

Friends engage with Sisters in Spirit

By Penni Burrell and Rob Hughes

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) launched the national Sisters in Spirit Campaign in March 2004 to raise public awareness of the alarmingly high rates of violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. This campaign has grown and partnered with many Indigenous and human rights organizations. The annual vigils, held every October, help educate non-Aboriginal people about the critical situation of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee of CFSC has supported Sisters in Spirit in a variety of ways. In October 2012, committee members on both sides of the country actively participated in local events.

In BC, Rob Hughes went to the Sisters in Spirit vigil at Douglas College in New Westminster. The Indigenous participants started the ceremony with drumming, and young women came forward to speak about lost family members, whose memories they honoured.

Lorelei Williams has an auntie who went missing from the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver (DTES) in 1998. When Lorelei turned around to show us her auntie's image on her T-shirt it was instantly clear - Lorelei looks identical, and is about the same age her auntie was when she disappeared. We ended the vigil with everyone in the crowd turning on electric mini-candles and entering into a moment of silence. The table, set out with petitions to sign and cards to send to the Prime Minister, also contained copies of the *UN Declaration* booklet that CFSC co-published, available for the taking.

Immediately after the vigil participants were invited to the



MARK SLIPP

The campaign to raise awareness about alarmingly high rates of violence against Indigenous women, and to honour those missing or murdered, is a fitting focus for an Idle No More event in Wolfville, NS in January 2013.

Aboriginal Gathering Place, a beautiful multipurpose facility used as a classroom, study space, student lounge, and venue for traditional ceremonies. Participants heard presentations about three organizations' work in the DTES. The Aboriginal Front Door Society works to restore the respect, dignity and pride of Aboriginal peoples. It offers an accessible storefront meeting place, and provides an entry point to begin the implementation of an Aboriginal-specific drug and alcohol strategy that involves the use of traditional healing practices and teachings. Another presenter spoke about the Sister Watch Project, sponsored by the Vancouver Police Department, which works to combat violence against women in the DTES. Lorelei gave a presentation about Butterflies in Spirit, a dance project she organized to raise awareness of the systematic victimization of Aboriginal women in Canada, and women in the DTES. A video was shown of the dancers performing in the street at Georgia and Granville, the busiest intersection in Vancouver, culminating in lying on

the street wrapped in a white shroud.

Rob came away having learned more about the positive work Aboriginal people are doing to address urban poverty and marginalization in the DTES, in an event only a few blocks from his home.

On the other side of the country, Penni Burrell engaged in other teaching events. In Wolfville Nova Scotia, both at Acadia University and in the town, there were numerous events that encouraged the public to learn about the violence that Aboriginal women experience. There were art installations where traditional ceremonial symbols such as smudge bowls were laid out, encircled by hundreds of women's shoes, each pair of shoes representing a missing Aboriginal woman. Well over 600 women across Canada have been identified as murdered and missing. With drums beating and dramatic presentations of poetry, pictures and biographies of some of the women a vigil and rally drew students and community members. Long-time

Continued on page 7

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

Smoke Signals on the rise

CFSC has a long-standing partnership with Dan and Mary Lou Smoke, supporting their syndicated radio show. *Smoke Signals*, in the words of Dan and Mary Lou, exists to provide a “healing medium” by increasing understanding of Indigenous traditions and knowledge systems. Visit their new and improved website at: <http://bit.ly/SSignals>.

Upcoming AGLI events

CFSC partner, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), is offering opportunities to learn and engage.

From a workcamp in Burundi, to a training in Rwanda on AGLI’s *Healing and Rebuilding Our Community* methodology, to presentations on peace and healing. Find a list at <http://bit.ly/AGLI>.

Gun control in Canada

While the debate rages about gun control in the US, did you know that over the past year Canada has ended the registration of rifles and shotguns, destroyed the records of millions of previously registered firearms (aside from those in Quebec), and stalled on implementing gun markings required under the UN Firearms Protocol? The CBC (<http://bit.ly/GunRegistry>) reports that gun lobbyists are pushing the federal government for further deregulation. Concerned about the potential for weakened gun controls to increase gun violence? The Coalition for Gun Control offers information and action ideas: <http://bit.ly/CoalitionforGunControl>.

Peace Tax season almost here

As the time approaches to file your taxes, CFSC reminds those who feel called to ensure that their taxes are not used to fund war or other violent purposes that you can file a Peace Tax Return through our friends at Conscience Canada. Find the return at: <http://www.consciencecanada.ca/>.

Write to Kimberly Rivera

Conscientious objector to the Iraq war Kim Rivera is still being held at Fort Carson military base in Colorado awaiting trial. For readers interested in sending messages of support to Kim, they can be delivered through the

following address: Kim Rivera, c/o All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903, USA.

CCJC turns 40

“Be the Light” was title of the address given by Pierre Allard at the 40th anniversary of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC). Allard discussed the history of corrections in Canada over the last 40 years and challenged churches not to forget the vision of CCJC: “to serve as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections”. He asks, “Have we bought into the Roman values of justice...the justice of the state?” Listen to the address at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8VoezaldPQ>. For more on CCJC, visit: <http://ccjc.ca/>.

Led to serve?

Friends are needed to serve on the boards and committees of faith-based organizations of which Canadian Yearly Meeting is a member. Maybe this opportunity will speak to you, or remind you of a Friend with the gifts to serve? Openings include: the boards of Project Ploughshares, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the Church Council on Justice and Corrections; and the Dignity and Rights, Movement Building, and Partnerships Circles (program committees) of Kairos. For more information, speak with your Meeting's Nominating Committee or contact Peter Stevenson, clerk of CYM Nominating Committee, at nominating-clerk@quaker.ca.

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).

Donations are received with gratitude. We rely on the support of individuals to carry out our work. CFSC issues tax receipts for donations over \$10.

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Meredith Egan, CFSC staff, completes service

CFSC wishes to thank Meredith Egan (Vancouver Meeting) for her service to Friends as Program Coordinator for the Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee of CFSC since 2005. During her service with CFSC, Meredith helped Friends consider broader understandings and implications of “justice” in our lives and communities. She was a valued resource for the development of the “Justice is Possible” minute of CYM 2010, which charted a new direction for Friends: that of the end of costly punitive forms of justice not just prisons, and a considered concern for victims of crime. Meredith raised our awareness of the impact of crime and trauma on its victims and our communities (and the fewer resources available for this focus). She completed her service on January 31st, 2013. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Threats to chaplaincy concern Friends

In the fall, the federal government announced that there would be funding cuts to part-time prison chaplaincy. This quickly became a concern of Friends' Meetings and, in November 2012, Representative Meeting (the body that undertakes Canadian Yearly Meeting business between sessions), approved writing to the Minister of Public Safety regarding this concern. We share this letter with you, and note that Quakers Fostering Justice program committee of CFSC continues to monitor this concern and is working with partners on it. Meetings that wish to take action are encouraged to contact us at qff@quakerservice.ca

Vic Toews, M.P., Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Vic Toews,

I write on behalf of Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker). We write with deep concern about the Federal Government's recent decision to remove funding for part-time chaplains in the prison chaplaincy program in Federal institutions run by Correctional Service of Canada.

Since only one of the current 80 full-time chaplains is not from a Roman Catholic or Protestant church, the decision to cancel all funding for part-time chaplains will particularly affect offenders who are from smaller and non-Christian faith communities. Often these part-time chaplains have had to travel considerable distances in order to carry out the work which they do in the institutions.

Cancelling this funding is a retrograde step from the earlier decision made by Correctional Service of Canada to offer contracts to people from minority faiths in an attempt to live up to the Government's obligations under both Canadian and international law. The financial cost of these chaplaincy programs, including the part-time chaplains with their travel expenses who are to be cancelled, is tiny compared with the returns in public safety, and the contribution which chaplains make to the safe reintegration of offenders into society. The human cost of cancelling paid part-time chaplains is out of proportion to any savings which the Government may claim and will lead to longer-term costs (both human and financial) as more victims are created by poor reintegration of offenders into their communities.

Chaplains serve as a humanizing force within the often difficult correctional environment. They make great contributions to the safety of the environment, minimizing radicalization and intervening in situations before they become violent. They minister to staff and to the families, including family victims whose lived reality is so much more complicated than the offender-victim dichotomy that is pervasive in the media (most crimes take place within families and other well-established relationships). They provide support and access for thousands of volunteers annually which is important work in community engagement and reintegration. And they support events and opportunities to learn about restorative justice, victim empathy and integral practical ideals like restitution, accountability and forgiveness.

Chaplains also provide a much needed pressure valve in the system since they are able to offer a confidential setting to hear expressions of grief, frustration and loneliness. From the very beginning of the program, chaplains have worked for the recognition that offenders need programs for education and preparation to fit them for the time when they take up the challenge of living as law-abiding citizens. However, whilst chaplains work with and help offenders and staff of all faiths (or none), and facilitate the work of volunteers of other faiths to provide services, they are limited by theology, religious law and respect in the spiritual care that they can offer.

Correctional Service of Canada has announced that November 18-25 is "Restorative Justice Week: Diverse Needs; Unique Responses". We really hope that this is more than just a slogan, and that the Government intends to support, morally and financially, the many fine organizations which work for restorative justice in Canada. This week is also an opportunity for the Federal Government to reassess its own responsibilities both to victims and offenders, and to the staff who work in its correctional institutions.

We urge the Federal Government to review its decision with respect to removing support for chaplains. Rather than weaken the system the Government should seek ways of increasing the support to this important service.

In Friendship,



Carol Dixon, Presiding Clerk,
Canadian Yearly Meeting

Changes in health care for refugees confusing and concerning

By Jane Orion Smith

On June 30, 2012, the government approved Bill C-31 (*Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*) to address issues that the government felt compromised the system ("bogus refugees") and refugees themselves (ex. human smuggling). Among other things, the Act changed the terms of use of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFH), the program that refugee claimants access for health services until their status in Canada is determined. The government stated that the changes were about fairness while ensuring safety to public health¹: refugees were getting better benefits than Canadians themselves (ie. extended benefits covering medication, glasses, etc.), people who had lost their cases before the Immigration and Refugee Board (the

main arbitrator of refugee status) should no longer get benefits, but that those still fighting the process would get care if their condition proposed a threat to the public. Cost savings were estimated at \$100 million; the changes took effect on June 30, 2012. It was recently published that, due to advocacy before the Act

was passed, deeper cuts were avoided².

While the legislation went forward despite much intervention by refugee workers and health care practitioners about the changes, concern continues. Refugees often arrive with nothing, so they need extended benefits to pay for medications, etc.; they may or may not

gain access to a work permit promptly and, even if they do, they may not get a job or make enough to cover these costs until they are more established. While there are abuses of the refugee system, the IRB can make mistakes in its decision-making, leaving people who are pursuing their cases through the courts in a hardship position – no healthcare unless a danger to society.

Moreover, there was a lot of confusion about who would still have coverage and who would not, leading some doctors and clinics to turn away people or ask for payment up front (even for services that are still covered, as they are unaware of such coverage).

Drawing on information from the Immigration Canada website³, here is a summary of most categories of who

home care, and long term care are not. Only medication for conditions posing a risk to public health or public safety (ex. contagious diseases, psychotic states involving a risk to others). Many can obtain medication coverage through provincial programs such as social assistance (Ontario, Quebec, BC, Manitoba), health benefit plans (Alberta) or provincial pharmacare plans (Quebec, BC).

Rejected refugee claimants (*i.e. claims rejected by the IRB, and right to judicial review or appeal of that review has been exhausted*) - No IFH coverage of medical services except for conditions posing a risk to public health or public safety. E.g. covered for diagnostic tests, doctors' appointments and medications for contagious diseases like tuberculosis,

HIV-AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, measles, etc. In Quebec, however, refused claimants continue to have the same coverage as refugee claimants until the date of removal.

Refugee claimants from Designated Countries of Origin (DCOs) - As of December 15, 2013, new refugee claimants from Designated Countries of Origin will have no coverage for medical services or for medications except "if needed to diagnose, prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or to diagnose or treat a condition of public safety concern". DCO

are "countries that do not normally produce refugees, but do respect human rights and offer state protection"⁴ – mainly western and eastern European countries⁵. US war resisters and Hungarian Roma fall into this category.

"Hearings on these claims are

View from the front line at Friends House

Eusebio Garcia, the staff person of Quaker Refugee Committee, a CFSC-funded project of Toronto Meeting, is receiving phone calls from people who need to see a doctor but have no health coverage and others who need some financial assistance to cover the cost of their prescriptions. In both cases, people are referred to local health clinics as the refugee office is not equipped to provide for health services or cover fees for prescribed medications.

In the months to come, Eusebio believes that the situation will only get worse as the number of refugees being refused services increases. Eusebio says, "I sincerely hope that the situation does not reached emergency proportions before positive changes can be made in the system to help the refugees. There is no doubt that the path the Minister of Immigration is taking will be far more expensive in the long run than if they were to treat refugees' health problems in on going an immediate cases. To refuse to offer help to those who need such assistance is simply inhumane. Current government policies are increasing the stress and the difficult times that these refugees are enduring. In a country that advocates internationally about respecting human rights it seems hypocritical when the same government locally discriminates against vulnerable groups. Before these changes, the Interim Federal Health Program was providing limited health coverage to refugees; these new proposed changes to the system only cause further concerns for refugees and their families in Canada."

is covered (and not) under the IFH program now:

Refugee claimants (*i.e. submitted a claim and a decision is pending*) - Urgent or essential health services including almost all diagnostic, medical, and hospital services are still covered by the IFH. Elective surgery,

expected to be held within 30 – 45 days after referral of the claim to the [IRB] as opposed to the 60-day timeframe for other refugee claimants. Failed DCO claimants will not have access to the Refugee Appeal Division, and will not be able to apply for a work permit upon arrival in Canada. Every eligible refugee claimant, including those from a [DCO], will continue to receive a hearing at the IRB.”⁶

Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Victims of Human Trafficking who have been issued a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) – GARs have full coverage of all diagnostic, medical and hospital services, as well as expanded coverage including medications and supplemental services (eyeglasses, counseling, home care, etc.) through a combination of federal and provincial coverage. After a year, they have the same coverage as other permanent residents.

Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) - Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) are a form of GAR as they are sponsored by groups of five people or community sponsors (like churches or meetings) through Sponsorship Agreements with the government (For more information, visit: <http://rstp.ca/en/post-arrival/health.html>). The IFH provides urgent or essential medical services and medicines (if a threat to public health). Eligible for provincial health care coverage immediately upon registering with the provincial health plan after arriving in Canada (exempt from the three month waiting period for coverage). Starting this year, it is expected that PSRs will be under a cost-sharing initiative between the government and sponsoring groups wherein they will get expanded health care coverage.

As you can see, while many people do remain covered, there are concerning exceptions. The Canadian Council for Refugees (of which CFSC is a member agency), and medical professions, have taken a leading role in advocating for restoring coverage to more affected persons as well as seeking to restoring some services, such as medication coverage, to some



MICHAELA BEDEK

Health care professionals opposed to federal government cuts to refugee health services have played a significant role in raising the profile of this issue across Canada. Physicians, such as those pictured protesting on May 11, 2013 in front of MP Joe Oliver's office, have mounted a nationwide campaign against the cuts.

groups still getting basic coverage. Here are some concerns from their webpage (visit: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/ifh/>):

Some people are left without health care coverage – ... This includes people waiting for an appointment to make their refugee claim, and people seeking Canada's protection through the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment, having been denied the right to make a refugee claim.

Many people are left without coverage for medications - Refugee claimants in some provinces have no coverage for necessary medications.

Mental health – Coverage of psychotherapy for survivors of torture has been eliminated (for anything other than public safety concerns). This leaves deeply traumatized refugees without specialized support as they get back on their feet.

Difficulty getting access to health care services that are covered by IFH - It has become more difficult for people with IFH coverage to get access to the

services they are entitled to, as there is confusion over who is entitled to what, and some health care providers find it too complicated to deal with.

In addition the Canadian Doctors for Refugee Health have published information from a survey on impacts of the cuts - <http://bit.ly/L6a8NA>.

Last summer, Canadian Yearly Meeting asked CFSC to write to the government to ask for the reinstatement of services available to all people in the process of asserting their rights of state protection under international refugee law. This matter is continuing, and we encourage Friends who have a particular concern about this issue to follow the issue through the Canadian Council for Refugees which is taking a leadership role on this concern.

Jane Orion Smith serves as the General Secretary of CFSC.

¹ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-04-25.asp>

² <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/bureaucrats-forced-into-last-minute-pitch-to-save-some-refugee-health-benefits/article7013934/>

³ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp>

⁴ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp>

⁵ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2012/2012-11-30.asp>

⁶ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp>

Canada's private sector & international cooperation

By Matthew Legge

Since taking office as the Minister of International Cooperation, Julian Fantino has suggested that the non-profit sector (i.e. organizations like CFSC) may be of decreasing importance in providing development assistance and that funding, disbursed largely through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), should focus more on Canada's private sector abroad. At least ten other donor countries fund their private sectors as part of global poverty reduction work, but do so in different ways (for a detailed comparison of donors visit <http://bit.ly/InvestinginDevelopment>).

Debates about international development policies are complex, but often come down to core assumptions. The present governmental strategy appears to rest on the belief that financing Canadian companies (and non-profits who partner with them) will promote economic growth abroad which will lead to poverty reduction. Many question these assumptions, pointing to examples of Canadian resource extraction companies operating within the territories of Indigenous peoples who have not experienced poverty reduction, but

gross human rights abuses and environmental degradation.

Although critics contend that Canada gives aid as much to promote its own political and business interests as to help the poor, for the first time a Minister of International Cooperation has openly admitted this. Fantino stated, "I find it very strange that people would not expect Canadian investments to also promote Canadian values, Canadian business, the Canadian economy, benefits for Canada. This is Canadian money. ... and Canadians are entitled to derive a benefit." (The Globe and Mail, <http://bit.ly/FantinoDefendsCorpShift>). While there are federal government agencies charged with promoting Canadian business interests abroad, CIDA has the exclusive mandate of promoting poverty reduction.

CFSC is a member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), a network that monitors Canada's aid landscape. To learn more, visit: www.ccic.ca.

Matthew Legge is the Administrative and Communications Assistant at CFSC and serves on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation.

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Indigenous rights: Good faith necessary for progress

By Jennifer Preston

CFSC is working closely with Indigenous partners to monitor events unfolding nationally. CFSC participated in the creation of a statement in December (endorsed by more than 40 organizations) which was circulated internationally (MPs, media, social networks). As is Friends practice, we have been engaging with partners at a substantive level and providing support as requested. Members and associates of CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee have engaged with demonstrations and educational events, many under the banner "Idle No More".

In 2012, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution which includes: "... peaceful protests should not be viewed as a threat, and therefore encouraging all States to **engage in an open, inclusive and meaningful dialogue** when dealing with peaceful protests and their causes." [bold added]

The government of Canada needs to commit in good faith to work with Indigenous peoples to reset the First Nations-Crown relationship, which is being seriously impaired in many ways, including: ongoing reliance in litigation on the racist doctrine of discovery to severely limit Aboriginal rights to lands, territories and resources; failure to fully honour and implement Treaties; unilateral actions on domestic policies and legislation



MARK SLIPP

Idle No More, an international phenomenon, is a grassroots movement calling for profound changes in the nation-to-nation relationship between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples.

that potentially affect Aboriginal and Treaty rights; and a devaluation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and internationally.

The meeting between the Prime Minister, members of the federal cabinet and Aboriginal leadership on January 11, 2013 was a step forward. There remains much work towards justice and reconciliation. In an article on international law and human rights, Rosalie S. Abella, Supreme Court of Canada Justice, eloquently stated: "Silence in the face of intolerance means intolerance wins. Indifference is injustice's incubator. ... It's not just what you stand for, it's what you stand

up for ... We need more than the rhetoric of justice. We need justice."¹

This has been a tremendous opportunity for people to learn about Indigenous concerns, however, the amount of information widely circulated in the media, including social media, can create confusion with unintended inaccuracies regarding current realities, policy and law. Our recommendation is to focus on the issues and when questions arise, seek further clarity by seeking out reliable sources of information.

Jennifer Preston is the program coordinator for CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

¹ Rosalie S. Abella, "International Law and Human Rights: The Power and the Pity", [2010] 55 McGill Law Journal. 871, at 881, 883, 886. (Available at: <http://www.erudit.org/revue/mlj/2010/v55/n4/1000787ar.pdf>)

SISTERS IN SPIRIT

Continued from page 1

activist Penni Burrell spoke to the class that organized the events, explaining the need for deeper education on the many issues effecting Aboriginal women's human rights.

A daughter of slain activist Anna Mae Aquash spoke heart-wrenchingly of the tragic circumstances of her mother's death, and of her commitment to honour her mother's legacy. As a proud daughter, she spoke of being able to help Aboriginal

women through becoming an RCMP officer. She stressed the importance of learning about systemic discrimination by working from within the existing systems, and also the importance of serving as a role model for Aboriginal women, to be recognized for their competencies.

At an Idle No More rally in Wolfville in January, Sister in Spirit "Angela Smith" (a pseudonym), a Thunder Bay woman raped and left to die, apparently as a response to Idle No More's demand for recognition of

Indigenous peoples' Treaty and human rights, was recognized. Although government funding of Sisters in Spirit faces severe reduction or elimination, it is by connecting the dots and experiences such as these that awareness of the inequities and tragedies that Indigenous women experience in Canada is continually raised.

Penni Burrell (Annapolis Valley Meeting) and Rob Hughes (Vancouver Meeting) are co-Clerks of CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

We welcome **Pete Cross** (Hamilton Meeting), **Trevor Chandler** (Vernon Meeting) and **Philip Smith** (Yonge Street Meeting) to the board of CFSC. Pete and Trevor have experience in overseas development issues and will serve on the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities (QPASC) program committee. Philip has years of experience with prison and restorative justice issues and will serve on the Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee.

In October, we welcomed **Matthew Legge** to the CFSC staff as the Administration and Communications Assistant. Matt has worked with NGOs

and grassroots groups in Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and South-East Asia. He has a background in program management day-to-day administration tasks. He has helped develop and update non-profit websites and has been responsible for other communications from Twitter and Facebook to mail outs, brochures and annual reports.

Over the fall and winter, CFSC staff **Jane Orion Smith** and **Jennifer Preston** have visited and offered program at Meetings (Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto, Peterborough, Victoria, Duncan) and Ryerson and York Universities, presenting about our overall work,

Indigenous rights issues, and discernment and service work. Meetings are encouraged to contact us about visitation. Contact Orion at cfsc@quakerservice.ca.

We thank **Sheila Havard** (Coldstream Meeting), CFSC board member, for undertaking a final site visit for CFSC to the Bududa Learning Center in Uganda in January, alongside her annual volunteer commitment at the Center. Bududa now has grown to have its own charitable arm in Canada, after years of being a project partner of CFSC.



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