



Canadian Friends
Service Committee
(QUAKERS)

Annual Report 2011 – 2012

Clerk's Report

The staff of CFSC has continued in a busy year where there has been a complete re-build of the website, new initiatives in fundraising, plans for more contact with monthly meetings across Canada as well as our program work. We encourage Meetings to invite the General Secretary to visit and offer a program; two visits have happened this spring, and two more are planned. Staff has also had extra work due to the continuing illness of one staff member.

Personnel Committee has hired a temporary person to help in the absence of the staff member and is also beginning to work on a new job description for the office administrator as Helen Melbourne has given notice for the end of November 2012. The General Secretary's job description is also being revised to better meet the needs of CFSC. Both will place more focus on communications, outreach, and fundraising.

Work has been done by the board and CFSC nominating committee to make information about service on CFSC more accessible to those considering service, as well as Monthly Meeting nominating committees. See the "contact us" section ("board" sub-category) of the www.quakerservice.ca for more information. This work has come out of our realization that some Friends have not understood the requirements of service in advance of being appointed.

The newly structured fundraising committee has been very active. Donations have risen from last year but we did not reach our goal for undesignated donations for the year ended March 31. We have budgeted for a small deficit in 2012-2013. As you may have read in the *E-Newsletter*, CFSC has had four projects refused by CIDA in the past three years; the reasons behind this include a change to a highly competitive model that seems to advantage large agencies, no access to feedback from one's CIDA officer during the development phase of the proposal, an unpredictable schedule for calls for proposals, and changed thematic priorities and priority countries. We hope to continue our relationship with CIDA but we have a moratorium until things change within so that small agencies are better accommodated.

The 2012-2013 federal budget allocated funds to investigate charities that are transgressing the rules around allowable political activity. CFSC complies with the legal obligations of charities with regards to allowable political activity (note: some is not allowed, ex. partisan politics), but will also be monitoring the situation in case there are changes in how political activity is defined by Charities Directorate, etc. CFSC has a document available for Friends and Meetings regarding the rules for charities undertaking political activity. You are welcome to request this from the office (info@quakerservice.ca).

At one time, CFSC had one part-time staff person with most of the work being done by committee members. The needs, work and capacity of CFSC grew over the years, as did the staff team to support this work. With the hiring of staff, some program committees developed a tendency to let staff do a disproportionate amount of the work, largely as CFSC members felt that they were not sufficiently knowledgeable to be able to carry the work of the committee (other than providing direction to staff and making decisions on positions, etc.). However, as you read the reports from the program committees, this situation is happily turning around.

Lesley Robertson, Clerk

Treasurer's Report

Bequests received in the past two years have secured the ability of CFSC to continue budgeted program, administration and staff levels this year and into the near future.

Funding from the Federal Government's Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) concluded in the fiscal year and prospects for CIDA to provide funding in the future is problematic.

Expenses came in slightly less than what had been budgeted, attesting to CFSC prudent planning of activities and recognizing our focused capacities.

We are pleased to see an increase in undesignated donations by about 2.76% this year, which continues the trend from the previous year. It will be recalled that CFSC was becoming concerned with a period of decreasing donations. Undesignated donations during the fiscal year – including those in response to the Annual Appeal – were \$190,437. Efforts continue to bolster donations and CFSC's relationship with new and existing donors.

Overall, CFSC funds increased by about \$314,000, this includes bequests received of about \$420,000. Without the bequest, CFSC funds held in the four envelopes – Fischer Income Fund, Bequest Fund, General Fund and Alternative Investment Fund – would have decreased by the difference of \$106,000.

The transfer from the Bequest Fund into the General Fund to finance ongoing activities for this past year totaled \$138,818.

CFSC has a prudent policy for the use of bequests. The policy is designed to avoid hoarding funds, while at the same time allow for the spending of those funds in a controlled, maintainable manner over a period of future years. Bequests of less than \$50,000 are amortized from the Bequest Fund to the General Fund at a rate of 20% per year. Bequests of more than \$50,000 are amortized at a rate of 10% per annum. The Bequest Fund at year-end totaled \$1,092,852.

CFSC is grateful for the financial and prayerful support it receives from Canadian Friends, attenders, and Meetings as well as a substantial number of non-Quaker donors. We encourage Friends to consider monthly donations as such contributions provide CFSC with a steady, predictable income stream.

Don Alexander, Treasurer

General Secretary's Report:

CFSC celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2011, which was commemorated in a special issue of *The Canadian Friend*, programming at CYM, and new efforts to deepen our relationship with Meetings including the development of a CFSC Liaison Network. We hope that Liaisons (along with board members) will be a hub for sharing information between CFSC and Meetings so that we can deepen our understanding and support of our mutual work for peace and justice. CFSC's re-established fundraising committee is focusing particularly on the relationship with Friends, and this includes Liaisons.

CFSC completely rebuilt its website this year which can be found at www.quakerservice.ca, a domain name which succinctly describes who we are and what we do. We are integrating more electronic media into our communications work (Facebook, Twitter, video), and this will grow in the years ahead. The General Secretary is also increasing her visitation to Meetings, undertaking educational programming about CFSC's work and Quaker teachings that deepen Friends understanding of the foundations of service work and the testimonies. Invitations to visit are very much welcome!

This year's Annual Appeal reached 93% of our goal (\$205,000) in undesignated donations. We are grateful for this support, as well as that of Meetings that make annual commitments, and those who leave us bequest gifts (which have been a lifesaver in recent years). CFSC has had four CIDA proposals rejected in recent years; we are seeking more information from CIDA about their expectations. As such, CFSC has made moderate program reductions and reduced one staff person's time by a day a week (which was budgeted for CIDA-related work).

Meredith Egan, Quakers Fostering Justice Program Coordinator, continues on medical leave but we hope she will be able to return to work before summer. We have had excellent "back fill" from Rachel Singleton-Polster and Tasmin Rajotte, as well as the committee members. This situation required a deep learning curve on various human resources matters for CFSC Personnel Committee and their support staff. Helen Melbourne, Office Administrator, will be retiring from service in fall 2012; we thank her for her service. The position is being re-envisioned and will be posted by summer (half-time in Toronto). Let me know if you want to receive the posting.

Assigned program work:

Conscientious objection: Operational Bulletin 202 is causing challenges for new and existing US war resisters; there is a campaign to have it rescinded: <http://resisters.ca/operational-bulletin-202/>. Cases continue to wind through the courts. I have been working with the Canadian Council of Churches towards a public statement on conscientious objection, specifically the US war resisters. It is hoped that this will be realized in May 2012. CFSC contributed a small grant towards historical plaques honouring the contributions of conscientious objectors (Quaker, Mennonite, Brethren) in the Niagara region during the War of 1812; there will be a public ceremony in June 2012. Contact me for location information. We have worked cooperatively with Halifax Friends, and others, in their counter-recruitment efforts.

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. CFSC also funds and works in partnership with the Quaker UN Offices on several issues. See separate reports for Kairos and Ploughshares.

CFSC has three program committees; their reports follow.

Jane Orion Smith

Quaker Aboriginal Affairs (QAAC) program committee

The Aboriginal Affairs committee continued work at the local, regional, national and international levels. All our work connects to our commitment to the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Internationally, Jennifer Preston represented CFSC and FWCC at the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and with Monica Walters-Field (Toronto MM) the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In both forums we worked with Indigenous partners in the presentation of oral statements, inclusions of recommendations in the final reports, and hosting a dinner meeting with Indigenous peoples' and State representatives at Quaker House.

Jennifer attended the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) working group that deals with traditional knowledge. Directly related to this, we endorsed a joint submission prepared by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) “Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: Substantive and Procedural Injustices relating to Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights”.

CFSC also added its name to a submission to Environment Canada on the Nagoya Protocol, undertaken by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) as Canada was soliciting opinions as to whether they should sign this new international treaty. As Indigenous peoples have not been consulted and had their positions accommodated, we supported the position that Canada must do that first, and accede to the Treaty at a later date.

We enjoy our active engagement with the ad hoc coalition supporting the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. With this group of Indigenous peoples and human rights partners we develop educational resources, such as the booklet version of the *UN Declaration* and a fact sheet on the *Declaration*. Collectively the ad hoc coalition also produced several statements, including a joint letter dealing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case on First Nations child welfare, a press statement supporting the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group in their case accepted at the Organization of American States Human Rights Commission and a statement for the one-year anniversary of Canada’s “endorsement” of the *UN Declaration*. We remain deeply concerned that Canada’s positions are not in support of the *Declaration* – and that the endorsement was merely a public relations exercise. Our experience is that Canada continues to devalue the *Declaration* at every opportunity.

QAAC/CFSC engaged with partners from the ad hoc coalition in Canada’s review by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). This included participation in a workshop hosted by the Assembly of First Nations. About 80 people from Indigenous Nations and organizations were there. This was highly useful and shows the depth of concern around the government’s lack of engagement with Indigenous peoples. With our partners we submitted alternative reports to CERD and travelled to Geneva for the review.

Educational presentations included a regional meeting of Amnesty International, Ryerson University, Hamilton Monthly Meeting, and with Paul Joffe (Grand Council of the Crees) a follow up workshop in the Mohawk community of Kanehsatake on implementation of the *UN Declaration*. Community based workshops continue to be very rewarding – the level of engagement and desire for information are positive reflections of our work. Using material from such workshops, we were proud to be asked by the Assembly of First Nations to speak in a live webinar, broadcast from their national offices in Ottawa. This three-hour presentation remains available on line.

In response to the media explosion with regard to the northern Cree community of Attawapiskat, CFSC worked with Amnesty and KAIROS on a joint statement. The ad hoc coalition had agreed that this was an opportunity for the non-Indigenous voices to speak themselves. The statement was circulated widely – including to the media, however, it drew little response.

QAAC members continue to engage in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – co-clerk Penni Burrell represented Friends at the National event in Halifax. We were blessed with the presence of residential school survivor Lottie May Johnson, who came and spoke to Friends at CYM. Linda Kreitzer collaborated with Amnesty International and the University of Alberta in giving the opportunity for two Lubicon youth to present the Lubicon situation at the International Week at the University of Alberta in January.

QAAC members: Penni Burrell and Rob Hughes (co-clerks), Linda Kreitzer, Don Alexander, and Lana Robinson. We continue to be blessed with our knowledgeable and supportive associate members: Monica Walters-Field, Elaine Bishop, Phyllis Fischer, Bill Curry and Dick Preston.

Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee

The Quakers Fostering Justice program committee has been without a program coordinator for over a year, due to the extended sick leave of program staff. During that time we were well served by Rachel Singleton-Polster who, after being a summer intern, returned as interim program staff. Following the completion of Rachel's contract with CFSC, we are pleased to report that former QIAP program representative, Tasmin Rajotte, agreed to serve as interim half-time program coordinator for our committee. This extended period of time without a regular program associate has caused us to reflect on our dependency on program staff, and the need for QFJ committee members to commit to taking on more of the work ourselves.

In accordance with this reflection, we engaged in a "Needs and Offers" activity as a committee in order that we could better understand what each QFJ member needs in order to serve as an active committee member, and the talents, interests and leadings that members are bringing to the work of the committee. We have divided the work among committee members according to expertise, interests and availability. Lee Webb will monitor developments in domestic legislation. Rachel Urban-Shipley will do research on penal abolition, as well as monitoring developments in youth justice. Maggie Knight will contribute her talents in editing and design to committee projects and outreach. Dick Cotterill will link QFJ to chaplaincy and corrections issues, as well as AVP in institutions. Sarah Chandler will focus on restorative justice, AVP in community, and the international dimensions of the work with other Quaker agencies working on criminal justice issues. We welcome new member Glenn Morison, who is a prison chaplain. Associate members are: Elaine Bishop (North Point Douglas Women's Centre, AVP); Vince Zelazny (Jamaica Project, AVP, John McKendy Peace Centre); Kate Johnson (federal prison chaplaincy); and Keith Maddock (provincial prison visitation, Ontario).

QFJ continues to receive grant applications for various justice related projects. Among the projects funded this year are: a Walking School Bus service for school children by the North Point Douglas Women's Centre in Winnipeg (MB); "Instruments of Change" which provides music classes for incarcerated women in the Fraser Valley (BC); support for the creation of a local promotional video for Alternatives to Violence programming (Thousand Islands MM, ON); support for Spring House, a welcoming place where families and friends can stay while visiting persons who are incarcerated in the Springhill Institution (Springhill, NS); and a column on issues of peace, non-violence, forgiveness and reconciliation in "Out of Bounds" magazine, which is produced by inmates at William Head Institution (n BC). The Happy Grove School project in Jamaica is on hold pending further discernment by all of the parties (Happy Grove School, Toronto Jamaica Concerns Committee and QFJ) on the way forward.

In terms of emerging legislation, QFJ crafted an intervention on behalf of CFSC in response to the tabling of Bill C-10, the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*, which was forwarded to the Senate Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, party leaders and shared with QFJ partner organizations.

QFJ members and associates serve with several partner organizations including the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC), the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAAJC), and the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada (IFC). QFJ also represents CFSC on the International Quaker Criminal Justice Liaison Group, a group of Quaker bodies around the globe who are working in areas of similar concern related to justice issues.

Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities (QPASC) program committee

Workload reduction continues to be something we have to grapple with, along with a reduction in resources. For one thing, CIDA's policies for funding have changed radically. We are one of many organizations whose recent applications (four of them) have been turned down. In light of the very considerable time and effort required to put together those applications, we shall have to think long and hard before we apply to CIDA again. Indeed, they seem to require work that can only be done by staff on the ground overseas, for which we do not have the resources. Fortunately, we will not have to drop any overseas partnerships, but one will be much scaled-back.

Ongoing and completed projects:

- The Care to Care project, on maternal and child health in Iraqi Kurdistan, is completed. But CIDA refused our proposal for a second project to continue the work in Iraq and to do similar work in Burundi.
- The Alliance for Self Reliant Peacebuilding uses a unique methodology for strengthening peacebuilding actions in communities in Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- Bududa Development Centre in Uganda runs a vocational training secondary school and a support program for orphans. They hope to have charitable status for their own Canadian charity by the fall.
- Project Muinda, the service committee of Kinshasa Monthly Meeting in D. R. Congo, coordinates a neighbourhood-based network of "peace cells". It organized election observation and incident-de-escalation for the election in 2011. CFSC supported five Friends participating as observers. CFSC member Sheila Havard, who sent comprehensive reports. The election was chaotic and the results dubious, but the work was worth doing.
- The Africa Great Lakes Initiative runs workcamps and internships to support peacebuilding work by local Quakers in Eastern D. R. Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya.
- The Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement's independent news service, www.imemc.org, produces daily and weekly audio reports (podcasts), "Palestine Today" and "This Week in Palestine".
- We provide a significant grant to the Toronto Monthly Meeting Refugee Committee to help them operate their resettlement service and undertake refugee policy advocacy work.
- Palestine/Israel: We helped to sponsor Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta's book tour with *Refusing to be Enemies*. We shall hold a SIG at CYM following a request from Ramallah MM, and Kairos Palestine, to consider supporting Boycott/Divestment/Sanctions (BDS).
- FUN (Friends Uranium and Nuclear working group) is involved in several projects, e.g. a global Walk for a Nuclear-Free Future, planned for 2013; a conference on mining and health in Mali (Africa) in March, which Dale Dewar attended; a symposium in Saskatoon in June 2013 on uranium, Indigenous health, and land issues; and other educational work.

Partnerships:

- Conscience Canada: they work for a peace tax option for conscientious objectors.
- The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group: a coalition of groups that address the effect of current legislation and policies on civil liberties.
- Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches: Anne Mitchell is our Associate Member and CYM representative. We would like to develop a Quaker statement on synthetic biology, a growing concern.
- Quaker Institute for the Future: Anne Mitchell is working on this as well. CFSC has now formally partnered with QIF on a project to produce a booklet on crops, livestock, and health.
- Project Ploughshares: strengthening peace advocacy and practices in the Christian churches.

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. QPASC members: Elizabeth Block, Tamara Fleming, Sheila Havard, Samson Madera Nashon, Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg, and Fred Bass.

April 26, 2012