MM).

We look forward to welcoming the following Friends who will begin their service at our fall board meeting in late October: Fred Bass (Vancouver MM); Dereck Collins-Thompson

(Coldstream MM); Dick Cotterill (Halifax MM); Linda Kreitzer (Edmonton MM); Lesley Robertson (Vernon MM); Lana Robinson (Vancouver Island MM); Rachel Urban-Shiple (Young Friend Rep – Ottawa MM). Don Alexander (Pelham MM) will return for a second three-year term, continuing as CFSC's Treasurer.

With various "retirements" from the Committee, there are a number of changes in clerks. Lesley Robertson is now serving as the Clerk of CFSC, with Merrill Stewart continuing to provide some transitional support as he steps down. Penni Burrell

(Annapolis Valley MM) and Rob Hughes (Vancouver MM) are taking over responsibilities from Lynne Phillips as co-Clerks of CFSC's Aboriginal Affairs program. Lee Webb (Coldstream MM) has been clerk of the Quakers Fostering Justice program since the spring, transitioning in with support from long-time clerk Vince Zelazny. Sheila Havard (Coldstream MM) also took up clerking duties in the spring, replacing Tamara Fleming (Winnipeg MM) as clerk of our Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee, as Tamara works on a PhD.

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