



Canadian Friends Service Committee **E-Newsletter**

February, 2017

Apply to be 2017 CFSC Program Assistant

Based at our Toronto office from May 1 to August 31, the Program Assistant (PA) position is a full-time summer job for young people 20-29.

The PA is an entry-level position established to offer young people the chance to gain paid employment experience and skills by engaging in the work of CFSC and our partner organizations. We hope PAs will acquire hands on experience of multiple aspects of work for a small faith-based nonprofit organization. We also hope the PA will benefit from practical learning about the peace and service witness of Quakers.

PAs observe and participate in CFSC's work, gaining valuable work experience. They undertake:

- basic office and administrative tasks;
- directed research, writing, and other activities;
- and participate in CFSC committee and other meetings/events.

Application deadline is **Monday, February 13**. Find out more and download an application package at <http://quakerservice.ca/ProgramAssistant>

Quaker Concern gets a new look

Three times a year, CFSC publishes longer stories about our work in our 8-page newsletter *Quaker Concern*. The newest edition features a brand new design after well over a decade with the previous look. We hope you like it! A print copy of *Quaker Concern* is sent for free to all donors who wish to receive it. Digital copies are available to anyone. Sign up at <http://quakerservice.ca/news-and-resources/quaker-concern/>

CFSC part of joint statement on nuclear disarmament

CFSC has joined the international joint statement *A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good*. Signing the statement, which has been issued jointly by faith leaders, mayors, and members of parliament, is part of our concern for nuclear disarmament.

<http://quakerservice.ca/news/nuclear-disarmament/>

A decade of the Declaration

CFSC staff person Jennifer Preston was in New York in January to represent Friends at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The expert meeting of the UNPFII was on implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. 2017 marks 10 years since the adoption of the *Declaration*, and CFSC joins with many partners and the UN in planning events to recognize this decade and continue to push for full and consistent implementation. Find out more about the Declaration at <http://quakerservice.ca/UNDeclaration> Pocket-sized copies of the *Declaration*, perfect for handing out at educational events, are available

by contacting the CFSC office.

Have you done the blanket exercise?

KAIROS, of which Friends are members, continues to expand and develop its popular education tool, the blanket exercise. With new educators' resources, and new agreements with agencies interested in participating in the blanket exercise across Canada, this material may be of use to you or groups you know. If you'd like to learn more about the history and ongoing impacts of colonialism in Canada visit the new website <http://kairosblanketexercise.org>

Canada must welcome refugees

We are among the many of conscience watching in disbelief at a decision in the US that "temporarily halts all resettlement of refugees to the US, and halves the number of refugees to be resettled in the current year, bars Syrian refugees, and discriminates against refugees of Muslim faith or background".

The Canadian Council for Refugees, of which we are a member, is urging multiple changes to Canadian immigration policy to welcome more refugees. CCR notes that Canada "is planning to bring just 7,500 Government Assisted Refugees and 16,000 Privately Sponsored Refugees in 2017." Read more, including recommendations to improve Canada's treatment of refugees <http://ccrweb.ca/en/responding-us-anti-refugee-anti-muslim-measures>

Reject information obtained through torture

In 2012 the United Nations' Committee against Torture strongly criticized Canada for its "complicity" in torture. The previous government issued a directive, which still stands, advising about how information obtained via torture in other countries can be used in Canada.

This essentially says to other countries that torture is OK with the Government of Canada, because Canada may value the information acquired. This is morally repugnant and inconsistent with Canada's binding legal obligations. A group of human rights organizations, including the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, of which CFSC is a member, has called for the Government of Canada to make it clear that torture and information obtained via torture are never acceptable. <http://iclmg.ca/minister-goodale-reject-information-obtained-through-torture/>



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Stand up for justice and peace: <http://www.quakerservice.ca/support>

Practical assistance, policy dialogue, research, and education - CFSC works for a world where peace and justice prevail.

Read past issues & encourage others to subscribe at <http://www.quakerservice.ca/enews>