



Annual Report 2010 – 2011

Clerk's Report

This has been a challenging year for Canadian Friends Service Committee. We continue to deal with a changing financial landscape, which has impacted the scope of our work, and appears to be ending a valuable program. Our staff has been coping with serious illness. Members of the Committee, and Friends in general, struggle to find the time and energy to fully commit to service work due to increasing demands of busy lives.

As we mark CFSC's 80th year, we are mindful of our rich legacy of service in difficult times. This May's *The Canadian Friend*, focuses on and celebrates CFSC's eight decades of service work. It recounts many of our past accomplishments and points to the centrality of social witness of Canadian Friends. Special thanks to Don Alexander who, in addition to his work as CFSC Treasurer, spent many long hours assembling material for it.

This year we celebrated a number of successes in our project work: the federal government's endorsement of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the favourable decision by the Federal Court of Appeal in the Jeremy Hinzman case, and the approval of the 'Justice is Possible' Minute (Minute 79) at CYM 2010. We hope to secure CIDA funding this year to expand the successful 'Care to Care' project, as it concludes its work in Iraq, to begin anew in Burundi.

Much of the credit for our achievements goes to our partners, who bring expertise, local knowledge and persistence to our shared projects. This year we have worked very hard to nurture this most valuable resource. Bridging distances created by geography, culture and personality creates the joy that fuels our work.

While celebrating success, CFSC continues to cope with changing financial circumstances. We have been blessed with several large bequests from non-Quaker supporters that have helped compensate for another year of reduced donations. Our Annual Appeal, while more successful than 2009, again failed to reach our target by 7.5% (\$15,000). CFSC Finance Committee continues to work to find a sustainable way to combine unanticipated bequests with a reliable, but possibly shrinking, pool of donations. CFSC Program Committees have been asked to consider program reductions, where practical, to bring our commitments in line with our income.

Sadly the Quaker International Affairs Programme, which is funded separately, has not been able to secure sufficient financial support to continue. Pending an answer to a final grant application, QIAP has been placed in dormancy. The office in Ottawa has been closed, the program's business affairs have been finalized and staff laid off. At its June meeting CFSC Executive Committee will make a recommendation

to Canadian Yearly Meeting about QIAP's future. We offer our profound thanks to Tasmin Rajotte and Carol Dixon for nine years of transformative work that has improved the lives of some of the poorest people on earth.

During the last quarter of the year one member of staff fell ill and required surgery while overseas (recovering well); another has had to go on medical leave for probably all of 2011; and QIAP moved toward probable closure for funding reasons. While most stressful and challenging for the staff (and committees) directly affected, it has also required a steep learning curve into uncharted territory for other staff and the Personnel Committee as well as an expanded workload for remaining staff. We appreciate your prayers for us all during this demanding and stressful time, particularly Meredith Egan and Tasmin Rajotte who have so faithfully served Friends.

Canadian Yearly Meeting in Session is always a time of renewal for CFSC, and that is even truer this year than most. One third of CFSC members have reached the end of their second three-year term, opening the way for an influx of new enthusiastic Friends to take up the joyful challenge of translating the leadings of Canadian Friends into action.

Since this is my last report to Canadian Yearly Meeting as clerk of CFSC I'd like to thank CYM for extending me the privilege of serving the Committee in this capacity, the CFSC staff for their good-humored support, and the members of the CFSC Board for their time and dedication.

Merrill Stewart, Clerk

Treasurer's Report

The rate of donations in the annual appeal (reflected in undesignated donations) was improved over the previous year's experience which came at a time of general financial malaise. In 2010-11 donations were 7% short of the budgeted expectation. Focused fund-raising is receiving continuing attention to improve revenues.

Unrealized gains on investments held for trading have further helped restate our deficiency of revenues over expenses to (\$51,180). The bequest fund transfer to CFSC general fund has then served to eliminate that deficiency.

We have also been able to continue increasing the Income Fund by an annual amount based on the rate of inflation. The practice had been put in abeyance for two years amidst the severe general financial situation at that time.

CFSC has graciously received significant income from bequests in the past few years (mostly from non-Quaker donors). The Bequest Fund has provided revenue to offset shortfalls in donations and other funding sources. Bequests received in the 2010-11 fiscal year totaled \$548,141. The balance of the Bequest Fund at the end of the fiscal year was \$810,912.

Appreciating that some bequests have been relatively large, a new CFSC policy (referred to in the audit notes) spreads amortization of large bequests (over \$50,000) over a ten-year period. Smaller bequests continue to be amortized at 20% per annum. This use of bequest funds is intended to balance the active application of funds to current activities as well as attending to the longer-term financial well being.

CIDA grants were \$13,588, as the project in question has to adjust its program delivery timetable, so limited activity happened last year. In the previous five years CIDA grants averaged \$62,000 per annum. The Peace and Sustainability programme expenditures, which exceed other programme areas (see Statement of Operations) have been predicated, to a degree, on the earlier vitality of CIDA funding. New CIDA priorities and processes have been a challenge, with two applications rejected last year. Another is

under consideration presently. CFSC is analyzing this situation and how it will address potential loss of this funding source.

The Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP) during its ten years of operation was a special programme for which CFSC had oversight. CFSC has reported in a special column in the audit on QIAP revenue and expenditures. QIAP was laid down in August 2011 by Canadian Yearly Meeting and their final financial records will appear in the 2011-2012 audited financial statements.

CFSC is thankful to all those who financially support our work. CFSC has the financial, staff and volunteer well-being that have helped us avoid difficult readjustments that many other service organizations have been forced to make.

Don Alexander, Treasurer

General Secretary's Report:

Administration: CFSC's administrative committees (finance, fundraising, executive, general meeting, personnel, nominating) enable the program work to flow smoothly. The Treasurer will report separately on the finances and the Clerk on the Executive and Board Meetings.

CFSC, again, had a shortfall in its Annual Appeal (\$15,000, compared to \$20,000 last year). Bequests saved us. CFSC has a new Fundraising Committee that will focus on strengthening the relationship with Friends and Meetings. As you know, CFSC raises all program and operating funding; CYM funds travel of CFSC members to our twice-yearly Meetings.

Working with CYM Personnel Policy Committee, CFSC coordinated a forum to consider new ways to address remuneration for staff that is consistent with the vision in the CYM policy – the current model is cumbersome and not particularly adept at meeting that needs and realities of most staff. It was an excellent day and a revised, costed model will come to Representative Meeting in the fall. Personnel Committee (and staff) has had a heavy load so far in 2011, as the Clerk's report suggests.

As August approaches, I am keenly aware that CFSC has no Associate Clerk and that our current, most able and wonderful Clerk, Merrill Stewart, will be rotating off. While they have a lot of responsibility, the clerks within CFSC are fortunate to have staff support, and the relationships that have developed have been a real gift. Staff are deeply concerned about the ever-expanding workload of CFSC and level of engagement by Friends on and off the committee. The issue is not exclusive to CFSC; indeed, it seems to be a malaise affecting many committees and Meetings. I have often wondered if it reflects our need to worship more, to listen for the Voice Within more deeply, so that we make decisions and commitments that we are able to carry and fulfill (individually and collectively). Within CFSC, this "malaise" adds stress to the staff, both in terms of added workload and in seeking to honour and respect what our role is and is not. CFSC has started to look at these issues and, perhaps the financial challenges will help us focus more.

Assigned program work:

Conscientious objection: Again, no US war resisters were deported last year – many are appealing their refugee decisions. The Federal Court of Appeal case of Jeremy Hinzman returned an excellent decision, and it's clear that the content of our brief submitted to the Court has an impact (given the decision's content). This paves the way for other resisters who were refused humanitarian and compassionate grounds status, as the key point was that their sincerely held beliefs has to be considered as a part of the process (and had not been). Jeremy has filed a new H&C application. There have been other court successes; Alyssa Manning is a formidable lawyer working with the resisters. Bill C-440 was defeated due to absentee MPs from supportive parties; it was a blow, without question. With a new majority government, it is likely that the court process is the resisters' only hope, but this has yet to have full

consideration. Before the Bill was voted on last September, the educational video about C-440 was released (funded by CFSC, Toronto MM, United Church, MCC Canada); it is being revised for use in future campaigns. We reprinted our counter-recruitment brochure as more Friends (and others) are using it at the local level to educate youth about their choices.

Partnerships: CFSC funds and facilitates Friends involvement with KAIROS; Ploughshares; the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group; various Councils for International Cooperation; and the Canadian Council for Refugees (see other “documents in advance” or committee reports below). CFSC funds the Quaker UN Offices (and works closely with them on some issues) and is working with the Quaker agencies worldwide in hopes of discerning a common Quaker international affairs agenda. See separate reports for Kairos and Ploughshares.

CFSC has three program committees and a special project under our care (QIAP); reports follow.

Jane Orion Smith

Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee

Friends at CYM in 2010 endorsed QAAC’s commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with a Minute of Record. Friends formally acknowledged the work accomplished and our ongoing work on implementation. This work has many dimensions, locally, nationally and internationally.

A major priority has been human rights education. QAAC’s Program Coordinator Jennifer Preston plays a leadership role with an ad hoc coalition of Indigenous and human rights organizations. We collectively prepare public and press statements, educational materials, give workshops and dialogue with government and UN officials. Highlights included a workshop with Roger Jones of the Chiefs of Ontario to the Ontario College of Teachers, and by invitation of Ellen Gabriel, a day with Paul Joffe of the Grand Council of the Crees in the Mohawk community of Kanehsatake.

For the first time we sent Jennifer as our representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) where they are negotiating a regional human rights instrument, the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This instrument will build on the UN one, and it is critical that States do not undermine rights already affirmed.

In partnership with QIAP, we continued our monitoring of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) working group that produced a protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. States did use this legally binding forum to attempt to undermine the UN Declaration. Our work continues to hold States accountable to rights entrenched in international law. Sadly, Canada is one of the most obstructionist governments in this work.

Taking everyone by surprise, in November 2010 the federal government announced its endorsement of the UN Declaration. However, their qualifying language raises questions about the sincerity of this action. QAAC has worked for years with many Indigenous partners for Canada’s endorsement. Now, we need to see a change in the government’s policies and positions towards Indigenous peoples’ human rights.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) held the first national gathering in Winnipeg in June 2010; Elaine Bishop represented Friends. QAAC is working to ensure that Friends can engage with both the TRC and the ongoing work on reconciliation. Lynne Phillips represented Friends in the organizing of a powerful regional TRC event on Vancouver Island.

In May 2010, Jennifer attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with Lynne Phillips and Monica Walters-Field. Our delegation represented Canadian Friends, and also FWCC. Jennifer also represented QAAC and FWCC at the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva (July 2010). As part of our service, at both of these international bodies we hosted gatherings at Quaker House for Indigenous and state representatives to have off the record dialogues. This relationship building is deeply valued by all participants.

QAAC is working with domestic partners in supporting the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which is asked to examine the discrimination of funding for services for children on First Nations reserves. The federal government is using technicalities and loopholes to avoid its responsibilities. More children are in care than at the height of the residential school system era. This shameful crisis can be reversed if the government would engage with solutions rather than try to avoid liability.

QAAC committee members and associates work with our staff person from coast to coast. Penni Burrell has been engaging and educating Friends and others on the East coast on both the Declaration and reconciliation work. Lynne Phillips' local service with Aboriginal Neighbours on Vancouver Island was enhanced with her international experience. Don Alexander, Sarah Dick and Rob Hughes all engage locally, bringing the local to our national meetings, and taking the national and international back to their respective regions. We continue to be blessed with our knowledge and supportive associates, Monica Walters-Field, Elaine Bishop, Phyllis Fischer, Bill Curry and Dick Preston.

Quaker International Affairs Programme

In the international arena there has been an intense political push to have an internationally legally binding regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization under the UN *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD). During 2010, four international negotiating meetings were held with the final adoption of the *Nagoya Protocol* in Japan. At the request of indigenous representatives, QIAP facilitated meetings and dialogues related to the negotiations, monitored negotiations, and commissioned an analysis of the draft negotiating text. This work was done in collaboration with QAAC. There are substantive and procedural injustices in the *Protocol*, in relation to Indigenous peoples' human rights. Two joint statements with these concerns were signed by a number of Indigenous and civil society organizations, including CFSC, and distributed to all negotiators at the second and third meeting and were accepted as official CBD negotiation information documents. Work on this continues as countries begin to ratify the *Protocol*.

Hard copies of the Spanish translation of the book *The Future Control of Food: A guide to international negotiations and rules on intellectual property, biodiversity and food security* were distributed to negotiators at the CBD, World Trade Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and various civil society organizations. The Chinese translation of the book is being done by the Centre of Chinese Agricultural Policy (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing); printed copies should be ready by June 2011 when a number of book launch activities are being planned in Beijing, China. Given the recent wave of political upheaval in the Middle East, the status on the Arabic and Persian (Farsi) translations of the book are unclear.

QIAP provided oversight for a joint QIAP-QUNO Geneva intern, Lana Robinson, during the summer of 2010. Lana brought with her much energy and enthusiasm for the work. She was of great assistance to QIAP and learned a lot from being an observer at the CBD meetings. Lana drafted a beautiful information brochure on the commons and it will still be made electronically available on QIAP's website.

QIAP was accepted to present two workshops at the 13th Biennial Conference for the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) in Hyderabad, India, in January 2011. In collaboration with the Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire (UK) one workshop was on "Changing

perspectives within policy processes.” Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, the second workshop that was planned in collaboration with QAAC on “Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” had to be cancelled. The IASC Secretariat has requested that if possible the second workshop be held at other IASC meetings. The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) in India hosted Tasmin to attend the conference. The conference was truly an amazing experience with almost 700 participants. Unlike other scholarly association meetings, this meeting is composed of an incredible mix of people (academics, activists, civil society organizations, politicians).

A significant proportion of time was also spent researching grant foundations, speaking with funders, preparing and submitting letters of intent and grant proposals for funding for different pieces of the work. Unfortunately, QIAP was unable to secure funding. A decision was made to close the office by the end of April 2011. If no significant funding is realized before June 11, a decision has been made to ask the CFSC Executive Meeting meets to lay down the programme. In turn, CYM will be asked to lay it down as well at our August 2011 session. This represents the accountability structure that has been in place since 2001 and that was approved through the development years 1998-2001.

This Canadian Quaker witness for justice in international relations has had many accomplishments over the past nine years and there is much to celebrate. Much work was done by Friends across the country through the stages of development following the Quaker seminar in 1998 and since launching the programme in 2001. QIAP publications continue to inform and energize initiatives for justice in international negotiations related to intellectual property rights, food security, biodiversity and traditional knowledge around the world. Some of this work, and the new work commenced on the commons, will continue through partners in various parts of the world. We give thanks for all of this.

Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee

Quakers Fostering Justice continues to discern, develop, and encourage responses to crime and harm that are creative, healing, and empowering. We note the great energy of several Meetings in Canada around prison issues, such as the closing of prison farms and prison expansion.

At Canadian Yearly Meeting in session 2010, Friends approved Minute 79, *Justice is Possible*, with unity in the Spirit. This minute affirms Friends’ commitment to a compassionate response to crime, and states our particular concern for victims of crime.

Cultivating legislative change: We intend to animate the *Justice is Possible* Minute through video-making and workshops. It was sent to all MPs in Canada in early November, 2010.

We work in partnership with the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) with whom we issued a public letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in January 2011 concerning the government’s plans for increased incarceration. We also partnered with CCJC in producing materials alongside inmates for this year’s Restorative Justice Week.

We are glad of our new membership in the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice, whose mission is "to enhance the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a just, fair, equitable and effective justice system."

Education: We continue to share our four information sheets providing facts about the Canadian legal system with Friends, ecumenical partners, justice colleagues, and inmates, and encourage Meetings to do the same. They are available on the CFSC website.

We join New Brunswick MM in celebrating the beginnings of the John McKendry Peace Centre with the new offering of a Peace Studies Minor at Saint Thomas University. A course in Peace Studies was announced, and 60 student spaces were quickly filled. QFJ supports this Centre in memory of the Friend and associate member for which it is named.

International work: In the fall of 2010 we welcomed to Toronto two QFJ partners from Happy Grove High School in Jamaica for educational training in peace and non-violence. We continue to support this project alongside the Quaker Jamaica Concerns of Toronto MM and Friends in Jamaica.

Grassroots frontline support: QFJ welcomes opportunities to work with and assist Friends enhancing local initiatives to do justice. Small grants are available to Friends and other agencies whose work particularly speaks to Quaker concerns for compassionate approaches to Fostering Justice. This year we supported the Peterborough Community Chaplaincy through a grant to make their transition house wheelchair accessible.

QFJ members: Chris Abbott, Sarah Chandler, Maggie Knight, Michael Paetzold, Lee Webb (Clerk), Vince Zelazny. Program Coordinator: Meredith Egan (interim Program Coordinator: Rachel Singleton-Polster).

Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee (QPASCC)

For some time, QPASCC has been struggling with its workload, and gave considerable attention this year to examining its program with a view to workload reduction. Two “low activity” overseas project partnerships were laid down: Potters for Peace (Nicaragua) and a peacebuilding project with Burundi Yearly Meeting. We are continuing our relationship with Burundi Yearly Meeting: we have applied to CIDA for funding to extend the Care to Care maternal and child health continuing medical education project into Burundi.

In our Canada-based work, we need to assess Canadian Friends’ willingness and capacity to engage in advocacy. If there is little, we may as well lay most of this down. Advocacy with respect to Canada’s role in Afghanistan is an example. In September, great effort was put into organizing a conference call for Friends across the country to exchange ideas with three guest speakers from disarmament advocacy groups. There was disappointingly low participation from Friends. In December, a call for civil liberties advocacy on the “Secure Flight” Bill was posted on CFSC’s facebook page, and in a special issue of the e-newsletter; there was an encouraging response from Friends saying that they would e-mail their MP or pass the request on to their MM, but we had little confirmation that this happened. We realized that the key thing that we need to establish is **two-way** responsiveness. So, through the CFSC General Secretary, we are now trying to establish a network of “CFSC Representatives” in all MMs and WGs who will draw attention to CFSC calls for action, and also respond back to CFSC about what action has taken place. In addition, we ask Friends who do write e-mails to their MPs to put cfsc@quakerservice.ca into the bcc field of their message.

Our decisions about how we manage or lay down QPASC Canada-based advocacy work will depend on whether, after a year, the CFSC Representative Network has helped improve responsiveness. Most of the themes for Canada-based policy advocacy work that are currently on the QPASC program are there because they are strategic to reducing armed conflict and building a culture of peace, often identified as such by overseas partners:

- 1) Regulating extractive industries to respect human rights and not contribute to financing armed conflict;
- 2) Returning respect for civil liberties in Canada at least to the pre-Anti-Terrorism Act level;

- 3) Redirecting Canada's policies towards Afghanistan and Palestine-Israel to be peacebuilding rather than armed-conflict sustaining;
- 4) Nuclear Disarmament (collaborating with Murray Thomson, Associate Member); and
- 5) Regulating of Biotechnology (collaborating with Anne Mitchell, Associate Member)

This year, we assisted the Yearly Meeting in discernment regarding uranium issues, and expect to support that working group in following Yearly Meeting's consensus. Lastly, we cooperate with Conscience Canada and the Yearly Meeting's Ad Hoc Peace Tax Committee. We provide a significant grant to the Toronto Monthly Meeting Refugee Committee to help them operate their resettlement service and do their refugee policy advocacy work.

Canadian Friends have expressed concern about all of these issues except the first through Yearly Meeting minutes. QPASCC has one part-time staff person and a mandate that includes facilitating Friends' contribution to peace and development overseas. If Yearly Meeting's concerns on Canadian policy are going to have tangible results, Friends across the country have to take action.

We ask Friends to consider the following QPASCC minute from our March General Meeting:

Our committee will only take on projects that we are able to manage effectively. Currently we are stretched beyond our capacity to take on new projects (overseas or Canada-based). Therefore, we encourage Friends to become further involved in existing projects, and to manage new projects at Monthly Meeting level.

Our on-going overseas projects include:

- 1) The Care to Care medical training work in Iraq in partnership with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (with funding contributions from CIDA and the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation. Completion: December 2011);
- 2) The Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement's independent news service, www.imemc.org, which produces daily and weekly audio reports (podcasts), "Palestine Today" and "This Week in Palestine";
- 3) The Alliance for Self Reliant Peacebuilding which uses a unique methodology for strengthening peacebuilding actions in communities in Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- 4) Bududa Development Center in Uganda, which runs a vocational training school and a support program for orphans;
- 5) Project Muinda, the service committee of Kinshasa Monthly Meeting in D. R. Congo, which coordinates a neighbourhood-based network of "peace cells", and is mobilizing to provide election observation and incident-de-escalation in this election year; and
- 6) The African Great Lakes Initiative, which runs workcamps and internships to support peacebuilding work by local Quakers in Eastern D. R. Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya.

All of these projects are initiatives of Friends (individuals or groups) who work with the support of their Monthly Meetings to follow leadings of the Spirit. QPASCC members: Peter Atack, Elizabeth Block, Bob Clarke, Nat Egan-Pimblett, Tamara Fleming, Sheila Havard, Samson Madera Nashon, and Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg. Program Coordinator: Gianne Broughton.

August 18, 2011