



Canadian Friends  
Service Committee  
(QUAKERS)

## Annual Report 2012 – 2013

### ***Clerk's Report***

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.”*

As the service arm of CYM, CFSC strives to serve in a manner following the philosophy of the above quote from Mathew 25:40.

As usual, this has been a busy year of change for CFSC. For someone new to the administrative needs of a charity, I am becoming aware of how much time and energy is put in by staff and committee members to be sure CFSC (and CYM) are meeting their legal commitments. Work by our General Secretary and a member of CYM Personnel Policy Committee with a Human Resources firm this year brought attention to several employment policy gaps (health and safety, harassment, workplace violence), which are being addressed this spring. Our policy on conflict resolution will also get revision. I imagine the early founders of CFSC would be surprised at the complexity of running organization in these times. It somehow doesn't feel like Quaker simplicity of old!

We have had changes in staff and also changes in job descriptions to meet changing needs. Last fall, we welcomed Matthew Legge to the new position of Administration and Communications Assistant. As I write this we are in the process of hiring a staff person for the Quakers Fostering Justice program.

Though the absence of CIDA funding for our overseas work severely impacted CFSC and its partners, we had a very positive year financially. We are grateful to the generosity of many donors and for the gifts from bequests.

We have again become aware of the need for a long-term discernment process focusing on structure, program and process. A committee has been formed to carry this out. Over a number of years, its become clear that the structure is not necessarily serving the committee or staff as well as it could, and impacts include an unacceptable level of staff stress. When it was decided to allow some staff to work from home offices (a case-by-case internal decision), it spread staff across the country, which

had its benefits, but a significant impact is that working in isolation is difficult and stressful. We have returned to thinking that staff should be close enough to the Toronto area to reduce isolation and where they are close enough to meet together regularly for support and community building. This is reflected in hiring for the current position.

We wish to express appreciation for the commitment of staff and committee members who work long hours on major projects in each of the program areas. Details of the work will be familiar to many of you as it has involved getting input from Monthly Meetings, or perhaps your Meeting is partnered with a project. Finding unity in such a diverse community is difficult and prevents taking action in some cases. A full report of program committees, and of the work of the General Secretary is below.

We look forward to ongoing change in the next year, guided by the Light of the Spirit.

*Lesley Robertson, Clerk*

### ***Treasurer's Report***

As CFSC's fiscal year end is March 31, the Treasurer's report is not available until Yearly Meeting, that is, after audit of CFSC's financial statements.

*Don Alexander, Treasurer*

### ***General Secretary's Report:***

A gift of the past year has been deepening relationships with Meetings in Canada through visitation and the CFSC Liaison Network. Over the past year, I have visited four meetings (one was a retreat) and spoke at Ryerson University about Quaker service work. I have at least two outstanding requests, and certainly welcome more. In addition, other staff visited three meetings, and CFSC was present at some half-yearly meetings and of course Yearly Meeting. The Liaisons are a terrific resource for information about their meeting's happenings, and for carrying requests and information forward from CFSC. We are grateful for the relationships and service.

These efforts complement our strengthening of communications generally. The Office Administrator position was redeveloped to include more communications tasks, and the result is website with near weekly updates of information on the main page, a regular stream of information about our work and issues of interest on Facebook and Twitter. And of course there are the new ads that focus on why donors support CFSC, which is as much communications as seeking to expand support for our work. Plans are in the work for video "testimonials" about CFSC work and its impacts. It is an exciting time.

One task Liaisons worked on this year was a survey with meetings to get a better sense of what CFSC issues were being worked on at the local level. We are continuing to learn from this data. There was an article in the spring issue of *Quaker Concern* speaking to it. Thanks for your help, everyone.

We met our fundraising goal this year, which is perhaps a testament to this relationship building work, and is a great gift! It is the first time in a few years. Indeed, we had special large gifts from several non-Quaker donors, as well, that put us well above our goal.

There have been two staff changes in the past year. Helen Melbourne retired from service as CFSC's

Office Administrator, and we welcomed Matthew Legge as the Administration and Communications Associate. Meredith Egan completed her service as QFJ Program Coordinator in January 2013. Both outgoing staff offered useful reflections to the board, which are being considered by various bodies within CFSC. We thank Helen and Meredith for their service. Tasmin Rajotte is currently serving as interim QFJ Program Coordinator, having done this last spring, and we hope to have permanent, new staff in place by Yearly Meeting.

CFSC, and CYM, have been working with a human resources firm on employment practice and policy issues, which has been fruitful. While volunteer-led employment committees can have their limitations and challenges, CFSC's policy framework and practice were largely affirmed. Policy and practice gaps are being addressed.

*Assigned program work:*

Conscientious objection: We were delighted to work closely with the Canadian Council of Churches to develop a publicly released letter (May 2012) to government in support of the US war resisters. 85% of Canada's Christian community is a member of the Council so this is a significant endorsement that will be used to demonstrate public support.

We worked closely with the War Resisters Support Campaign last fall, and church partners, to try to prevent the deportation of Kimberly Rivera. While this was not possible, CFSC ensured that Kim was not left isolated in jail, in New York state (her first stop) and Colorado (the base she was sent back to). Friends' Meetings in the US have been very kind and have a continuing supportive relationship with Kim, who is due to be sentenced as this report goes to press. We drafted a letter, co-signed by The United Church of Canada, to her Commander, seeking an unconditional release should the military court impose a sentence. Amnesty International is to be credited with taking up this case, with their greater capacity and resources.

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. We also now are formally partnered with Quaker Earthcare Witness and the Quaker Institute for the Future – CFSC will receive designated gifts for this work. CFSC also funds and works in partnership with the Quaker UN Offices on several issues. See separate reports for Kairos and Ploughshares.

*Jane Orion Smith*

***Quaker Aboriginal Affairs (QAAC) program committee:***

The committee's service is rooted in the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We work at the local, regional, national and international levels.

QAAC members are actively involved in their regions. Attendance at Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) events continues. Attending treaty discussions, Confederacy celebrations, a BC gathering of Aboriginal activists, a Reconciliation Canada workshop on LGBTQ2 (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans gender, queer and two-spirited people) and the Indian Residential Schools, follow up discussion after an ecumenical meeting with Enbridge about the Northern Gateway Pipeline, and other regional activities has allowed our committee to give witness to many struggles highlighting ongoing injustices that Indigenous peoples face. We discussed with Friends in New Brunswick Monthly Meeting their concern for the recognition of Passamaquoddy people. Ongoing support of Sisters in

Spirit events was noted in *Quaker Concern*. Members actively participated in Idle No More events and we shared information with Friends across the country.

We remain active in regional organizations such as Aboriginal Neighbours in BC, and the Aboriginal Rights Coalition Atlantic. We promoted KAIROS regional events including the Women of Courage tour.

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

Jennifer represented Friends at the Organization of American States (OAS) working group on the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a regional human rights instrument with the baseline being the UN Declaration. Unfortunately, there is little political will among states to complete this work.

At the invitation of Treaty 4 First Nations, Jennifer participated in an intensive workshop discussing their historic Treaty and the human rights approach to contemporary implementation.

Jennifer was invited by Boulder (Colorado) Friends Meeting to attend Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting. She led an intensive three-day workshop on Friends' work supporting Indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration, and the Doctrine of Discovery. She also led a special interest group that summarized issues from the workshops. On this trip, she visited June Lorenzo, a partner from the Declaration and OAS work. June is Laguna Pueblo and her community is deeply affected by a uranium mine.

Active engagement with the ad hoc coalition supporting the human rights of Indigenous Peoples continued including many activities around the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration. Collectively, the coalition produced statements, including a joint letter signed by 50 legal and academic experts addressing the undermining of Indigenous rights by the federal Department of Justice. We remain deeply concerned that Canada needs to engage more fully with Indigenous peoples to address core issues, illustrated by the Idle No More movement. The coalition released a statement responding to Chief Spence's hunger strike and Idle No More that was endorsed by more than 35 organizations.

Educational presentations included a local chapter of Amnesty, York University, and Ottawa Monthly Meeting. Jennifer visited BC with Paul Joffe (Grand Council of the Crees) and Craig Benjamin (Amnesty) to do public events in Victoria and Vancouver along with regional Indigenous leadership. BC-based QAAC members and associates greatly contributed to the organization of these events.

A package was developed and circulated to Meetings on the Doctrine of Discovery. We hope CYM will consider a draft statement for Friends to add their voice to the repudiation of this colonial and racist doctrine. (See separate report)

We give modest grants to assist Indigenous communities with traditional ceremonies and activities. We are especially proud to have supported the translation of the UN Declaration into Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) through our partnership with Kontinohstats – Mohawk Language Custodians.

QAAC members: Penni Burrell and Rob Hughes (co-clerks), Maggie Knight, Don Alexander, Sylvia Lewis Harvard, Justin Coutts and Lana Robinson. We continue to be blessed with our knowledgeable and supportive associate members: Monica Walters-Field, Elaine Bishop, Phyllis Fischer, Bill Curry, Lynne Phillips and Dick Preston.

***Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee:***

In the past year QFJ consolidated our guiding documents in a manner that is consistent with how CFSC works: combining research, education, policy dialogue and concrete assistance. This work culminated in QFJ minute 2013-03-07:

“Quakers Fostering Justice” is not only our name but our goal. Fostering justice as healing is the ground from which our methods, processes and partnerships emerge. Our desire is to actively prevent harm, repair harm and move beyond harm by means that are healing for all concerned and for society as a whole. Our work arises from the context of Friends' vision of penal abolition. Programmatic focus on youth is our current way forward.”

We have been a committee in transition. We acknowledge the staff support provided to us by Meredith Egan under challenging circumstances and thank her for her years of service. We look forward to the hiring process for a new staff person, set to complete by summer 2013.

In May 2012, QFJ made a formal submission to an independent review of British Columbia's justice system that included a number of recommendations based on restorative justice and children's rights. Our major project this year will be to build on what was learned drafting our submission regarding the need for better information sharing among those involved with restorative and youth justice.

We funded new projects this year: a Circles of Support and Accountability initiative in Fredericton, New Brunswick; a start-up grant to establish a York Region office of the Elizabeth Fry Society; an emergency fund for Criminal Law Duty Counsel to help those released from jail retrieve their personal belongings; taxi services for children at a women's shelter that provides continuity in their lives as families relocate, in Newmarket, ON; and an Alternatives to Violence workshop focusing on trauma in Victoria, BC.

We continued funding the Instruments of Change program in BC; Spring House in NS; and Out of Bounds magazine, based in BC. Due to the loss of institutional support in Jamaica, and in consultation with Quaker Jamaica Connections (Toronto MM), we laid down our partnership with the Happy Grove School, Jamaica.

In November, we supported QFJ associate member Elaine Bishop (Winnipeg MM) to attend the conference Urban Peacemakers: Strengthening Resiliency in Aboriginal Youth, in Regina, SK. We also supported QFJ member Glenn Morison (Winnipeg MM), to attend the National Restorative Justice Symposium in Winnipeg.

Our ongoing work, in response to the leadings of committee members and in relation to the work of wider Quaker bodies, has led us to engage in penal abolition work that focuses on the impact of the legal system on victims and on children and youth. We continue to monitor developments in regards to legislation and chaplaincy and maintain ecumenical, interfaith and other relationships. As we move forward, our awareness of the past leads our hearts to thankfulness. We express deep appreciation to the leadership of our clerk, Lee Webb (Coldstream MM) for guiding us through a period of great change and many challenges. We also express deep appreciation to Tasmin Rajotte (Ottawa MM) for stepping into the staff role and providing tremendous support.

QFJ members and associates continue to 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. QFJ also represents CFSC on the International Quaker Criminal Justice Liaison Group, a group of Quaker bodies around the globe who are working with a concern for justice.

QFJ members: Lee Webb (clerk), Sarah Chandler, Glenn Morison, Philip Smith and Rachel Urban Shipley. QFJ associate members: Elaine Bishop (North Point Douglas Womens' Centre, AVP), Vince Zelazny (AVP, John McKendy Peace Centre), Kate Johnson (federal chaplaincy), and Keith Maddock (provincial prison visitation, Ontario).

***Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities (QPASC) program committee:***

During its first year without any matching funding from CIDA for overseas projects, the program entered a period of transition. Retrenchment is always a stressful process. It involves reduction of paid staff time, difficult decisions around realistic workloads, and finding respectful ways of laying down projects shared with faithful colleagues. However, it is also a time of opportunity, of looking forward for more focussed directions.

Major accomplishments were:

- Facilitating a discussion across the Yearly Meeting about updating our approach to promoting peace in Palestine and Israel. This involved a proposed addition to the 2009 CYM minute to include support for the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign; (See separate report to CYM)
- Bringing the issues raised by synthetic biology to the attention of Canadian Friends and the federal government;
- Participating in the Canadian Council of Churches' exploration of members' commitment to "Just Peace", an initiative of the World Council of Churches (facilitated by Project Ploughshares);
- Maintaining a supportive relationship with Bududa Development Center in Uganda, which runs a vocational training secondary school and a support program for orphans, as they made the transition to being an independent charity;
- Assisting with the survey of Monthly Meetings' participation in concerns on which CFSC is working. It was very encouraging to engage in a rich two-way conversation with Monthly Meetings and to gauge the extent of activity by Meetings and individual Friends in areas included in our program. Now that QPASC is clearer where Canadian Friends' interest lie, it will be able to narrow its focus to those concerns it is capable of sustaining and on which it can work most effectively;

- Completing the first phase of a strategic planning approach that will enable us to develop a new vision and then align our selection of projects with this vision. The Monthly Meeting survey is a component of this task.

We were able to continue providing assistance to our long-term partners, including:

- The Refugee Committee of Toronto Monthly Meeting;
- The Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement's independent news service ([www.imemc.org](http://www.imemc.org));
- Project Muinda, the service committee of Kinshasa Monthly Meeting in DR Congo, which coordinates a neighbourhood-based network of "peace cells".

We facilitated Patrick Capper of Lucknow Worship Group participating in the workcamp in Lugare, Kenya, organized by the African Great Lakes Initiative. The workcamp built a peace centre, which is operated by the local Friends' church.

Other partnerships continue, but we were less active this year:

- FUN (Friends' Uranium and Nuclear working group);
- Conscience Canada, which works for a peace tax option for conscientious objectors;
- The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a coalition of groups that address the effects of current legislation and policies on civil liberties;
- The Alliance for Self Reliant Peacebuilding, which uses a unique methodology for strengthening peacebuilding actions in communities in Indonesia and Sri Lanka;
- The Care to Care project on maternal and child health.

We are confident that our committee is well on the way to adjusting to the drastic change in its operating environment caused by the federal government's changes to CIDA (and our loss of funding), and that it will emerge with a clearer concept of its identity and its way forward.

QPASCC members: Trevor Chandler and Sheila Havard, co-clerks, Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg, Pete Cross, Fred Bass, and Samson Madera Nashon. QPASCC associate members: David Greenfield (uranium), Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, Lyn Adamson (Palestine/Israel), Elizabeth Block and Patti Hartnagel (Civil Liberties), Anne Mitchell (Biotechnology incl. Synthetic Biology), Dale Dewar (Care to Care).

**For more information:**



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