

Friends repudiate Doctrine of Discovery

Matthew Legge and Jane Orion Smith

Many of us at the Canadian Friends Service Committee are just back from Canadian Yearly Meeting's (CYM) annual sessions (August 16th to 24th). Friends from across Canada gathered on the Kemptville campus of the University of Guelph, with this year featuring a "Youth Challenge" that brought 35 Young Friends (13-35 years) together to build community, learn, worship, and undertake Friends' business.

The annual Sunderland P. Gardner (SPG) lecture was delivered by Caroline Balderston Parry (Ottawa MM). On her website (www.carolinebalderstonparry.com), Caroline says, "*Herons were the catalyst two decades ago that helped me see my life journey as a kind of spiral, with a central message that I must spread my wings . . .*" In her lecture, Caroline spoke movingly about this journey, the "I don't know place," and ways to embrace change and challenges through recognizing Spirit in our lives. Caroline employed story, song, and queries to address the challenges and the opportunities of uncertainty. She engaged the audience in discussion with "neighbours" on topics like the word that describes us at our individual best, and the things that remind us of Spirit in our lives.

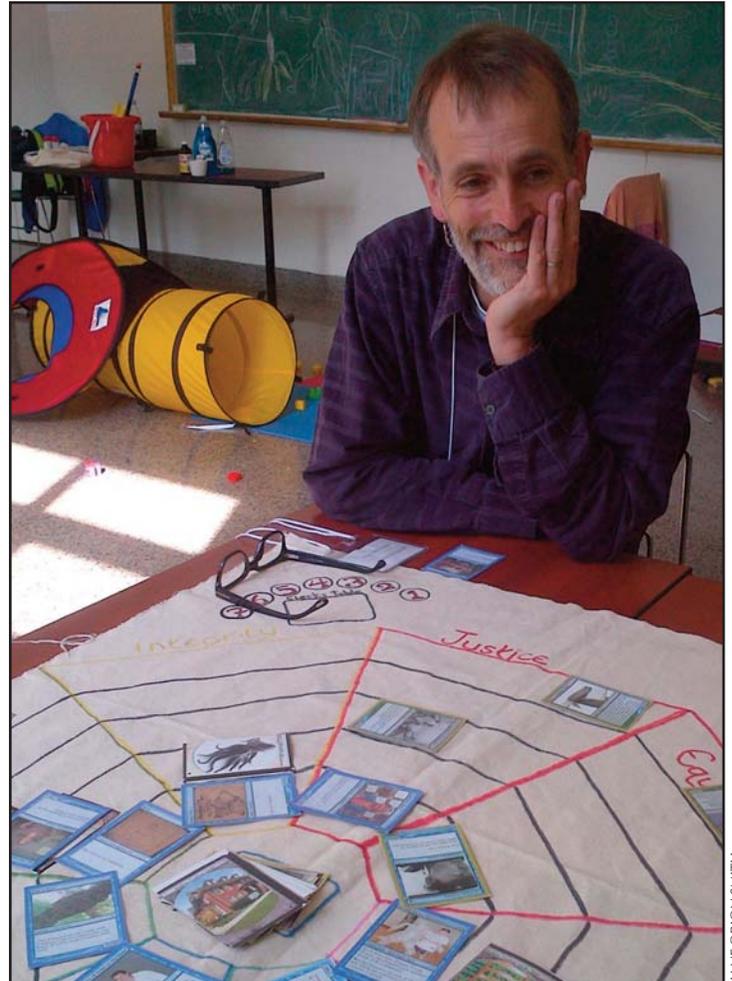
Quaker Studies lectures were delivered by Ben Pink Dandelion (Britain Yearly Meeting), professor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in England. Ben displayed a dry wit and an impressive knowledge of Quaker history. He had the crowd laughing and listening with great interest while he wove threads of Quaker history together over the course of the week, moving us from the earliest roots to the modern day. The lectures contained a blend of broad historical trends and discussion of specific

Friends from different times, helping bring their decisions to life by situating them within the world as they knew it.

The lecture and Quaker study sessions will be available to watch on the newly launched website of Canadian Yearly Meeting (www.quaker.ca).

On the Monday evening, a panel spoke from their experience as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer) people, and allies, who are a part of the Quaker community. It was a rich learning opportunity for many, as we deepened our understanding of the "we" that is Canadian Yearly Meeting. Small groups explored a range of issues and offered the chance for Friends to ask questions and share views openly. A report is being written about the evening, which was put on the agenda at the request of Young Friends who felt that LGBTQ people were somewhat invisible at CYM (even as we are there and not purposefully invisible).

Canadian Friends Service Committee had several items of business this year.



JANE ORION SMITH

Ben Pink Dandelion, Quaker studies leader for the week, gets an education on how to play the "Quaker Trading Cards" game with York Dudiak (Edmonton MM) and Chester Friesen (Winnipeg MM) (not pictured) who conceived of the trading cards last summer. Proceeds from sales will be donated to CFSC (thanks!). Special thanks to Keith Barber (Winnipeg MM) for his extensive work on the 2013 edition of the cards.

The Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities (QPASC) program committee offered a Special Interest Group (SIG) about the promotion of peace in Israel and Palestine. QPASC reported, in the documents in advance of CYM, on the past year's consultation process about an addition to the 2009 CYM minute on Israel-Palestine. 15 Monthly Meetings

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KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

Justice-related grants

The Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee has revised its community grants application form. Community grants support projects that are consistent with QFJ's mandate and Quaker principles. The next application deadline is October 1, 2013. Successful applicants will be notified in November. For more information and to download an application form visit: <http://bit.ly/JusticeGrants>.

QUNOs recognised in armed violence reduction poll

Canadian Friends Service Committee

congratulates the Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in Geneva and New York, on being named one of the 100 most influential global actors in armed violence reduction.

The accolade was given by Action On Armed Violence, a leading organization in the field, and recognizes the decades of work done by Quakers to put this issue on the UN agenda. Others named included Ban Ki-Moon, George Clooney, and the Dalai Lama. Diane Hendrick, associate representative for peace and disarmament at QUNO's Geneva office said of the award, "Like Quakers in general, we tend not to publicise our work but instead just get on and do it. However, we are glad to be recognised by others and we hope this will help us further increase our effectiveness as we continue."

Andrew Tomlinson, Director of QUNO New York said of their work, "We've supported negotiations on disarmament, advocated for local perspectives in peacebuilding, upheld the need for reconciliation and dialogue and researched links between violence and development."

QUNO, which acts on behalf of Friends worldwide, works with CFSC on areas of common concern and receives financial support from CFSC. The full list of "influential actors" is available at:

<http://aoav.org.uk/2013/top-100-the-most-influential-people-in-the-world-of-armed-violence/>

Andrew Tomlinson and Jonathan Woolley, Directors of the QUNO New York and Geneva offices respectively, were named to the list on behalf of the QUNOs.

Find out more about the QUNOs' work at www.quno.org

Upcoming talk on Norway's Halden Prison

Building on Quakers' long held vision of penal abolition and encouraging responses to crime that prevent, repair and move beyond harm, CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice program is pleased to highlight the Church Council on Justice and Corrections' (Ottawa) fund-raising dinner on October 17th featuring guest speaker Are Høidal, Governor of Norway's Halden Prison. Through architectural design, programming and relationship building, Halden Prison, Norway's second largest, works to boost inmates' chances of reintegrating into society. The goal is to provide humane treatment and to give all inside a meaningful life that will prepare them to return to community as better citizens (you can read more in this Time magazine article <http://bit.ly/HumaneRehabforInmates>). To find out more and register for the dinner visit <http://bit.ly/CCJCDinner>

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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KINSHASA QUAKERS

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we focused on the rights and duties of citizens in this workshop."

Samukungu also informs us about the distribution of *La Chaine de la Paix*, which is used as a training handbook in the peace cells. Since the postal service in DRC doesn't work as it should, they are distributing it to the towns and villages of the interior by asking brothers and sisters of the members of the Kinshasa peace cells who come into the city for a visit to take a box of the journals back with them when they go home. Since so little reading material gets to such places, *La Chaine de la Paix* is read avidly and passed enthusiastically

from hand to hand.

CFSC's Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee (QPASC) is pleased to be able to support this work with a larger grant this year due to a grant to CFSC by Physicians for Global Survival. Ottawa Monthly Meeting and Victoria Friends Meeting also contribute to the project through CFSC, as do the earnings from sales of Action pour la Jeune Fille crafts in Canada.

Gianne Broughton is finishing her 15 years of service as the Program Coordinator for QPASC in October 2013. She is a member of Ottawa Monthly Meeting.

Kinshasa Quakers celebrate 20 years of Muinda Peace Project

By Gianne Broughton

We'd like to share a few paragraphs from our recent report from Project Muinda, a CFSC partner located in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with *Quaker Concern* readers. "Muinda" means "Light" in several languages used in Kinshasa. The following is translated from the original French.

"The Muinda for Peace project has now been in existence 20 years! In life, a 20 year-old is an adult, a lively time when a young person looks for a direction for a future life. In 1993, when we launched the Muinda Peace Project (Quaker Congo Action), we were just fascinated by the discovery of the pacifist vision of the Quakers, a non-dogmatic religion in which the person must seek the Inner Light in his or her heart. Talking of the Inner Light in the austere environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was something wonderful even though the Quaker silence seemed to be difficult to introduce in a hot country where people love flamboyance and ritual! Thus, in the image of the original Quakers, we were given a primary mission 'to build peace in the DRC' the struggle for the elimination of mechanisms and attitudes that create and promote conflict.

"The discovery of Quaker testimonies based on simplicity and commitment to peace drew members to Project Muinda. We also relied on the small contribution of Action for Young Girls (Action pour la Jeune Fille) and the Bakamana family (its founder) to cover operation expenses. We made our way to meeting CFSC in 1997. Support from our Canadian Friends allowed us to further strengthen our work and climb up toward our ideal to the point where Project Muinda has respect and a positive reputation in the country. But this course is not always smooth! During all these years we have had a lot of pitfalls and even suffered some outrages. But Project Muinda has survived all these difficulties with help from the hand of God."



Tshiuza Alexis and Samukungu Kapiola deliver a workshop for 28 legal resource people (community mediators), April 2013.

Survived and thrived. After the mammoth work of election observation in 2011, Kinshasa Monthly Meeting decided to upgrade the legal constitution of Project Muinda, which is essentially a service committee of their Meeting. This reorganization took a lot of preparation and consultation, and was carried out while continuing to support the network of "peace cells" which are neighbourhood-based mediation teams. A new board of directors was appointed, and new staff hired. Before the end of 2012, a new edition of their journal, *Chaine de la Paix* (The Peace Chain) was published.

The reorganized leadership recognized that the peace cells needed the support of people with more legal training. At the end of April, 2013, a new group of legal resource people was launched with a workshop. The current director of Project Muinda, Samukungu Kapiola, describes the workshop this way:

"This workshop brought together 28 people, including six lawyers. The training had two parts:

- the theory of conflict resolution and the dispute settlement process, and
- basic law

"The training for dispute settlement was given by Tshiuza Alexis, who has worked with Project Muinda as staff in the past. I gave the legal part of the training. You might be wondering about the difference between (1) peace cells and (2) the network of peace community mediators (RNMC), which was formed at this workshop. The peace cells bring together people from the same neighbourhoods, while community mediators are available to help several peace cells and have a wider territory. For example: a community mediator who lives in Bandalungwa may help in a conflict in Kingabua or any other place where intervention might happen. The key is to get more people to reach agreement and resolve their disputes out of court because going to court is very expensive in our country. Each community mediator must also be informed about basic laws so as not to commit errors of judgment or understanding. This is the reason why

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Falling through the cracks: Youth in the justice system

Tasmin Rajotte

Many Canadians are now familiar with the sad outcome and current inquiry into the death of Ashley Smith, a teenager who took her own life in the corrections system.

Youth become involved with the criminal justice system for a range of reasons including: the criminalization of normal, petty misbehavior and survival behaviors; dysfunctional families and domestic violence; homelessness; failure of child protection systems; lack of support systems and preventive programs; and discrimination.¹

In addition, exposure to toxins, abuse, rejection, and harsh punishment can actually alter the way a child's brain develops. This can result in non-compliance, aggression, impaired decision-making and difficulty with impulse control, empathy and rational thought.² Emerging neuro-scientific research has shown that adolescents' brains are not fully developed to allow for adult-level reasoning.³ Abilities such as the regulation of emotions, organization, long-range planning, decision-making, and consideration of alternatives, are all associated with the prefrontal cortex, which does not fully mature until well beyond age 18.⁴ For these reasons, youth are at greater risk of engaging in behaviour that can inadvertently lead to involvement with the justice system.

By not getting the services they need, vulnerable young people are falling through the cracks and ending up in the criminal justice system. Among them, there is significant over-representation of young people who have experienced neglect, have developmental disabilities and mental health issues, and/or are Aboriginal. In a recent British Columbian study on youth in custody,⁵ almost three-quarters of the youth (72%) had one or more health conditions, including a learning disability, epilepsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, chronic anxiety disorder,



Children's Fountain by Tom Corbin in Kansas City, Missouri. The plaque by the fountain reads, "The bronze figures represent children everywhere to whom this fountain is dedicated and the activities that shape young lives making childhood a joy."

addiction or anger problems. The study also found that 73% of the youth had been in government care at some time and over half had spent some time on the streets. About 47% were Aboriginal, which significantly exceeds their 8% representation in the general population.

On any day in 2010/2011, there were about 14,800 young people aged 12-17 under the supervision of Canada's correctional system (90% under supervision in the community and 1,500 in custody)⁶ and the crimes they committed tended to be non-violent. Is incarceration the best way to address the problems these young people are experiencing?

In contrast, Scotland has developed a multi-pronged approach that does not incarcerate children. Children with problems can be referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration which then convenes a meeting between the child, their parents/guardians and a team comprised of teachers, psychologists, health providers, police or whoever else needs to be at the table. They strategize about what can be done to rectify the situation and put in place whatever is needed. If compulsory measures of supervision are needed to

protect the child and/or address their behaviour, such as putting youth into secure accommodation (a form of residential placement), the child is referred to a separate body called Children's Hearing System. In both systems the welfare of the child remains at the centre of all decision making. Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People monitors these processes to ensure they are impartial and comply with human rights standards.

Scotland has about a million children and youth. There are 94 secure accommodation spaces for the whole of Scotland and... imagine this... there are vacancies! In essence, this is what penal abolition in action looks like! The outcome for Ashley Smith may have been very different if Canada had a similar kind of system. In the fall, CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice program will be hosting a workshop with a range of people working on youth justice issues in Canada to explore the challenges and possibilities.

Tasmin Rajotte, is the interim Program Coordinator for the Quakers Fostering Justice Program Committee of CFSC.

Engaging with reconciliation

Jennifer Preston

In recent months the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee (QAAC) of CFSC has been active in a variety of important events locally and globally. In all our engagements, the work is grounded in partnership, reconciliation, and our long-term foundational priority of implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Here is a taste of some of these events.

In April, Rob Hughes (Vancouver MM), Co-Clerk of QAAC, attended a two-day workshop hosted by Reconciliation Canada on LGBTQ2 (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two spirited) Persons and Indian Residential Schools. The workshop was held on unceded Coast Salish territories at Gordon Neighbourhood House in the West End of Vancouver. The copper feather passed around the circle empowered each person holding it to share who they are and their feelings. The workshop included brainstorming on how to involve the LGBTQ2 community in the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission Event in Vancouver in September. Rob notes, "Although we discuss serious subjects, we laugh and play."

In May, QAAC participated in the 12th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Monica Walters-Field (QAAC Associate and



Rob Hughes (first row, third from right) and other participants at Reconciliation Canada workshop on LGBTQ2. To Rob's left is Chief Robert Joseph, ambassador of Reconciliation Canada, hereditary chief of Gwawaenuk First Nation, and former student of Alert Bay Residential School.

member of Toronto MM) and I spent two very full weeks at UN headquarters in New York. CFSC participated in three joint statements (on the CFSC website); hosted one major event at Quaker House with a Special Rapporteur from the Organization of American States (OAS); met with countless Indigenous and NGO partners, UN officials, and government representatives; attended numerous educational events as well as the daily sessions of the Forum itself. We are blessed with the ongoing support of the Quaker UN Office – New York (QUNO-NY) in this work.

On June 28th, QAAC partnered with York University in Toronto on a one-day

symposium, *Linking Arms Together*, held on traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit in Osgood Hall law school. The symposium linked the history of the Indian Residential Schools and the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) together with implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Several speakers highlighted the foundational harm of the Doctrine of Discovery. All of these topics are a significant focus of current QAAC work.

Three residential school survivors gave witness with their stories; Margaret Tourville, Michael Cheena, and Murray Crow. The emotional response of the audience strengthened the meaning of the content of the day. Other presenters included TRC Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild and Grand Chief Edward John. In my role as CFSC staff, I was one of the symposium's organizers and part of a panel focusing on the *UN Declaration* as reconciliation with Paul Joffe, Romeo Saganash and Ellen Gabriel (watch it at <http://bit.ly/UNDeclarationPanel>). In addition to the audience, the event featured a live webcast. Friends were present both in the room and watching the proceedings elsewhere.

In July, I represented Friends at the

YOUTH

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ⁱNational Crime Prevention Centre, 2012. *A statistical Snapshot of Youth at Risk and Youth Offending in Canada*, http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cp/res/_fl/syrr-eng.pdf; Lillooet Learning Communities Society/Lillooet Restorative Justice Program, 2011. *Bringing out the Best: Rights-based mentorship for youth completing restorative justice agreements*.

ⁱⁱCanadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child, 2002. *Rights of the Child: Justice and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, <http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/justice.pdf>. [accessed April, 2012].

ⁱⁱⁱThe Canadian Paediatric Society, 2011. *Youth Justice and Health: An argument against proposed changes to the Youth Criminal Justice*

Act, <http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/AM/AH11-02.htm>. [accessed April, 2012].

^{iv}Giedd, J.N., 2008. *The teen brain: Insight from neuroimaging*, *J Adolesc Health*, 2008 Apr;42(4):335-43.

<http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2808%2900075-X/fulltext>. [accessed April, 2012].

^vThe McCreary Centre Society, 2005. *Time Out II: A Profile of BC Youth in Custody*, http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/time_out_2.pdf. [accessed May, 2012].

^{vi}Youth correctional statistics in Canada, 2010/2011, Juristat, 2012, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11716-eng.htm>. [accessed July, 2013]

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FRIENDS REPUDIATE

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participated in this, discerning around use of some or all elements of a Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) strategy toward the promotion of peace.

Nine of the Meetings that reported proposed that CYM should minute its support of at least some elements of BDS, but five Meetings were clearly not in unity. Therefore no addition to the 2009 minute was proposed to Canadian Yearly Meeting. The SIG was held to present the report and further conversation on Palestine-Israel concerns. A proposal was made by participants in the SIG for a group of seven Friends who felt so led to write a draft minute to be brought to the floor of CYM. It was acknowledged that this minute would likely not find unity, but that it might serve to move the conversation forward. Due to time constraints, no SIG reports or recommendations were addressed on the floor of Yearly Meeting. The seven Friends did compose a draft minute, and will be contacting Monthly Meetings that may be interested in discussing it. Those who are interested in more details about promoting peace in the region are encouraged to visit our website (<http://bit.ly/CFSC-ME-Kit>).

The Doctrine of Discovery emanates from a series of Papal Bulls (formal charters from the Pope) originating in the 1400s and used as justification for colonial powers taking lands from sovereign Indigenous nations. CFSC's Quaker Aboriginal Affairs (QAAC) program committee brought forward a draft minute on repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and Friends were in deep and immediate unity. It is available together with a brief background at <http://bit.ly/DoctrineofDiscovery>. Please share it with others. The minute asks that Friends, "explore further how we personally and corporately respond to how 'discovery' is ingrained in our culture and way of life." CFSC plans to use the minute to support our partners in building public knowledge about the illegal and immoral Doctrine of Discovery, which continues to inform Canadian courts' interpretations of the law to this day, and in encouraging the government of Canada to formally

repudiate the Doctrine.

Additionally, QAAC offered a SIG wherein attenders participated in the Blanket Exercise. "Fifteen years ago, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition [now KAIROS] worked with Indigenous elders and teachers to develop an interactive way of learning the history most Canadians are never taught. The Blanket Exercise was the result; it has since been offered thousands of times and is [updated regularly]. The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now Canada, and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. Participants represent the First Peoples; when they [step] onto the blanket, they are taken back in time to the arrival of Europeans. Two participants and/or the facilitator are selected to play the roles of the Narrator and a European (or two) while the exercise goes through the history of treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in the nation we today call Canada."ⁱ The event was well attended and a moving learning experience. Contact us if you are interested in offering this in your Meeting.

Other justice-related SIGs included Jamie Swift, co-author of *Warrior Nation*, and educator Judi Wyatt offering an overview of PeaceQuest. It is an organization and set of resources that encourages dialogue among Canadians about peace, and to provide an alternative narrative to the forthcoming commemoration of the "War to end all Wars", World War I (1914-18). It also will organize programs to promote peace, non-violent resolution of conflict, and social justice as Canadian values. Local PeaceQuest initiatives will partner with organizations in their communities to rekindle a vision of



JANE ORION SMITH

Singer-songwriter Evalyn Parry (Toronto MM) closed out the LGBTQ evening with a few well-chosen songs, with technical assistance from Monica Walters-Field (Toronto MM) who was at CYM to help with CFSC's Special Interest Group on the Doctrine of Discovery.

Canada as a peace builder, bringing together people from different backgrounds to shape a future based on peace and non-violence. Friends felt that PeaceQuest provided rich opportunities to engage people who presently feel marginalized and powerless to contribute positively to a constructive pro-peace dialogue. Several Meetings have minuted their encouragement of PeaceQuest, and one is a part of a local PeaceQuest group. CYM was asked by the SIG participants to promote PeaceQuest to Meetings and Worship Groups, but the request was unable to be addressed during business meeting due to time constraints. For further details visit www.peacequest.ca.

Finally, we were delighted to have Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS, and her daughter, Bella, attending CYM. Jennifer offered a SIG on fracking, tar sands, pipelines, and energy-related issues that attracted over 20 Friends and engaged a great dialogue as people work on concerns in their local communities.

Jane Orion Smith serves as the General Secretary of CFSC. Matthew Legge is currently the Administrative and Communications Assistant and will also be starting as the Program Coordinator of QPASC in September.

ⁱ <http://www.kairoscanada.org/dignity-rights/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise/>

Response to Spring 2013 issue of *Quaker Concern*: “Should a socially responsible investor divest of carbon stocks?”

(Believe it or not, we do not receive many “Letters to the Editor” This one arrived and, following sharing it with Alan Harman, writer of the article in question, we decided to publish it).

We Quakers are not known for leaping into rash, ill-considered action. We value deliberation and discernment. Many of us, I suspect, would have felt at home with Alan Harman’s cautious investment advice in the spring issue of *Quaker Concern*.

I fear, however, we may be thinking in terms of an outdated map that no longer corresponds to the lay of the land. Both the physical sciences and major banks are warning us that we are in the middle of a global quantum jump. The new world has different physics, different chemistry and different finances. This needs to be included in our deliberations.

In the Spring of 2013, for the first time in human history, the concentration of the heat-trapping gas carbon dioxide passed the dangerous benchmark of 400 parts per million, unseen on Earth for millions of years. In terms of the physics and chemistry that underpin life on Earth – both the composition of the atmosphere and the level of acidity

in the oceans – we have a very short time window for decisive and large-scale action to slash our carbon emissions and protect natural carbon sinks, such as forests and seagrass meadows, that trap the gas.

According to the International Energy Agency, two thirds of all proven reserves of oil, gas and coal will have to stay in the ground to hold global warming to two degrees Celsius. IEA’s chief economist Fatih Birol warned that this should be an “eye opener” for pension funds with significant investments in the energy sector (Vancouver Observer, 14 June 2013). Nick Robins of HSBC bank has warned that the oil and gas sector is still valued as if all known oil, gas and coal reserves were going to be exploited. This overvaluation of fossil fuels creates a “carbon bubble”.

Right now, with each dollar invested in oil and gas stocks we are gambling to benefit from a doomed activity that will ultimately destroy the biosphere as we know it. With each dollar, we’re pitting our financial interests and safety against our biological survival as a species, as well as our spiritual impulse to act for the good of the whole and to contribute to the

flourishing of life on Earth. This conflict, within each person and within society at large, risks paralyzing meaningful action on climate until it is too late.

As much as global warming presents a threat to large-scale human presence on Earth, the carbon bubble, once it bursts, is likely to cause massive human suffering. The point of divestment is to begin to deflate the bubble gradually, while putting our resources into building resilient local and regional economic networks that will be able to survive a carbon crash.

When John Woolman refused to wear slave-made cotton, he was taking action not just against a localized injustice but against a whole economic system built on free slave labour. Each of us has the capacity to take one small, courageous action to withdraw resources from a system that has replaced human slavery with “energy slaves” in the form of coal, gas and oil. As it happens, it may also be the financially prudent action to take. I urge Friends to explore options with your credit union.

Ana Simeon (member of Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting).

RECONCILIATION

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UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), at the annual sessions in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to the ongoing work on implementation of the *UN Declaration* and discussing the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, EMRIP focused on the draft report, *Access to Justice in the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. CFSC participated in two joint statements (on the CFSC website), held an event at Quaker House and further engaged with many partners. I also gave a presentation to the QUNO Summer School on the Indigenous rights work Friends do at the international level.

In August, out-going QAAC co-clerk Penni Burrell represented Friends at the Wabanaki Confederacy Conference at Lake George, New Brunswick. More than 100 representatives of First Nations and Metis from Quebec, New England and the Maritimes attended. Penni and other Friends were present as invited members of the Peace and Friendship Treaty Alliance. Allies were invited to witness many of the ceremonies of the Confederacy. The Confederacy members considered a draft of what will hopefully become the founding Constitution, agreeing to take it back to the Nations they represent. At the end of the conference, allies presented a Peace and Friendship

Treaty Alliance Statement, making commitments to ongoing relationships. Included in this statement, “We recognize that we are all treaty nations and so we will educate our communities about the treaties that we share and we will grow the allies.”

All these events contribute to the ongoing and critical work of building relationships and working towards reconciliation. The work is critically important at the grassroots and inside the halls of the United Nations.

Jennifer Preston is the Program Coordinator for the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee and is a member of Hamilton Meeting.

FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

CFSC welcomes **Matthew Legge** as incoming Program Coordinator of CFSC's Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee. Matthew has worked with NGOs in Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and South-East Asia.

Matthew will be following in the footsteps of **Gianne Broughton**, who has served in this position for 15 years. Gianne will complete her service at CFSC at the end of October. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and the many gifts she has shared generously through her work with Friends. Those who wish to express their appreciation for Gianne's service

are invited to email her at gianne@quakerservice.ca.

We welcome the following Friends, appointed to serve as members of CFSC by Canadian Yearly Meeting: **Justin Coutts (Yarmouth MM)**, **Paul Dekar (Hamilton MM)**, **Glenn Morison (Winnipeg MM)**, **Samson Nashon Madera (Vancouver MM)**, **Eric Schiller (Ottawa MM)**, **Lyn Adamson** and **Jeremy Hinzman (Toronto MM)**, **Sarah Chandler (Vernon MM)**, and **Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg (Yonge Street MM)**. Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting has appointed **Stephen Robins (Toronto MM)** to serve as their representative.

We also wish to offer our profound

thanks to the Friends who are completing their service: **Sheila Havard (Coldstream MM)**, **Penni Burrell (Annapolis Valley MM)**, and **Lee Webb (Coldstream MM)**. All three served as Program Committee Clerks, a hefty responsibility, and in additional roles (Recording Clerk, Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, etc.).

Additional justice-related appointments by CYM include: **Bob Clarke (Ottawa MM)** to the board of Project Ploughshares and **Glenn Morison (Winnipeg MM)** to the board of the Canadian Council on Justice and Corrections.



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