



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

February 2013

The Campaign to Erode Aboriginal and Treaty Rights



*Idle No More responds to a number of urgent concerns including the erosion of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
Photo credit: Marke Slipp*

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), with several partner organizations, released an open letter signed by more than 50 legal and academic experts, exposing the federal Department of Justice's quiet campaign to erode the constitutional and legal status of Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

The article notes that, with the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, the Department of Justice's campaign has come to completely oppose common legal practice prior to the gradual erosion that has been taking place since 1995.

While previously new laws, "routinely included a 'non-derogation' provision; a provision confirming that Parliament did not intend the new law to be interpreted in a way that would conflict with Aboriginal and

Treaty rights," now, the letter notes, "For the first time, a new law would include an active 'derogation' provision; that is, the proposed law explicitly states that Aboriginal and Treaty rights deemed to be in conflict with the law's stated objective will not be respected." Read the letter and a list of its endorsers on our website: <http://bit.ly/AboriginalRights>.

2012 CFSC Annual Appeal and Report - Update

For all those who responded to our *Annual Appeal and Report 2012* - **Thank you for your gifts!** We are very pleased to report back that we received a few unexpected major gifts, but even without these we surpassed last year's response by 20% (from 160,000 to 190,000)!

We are humbled at the trust and commitment you show as donors in support of our common vision of a world in which peace and justice prevail.

Deadline to be the 2013 CFSC intern is almost here!

Application deadline: February 15th. CFSC is offering an internship from May 1st to August 31st. Does this seem like you (or a Friend of yours):

- 20-29 years of age;
- Committed to Quaker service work and having previous community service experience; and
- Looking to be based in Toronto?

Don't delay any longer - download the package at: <http://bit.ly/RoBaIQ>.

Support for Open Circle Program

In January, a small grant was awarded by the Quakers Fostering Justice program committee of CFSC to the Open Circle program of Initiatives for Just Communities (<http://www.initiativesjc.org>), a Winnipeg-based restorative justice agency. Open Circle matches people who are incarcerated who have asked for a volunteer visitor with volunteers. Currently 82 people are involved in "matched pairs" with people who have been released to the community. Open Circle believes in the potential of friendship to transform. The grant will help the Open Circle program develop a comprehensive and orderly database of current and potential connections.

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.

New educational guide: Intro to Quakers and Friends’ Ways

Produced through the Quaker Education Program of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), this resource is intended to be easy to use with minimum cost by Meetings and Worship Groups. It uses CYM’s Faith and Practice (F&P) and Organization and Procedure (O&P) as the primary resources. Topics covered include: Early Friends, Experiencing the Spirit – Our Faith, The Meeting Community – Worship and Ministry, Business and Living the Spiritual Community (Membership, Clearness & Care), and Testimonies – Faith in Action.

This new study guide is available at: <http://bit.ly/Tm5bZO>. For your information, F&P can be ordered from Quaker Book Service (email quakerbookservice@quaker.ca for information); O&P is available from QBS, but is also online at: <http://bit.ly/11trrQP>. If you would prefer to receive the guide by email, please contact the Quaker Education Program Coordinator at qepc@quaker.ca

Geneva International Summer School 2013

The Geneva International Summer School provides an introduction to the work of the United Nations, as seen through the programs of the Quaker UN Office in Geneva. During Summer School there are talks by staff of the UN, non-governmental organizations and diplomats, as well as informal discussion sessions and visits to organizations such as the UN’s Geneva Headquarters, the International Committee of the Red Cross or the World Trade Organization. The next Summer School will take place from 7 – 19 July 2013. Application deadline: 11 March 2013. For more information and application packages visit: <http://bit.ly/XNBWM2>.

Trying to stay on top of things?

Why not follow CFSC on Twitter or Facebook? When there are developments in the media (or with CFSC) on issues of concern to Friends – Indigenous rights, prisons and chaplaincy, peace, etc. – material is posted on Facebook (<http://bit.ly/CFSCFacebook>) and Twitter (<http://bit.ly/CFSCTwitter>). Why wait until the next E-Newsletter? You can visit either page without being a member of either social media site.



Through practical assistance, policy dialogue, research, and education, CFSC works toward a world in which peace and justice prevail. The values and practices we embrace are not exclusive to Quakers - we work in cooperation with a wide range of partners.

[Learn more.](#)



Please encourage others to [subscribe to the e-newsletter online](#) or email info@quakerservice.ca

[Read past issues](#)

Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5R 1C7
Tel: 416-920-5213 Email: info@quakerservice.ca Website: www.quakerservice.ca

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