



Canadian Friends
Service Committee
(QUAKERS)

Annual Report, 2013 – 2014

Clerk's Report

In my final clerk's report to CYM, I look back at what my expectations were, and what in fact the clerk's role has been. In a recent evaluation sent to CFSC Board members, many expected their role would be working with a program committee. In fact, Board members, particularly the Clerk and those serving on Executive Committee, are required to make decisions regarding policy and other matters with legal implications. This has always been part of board member's role but it seems to me that charities have increased pressures upon them to strengthen their awareness of and compliance with relevant legislation. This aspect of Board work has required increased knowledge, time and energy. In addition there appear to be cultural changes in our society that have led us to realize that we may at times, need professional advice on legal and Human Resources issues.

Just as there are changes in society, CFSC is looking inwardly to see what we need to change to keep pace with the busy lives of our members. First, and most important, is to strengthen our practice of spiritual discernment so that the changes that are made are spirit led. We have a working group made up of staff and board members to carry forward work on four recommendations that we hope will simplify and strengthen our structure and practice and make service on CFSC a more manageable and fulfilling experience for staff and committee members alike.

I invite you to read about the accomplishments of our program in the reports that follow. Our Indigenous Rights program has a clear focus in supporting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The Quakers Fostering Justice program has redirected itself as it works towards the goals of penal abolition and researching the effects of the justice system on children and youth. Since the Quaker Peace and Sustainability Communities program committee was formed (through the joining of two committees] in 2004) the number of projects under it's care have been numerous but are slowly being decreased to create a manageable workload for a half time staff member and volunteer committee members. We suggest that Monthly Meetings and CYM consider carefully any request for CFSC to take on further projects at this time.

We are, as always, thankful to our hard working and dedicated staff. And we are grateful for the work done by board members and associates, which broadens and deepens the work of CFSC.

As I finish my term as clerk of CFSC, I wish to express my appreciation to all those who have helped me learn the complications of working with a national charity that is part of a spirit-led community. It has been a challenging, rewarding and learning experience for which I am truly thankful.

Lesley Robertson, Clerk

Treasurer's Report

The financial statements for CFSC for its year ended March 31, 2014 reflect an excess of income over expenditures of \$72,577. We were very fortunate that our investments performed well this year, resulting in capital gains of almost \$195,000. While we are pleased that our portfolio performed so well, not gone from our memory is the event several years ago when we lost a substantial amount on our investments. We have tried to diversify our investments so that we are less exposed to the potential for substantial losses. Nonetheless, we would not be prudent if we were to rely on recurring gains such as those we had this year. We work closely with our ethical investment manager to utilize our investments in a manner that both respects and promotes Friends' testimonies.

Our donation income was slightly more than we had budgeted and our expenses slightly less. CFSC's budget includes income resulting from our policy of recognizing bequests over a period of years, resulting in recording bequest income of about **\$125,000**. Our internal statements, which do not include the investment gains but do include the transfers from the bequest fund, show a net income of about \$2,900.

CFSC's income is made up from donations from individuals, Monthly Meetings, bequest income and investment income. This year we ended in a surplus position, however, we are mindful that donations need to increase for us to sustain the work we do. Ideally, CFSC would like to expand programming but that cannot happen until revenues increase.

We are grateful for F(f)riends continued support of CFSC. Your financial contributions support the realization of the CFSC vision statement, "... guided by a vision of a world in which peace and social justice prevail, the causes of war and oppression are removed, the whole of creation is treated with respect, and individuals and communities are freed to reach their fullest potential."

Don Alexander, Treasurer

General Secretary's Report:

This past year has included a great deal of consideration about the structure of CFSC by Committee and staff – does it fulfill our organizational needs (governance, program) and, moreover, does it best use and release the gifts of Friends who serve within it? In March, Friends agreed to simplify our structure, strengthen our practice of discernment, seek greater clarity and focus in our work, and strengthen our staff accountability and management structure. The deeper discernment work to determine renewed structure and practices is now underway within CFSC, with much hope and anticipation. Friends can find change challenging, but we should not shrink from following the Spirit's nudging to be all that we can be, to truly live up to the Light that we have.

On a parallel track, we have worked extensively with CYM Personnel Policy Committee in redeveloping personnel policy and practice. Formal studies in employment law this past year equipped me to identify areas for improvement and change. A completely overhauled policy manual, and a new structural model for personnel practice within Canadian Yearly Meeting (including CFSC), is being considered by the relevant bodies, with hopes of finalization in the fall. This has been a massive undertaking, which we believe will benefit both the people and the work. In addition, CFSC hired new staff (see QPASCC report) and is developing a hiring committee manual to better equip Friends undertaking this service in future.

Another massive area of growth for CFSC has been in communications. Matt Legge, Administrative and Communications Assistant, has profoundly extended the reach of our voice (within and beyond Friends) through Twitter (616 followers) and Facebook (542 "likes"), and through the website which has a very active main page of current CFSC work and witness. The E-Newsletter is growing (616 subscribers) and people can now sign up through the website; we continue to encourage Friends to receive Quaker Concern electronically (currently 420 vs. 2400 via print), to save trees and postage. In the coming year,

we will be augmenting our communications through video.

This year, CFSC had to seek continuance, under new legislation, as a federally incorporated non-for-profit; we completed this process in December with help from Pete Cross and a charity lawyer.

CFSC staff undertake visitation within and beyond the Quaker community and we always welcome requests. We have visited several Meetings and churches in the past year, participated in public presentations, and generally sought to make more people aware of Friends' concerns. We also offer Individual Grants (and grants to Meetings) for service-related projects. This year, we funded a Friend to go to a KAIROS Intergenerational Gathering and another to serve with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel/Palestine. Please be in touch with us if you would like more information on the grants program.

An enormous "thank you" to the individuals and Meetings that support CFSC financially through monthly and annual donations. Over \$227,000 was raised, surpassing our goal of \$215,000. We offer particular thanks to the CFSC Liaisons who share information with their Meetings about our work and promote our Annual Appeal. They ensure we are receiving information from Meetings (minutes, etc.), which strengthens our relationship and areas of cooperation.

Assigned program work:

Conscientious objection: Many cases are at a standstill (see Spring 2014 *Quaker Concern*). CFSC sought a reduced, or no, sentence for Kim Rivera who returned to the US under threat of deportation in September 2012; instead, she served her full sentence and gave birth to a son while in prison, who was taken away from her within days. We promoted "Let Them Stay Week" in January and we wrote the new Minister of Immigration and are following up on his disappointing response.

Partnerships: CFSC funds and facilitates Friends involvement with KAIROS; Project Ploughshares; the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group; various Councils for International Cooperation; and the Canadian Council for Refugees. CFSC is partnered with Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker Institute for the Future, and the Quaker UN Offices on several issues.

Jane Orion Smith

Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) program committee:

This year QFJ has continued its programmatic focus on youth, developing relationships and partnerships to help determine effective directions forward. We continue to be members of the Church Council of Justice and Corrections (CCJC), the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ), and the International Quaker Criminal Justice Liaison Group. This year we joined the Canadian Criminal Justice Association and the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child in which CFSC was invited to speak at their Annual General Meeting.

At the October CFSC meeting, QFJ members met with Rachel Brett, human rights expert at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, recognizing that her work on the Rights of the Child and the impacts of parental incarceration on children could be useful to us. In preparation for our intervention to the BC Justice Review Initiative, we had consulted with a wide range of people working on youth justice issues. A key challenge identified in this process was that information and research that had been done was not being effectively shared across organizations.

In response, QFJ brought together key players in youth justice last October for a consultation where participants shared knowledge and discussed ways of disseminating knowledge in future. It was decided that a "knowledge brokering hub" would be useful, where participants could continue to collaborate,

sharing knowledge and discussing issues. Taking the lead, QFJ launched a pilot Youth Justice Knowledge Hub in February. The hub currently has 30 contributing members. We are excited about the possibilities that it brings.

Our work fostering relationships and building our capacity includes attending a wider variety of meetings and conferences. Events attended include: Child Rights Impact Assessment Symposium; Aboriginal Community Justice Program unveiling at the Ottawa Courthouse; Peace and Justice Studies Association conference; National Restorative Justice Symposium; Canadian launch of the International NGO Council on Violence against Children's report "Creating a Non-Violent Juvenile Justice System"; as well as Mother and Baby Prison Health: Making Prison Mother Baby Units work in Canada's Prisons; and a National Symposium on Police and Community Partnerships. In June, QFJ will present a paper at the International Conference on Penal Abolition and will have a representative at the 8th International Conference of the European Federation for Restorative Justice.

CFSC endorsed the Joint Statement on the Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, and letters by the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and NAACJ asking the government to implement the recommendations of the Ashley Smith inquiry. We contributed an article on the children of incarcerated parents to the iAM eMagazine, published by the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) of which CFSC is a member.

The QFJ's community grants program funded: the Canadian Families and Corrections Network's re-publishing and distribution of *Time's Up: A reintegration toolkit for families*; MCC Canada Maritime tour of *Forgiven/Forgotten* by Theatre of the Beat relating to crime and our responses to those affected by crime; and Telltales Media's documentary about the closure of the prison farms. Renewed grants supported: a York Region Elizabeth Fry office start up; an emergency fund for Criminal Law Duty Counsel to help released inmates retrieve their personal belongings; taxi services for children temporarily living at a women's shelter in Newmarket so they can attend school as usual; and database management to match volunteer visitors with inmates for Initiative for Just Communities in Winnipeg.

QFJ thanks Tasmin Rajotte for her faithful service as interim Program Coordinator. After QFJ members have solidified our work related to youth justice issues and strengthened our capacity, we will re-post the position. We thank Lee Webb and Philip Smith who served as clerks during this period.

QFJ members: Sarah Chandler (clerk), Glenn Morison and Rachel Urban Shipley. QFJ associate members: Elaine Bishop (AVP), Vince Zelazny (AVP, John McKendy Peace Centre), Kate Johnson (formerly with federal chaplaincy), and Keith Maddock (provincial prison visitation, Ontario).

Quaker Indigenous Rights (QIRC) program committee:

In 2013, the committee changed its name to better reflect the focus of our service, which is rooted in the implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Spanning the year was our engagement with the Tsilhqot'in Title case before the Supreme Court of Canada. This was CFSC's first time as an intervener at Canada's highest court. We focused on the role of international human rights law, including the *UN Declaration*, in examining cases of Indigenous rights including title. At the time of writing, we await the judgment and remain cautiously optimistic. A positive ruling for the Tsilhqot'in will change the legal landscape for Indigenous Title.

After substantive discussions with many Monthly Meetings, we brought a minute to CYM on repudiating the colonial Doctrine of Discovery. The approved minute received wide circulation, including posting on the website of the World Council of Churches.

QIRC affirms the importance of our involvement in international forums. Jennifer Preston (staff) makes annual trips to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with associate Monica Walters-Field, and to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In these meetings QIRC participates through written and oral statements, hosts events at Quaker House, meets with partners, UN officials, and government representatives, attends educational events, along with the daily UN sessions. We undertake this work for CFSC and on behalf of FWCC; we are blessed with support from the Quaker UN offices (QUNOs) in both NY and Geneva.

QIRC participated in Canada's second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council. Jennifer had meetings at various Embassies, sharing our recommendations. While in Geneva, she met with states, NGOs, Indigenous representatives, colleagues at QUNO, staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and government of Canada representatives. In Canada's review, the majority of questions and recommendations addressed the serious human rights concerns facing Indigenous peoples.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples conducted an official visit to Canada. QIRC coordinated a joint submission with many Indigenous partners on issues of national concern.

QIRC partnered with York University on a one-day symposium "Linking Arms Together" addressing the history of Indian Residential Schools, the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. QIRC members and associates participated in TRC events across Canada.

We collaborate with the ad hoc coalition on many initiatives, including an accessible resource on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). We released a "Joint Response on western resource development" in collaboration with the Indigenous leadership in BC. As a part of its development, Jennifer travelled to BC and QIRC members Lana Robinson and Rob Hughes and associate Llynne Phillips assisted with organizing public events with partners.

Other educational events include: "Lunch & Learn" with province of Ontario staff on the UN Declaration and FPIC; a panel at Emmanuel College (U. of Toronto) "Negotiating Power Relations in Ministry Partnerships: Beyond Paternalism, Toward Equitable Partnership"; a human rights training hosted by Kontinonhstats – Kanehsatà:ke Language & Cultural Center; a panel at the Peace & Justice Studies conference with associate Dick Preston.

QIRC members are Rob Hughes (clerk), Maggie Knight, Don Alexander, Sylvia Lewis Havard, Justin Coutts, and Lana Robinson. We are blessed with knowledgeable and supportive associates: Monica Walters-Field, Elaine Bishop, Phyllis Fischer, Bill Curry, Llynne Phillips, Penni Burrell, and Dick Preston.

Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities (QPASC) program committee

It has been a year of major change, with Gianne Broughton completing her service as Program Coordinator after 15 years and Matthew Legge moving into the role. QPASCC continues to refine its identity and areas of work. The process is not complete yet, but the committee's workplan is increasingly manageable.

Major accomplishments for the year include:

- Publishing the booklet *The Four Elements of Peacebuilding: How to Protect Nonviolently* (free copies from CFSC or download at: <http://bit.ly/4ElementsofPeace>);

- Revision of the QPASCC Program Coordinator job description and transition of the new staff into the newly defined position;
- Facilitating discernment on the many issues raised by synthetic biology, with the participation of 10 Meetings (work led by QPASCC members Fred Bass and Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg and Associate member Anne Mitchell);
- Visiting and meeting with our partners in Israel/Palestine, followed by participation in a week long meeting at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (UK) of Quaker agencies working toward a just peace in Palestine/Israel;
- Visiting our partners in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (trip undertaken by Matt Legge, staff, and Associate Sheila Havard);

It has been extremely valuable to meet face-to-face with our partners, see the work that CFSC supports, and meet with staff of other Quaker bodies working internationally. We have extended partnership agreements with three of our on-going partners while finishing the work of laying down several other projects so that QPASCC's capacity better fits with its commitments.

We continue to support the work of:

- The Refugee Committee of Toronto Monthly Meeting;
- The Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement's news service www.imemc.org (partnership extended until 2016);
- Projet Muinda, the service committee of Kinshasa Monthly Meeting in DRC, which coordinates a neighbourhood-based network of groups and individuals volunteering to help resolve conflicts (partnership extended until 2017); and
- Africa Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams in support of schools, health clinics, and peacebuilding work in Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, and Kenya (partnership extended until 2017).

Our other on-going partnerships include:

- Friends Uranium and Nuclear working group (FUN);
- Conscience Canada: working toward a peace tax option for conscientious objectors to military taxation; and
- The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group: a coalition of civil society organizations that address the effect of legislation and policies on civil liberties (Elizabeth Block, QPASCC Associate, participates most actively in ICLMG). In particular, this year CFSC has endorsed the 13 International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance.

QPASCC members: Fred Bass, Trevor Chandler (Clerk), Paul Dekar, Peter Cross, Samson Madera Nashon, Eric Schiller, Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg, Jessica Tellez. QPASCC Associates: Lyn Adamson, Sara AvMaat, Elizabeth Block, David Greenfield, Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta (Palestine/Israel); Elizabeth Block, Patti Hartnagel (civil liberties); Gianne Broughton, Sheila Havard (AGLI/Projet Muinda); David Greenfield (uranium); Anne Mitchell (biotechnology).

For more information, contact:

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