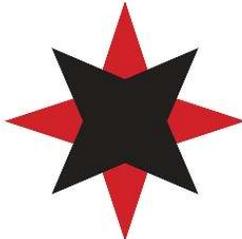




*“[T]he road to social justice steers us through processes that restore humanity to everyone. These processes call us to support each other in opening our hearts, expanding our minds, finding our voices, and embodying the conviction that all of us matter equally - that we each have intrinsic value.” - Veena Vasista*



Canadian Friends  
Service Committee  
(QUAKERS)

**Message from the CFSC Clerk**

As you will read in the following report, our small team has been busy advancing the concerns of Quakers in a great many ways. In addition to the program work, at an organizational level we:

- Began to see how our planning and restructuring work has helped us collect information and make decisions, while remaining vigilant to the stirrings of the Spirit;
- Updated some of our communications to make them simpler and more user-friendly. This involved overhauling the CFSC website and our newsletter *Quaker Concern*. *Quaker Concern* now has a new format and its very own website <http://quakerconcern.ca>.

This coming year, our work will include:

- Publishing a book *The Peace Virus: Infectious Skills to Celebrate Life*, which demonstrates practical things that can be done to cultivate peace, based on our years of experience;
- Producing a resource kit to promote reconciliation work between settler and Indigenous

- communities; and
- Providing support for training and skills to create safer communities.

We exist to alleviate suffering by demonstrating what love can do. We are able to do this work because of the gifts of time, energy, and financial support made by a great many people, and that is deeply encouraging to us. We are so grateful for all the people helping us to cultivate the conditions for caring and hope that make *standing up for justice and peace possible*.



Derek Nice, Clerk

## Peace

Canadian Friends Service Committee was able to support Friends' peace concerns in Canada and internationally in a number of ways. Ongoing support included:

- Major financial support to refugee services offered at Friends House in Toronto;
- Grassroots peacebuilding and conflict transformation work in Kinshasa, DR Congo;
- Health and peacebuilding work in Burundi. Thanks to donations in particular from Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting we have been able to fund FWA's offering HIV/AIDS diagnosis, counselling, and care, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights trainings and services at a clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi;
- In Israel/Palestine, CFSC has established new partnerships to support Jewish Israeli and Druze conscientious objectors to military service through networks that offer advice on everything from legal issues, to writing a strong letter of conscientious objection, to speaking with the media; and
- Active partnership with the Canadian Peace Initiative, to promote the creation of a peace ministry or department within the federal government.



Photo C.P. Storm CC-BY

We continue to use the thinking we developed about a culture of peacebuilding (<http://quakerservice.ca/peacebuilding>) to inform our work and decisions. This helped offer a unique perspective to peacebuilding work this year, and much of this thinking about peacebuilding is shared by issuing public statements, alone and with partners. Topics this year included:

- Islamophobia and hatred in Canadian society;
- The government of Ontario's ill-informed debate about the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movements;

- Canada’s approaches to national security, nuclear weapons, and restoring funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (which later happened);
- The Sustainable Development Goals as a global framework for peace;
- The cases of Mohamed Harkat and Hassan Diab;
- Famines; and
- Arm sales to countries that may use them in violation of international law or to repress civilian populations and Canada’s compliance with the UN Arms Trade Treaty. A search on the CFSC website will link you to these statements.

CFSC continues to track, share non-technical updates about, and offer presentations on the developments in the field of synthetic biology. This work involved organizing and participating in a major international conference on synthetic biology held in Toronto in November 2017.

CFSC’s funds and facilitates Friends involvement with: KAIROS; Project Ploughshares; the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group; Ontario Council for International Cooperation; and the Canadian Council for Refugees. CFSC also supports Quaker Earthcare Witness and the Quaker UN Offices in New York and Geneva.

### Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights



CFSC staff Jennifer Preston and member Rachel Singleton-Polster at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2017

We continued to be actively involved in education about Indigenous Peoples' human rights domestically and internationally. We have received many invitations to present to groups interested in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and implementing the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. We distributed many thousands of booklets on the *UN Declaration* and gave presentations to:

- The BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs’ meeting;
- Several environmental organizations and First Nations organizations at a workshop on Free, Prior and Informed Consent;
- The Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly dialogue session on the *UN Declaration* and using international mechanisms to advance Indigenous Peoples’ human rights;
- St. James Westminster Church in London, Ontario;
- Kitchener Monthly Meeting;
- The Union of BC Indian Chiefs' Council meeting on implementing the *UN Declaration*; and
- A Skeena traditional leaders' gathering on Tsimshin territory (Prince Rupert, BC).

CFSC was at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues expert meeting on implementation of the *UN Declaration*, held in New York at UN headquarters in January. 2017 marks ten years since the adoption of the *Declaration*, and CFSC joined with many partners and the UN in planning events to recognize this decade. We worked with partners in the Coalition for the

Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples to host a reception in Ottawa for expert members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). We actively participated at the annual sessions of EMRIP in Geneva and the PFII in New York.

During all these meetings and sessions with Indigenous Peoples, coalition partners, diplomats, Canadian cabinet ministers, and the general public, we kept the focus on the fact that governments can and must work with Indigenous Peoples to fully implement the *UN Declaration*. The Coalition publicly supported MP Romeo Saganash's private members bill C-262 (an act to implement the *UN Declaration*). We believe a legislative framework for implementing the *UN Declaration* is the best way forward. This will require that a national action plan be developed in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. We have the expertise and relationships to help with this important work.

Last year Quakers collectively made a commitment to take our reconciliation work to the next level and to report back on our progress. This year we have been supporting several Quaker Meetings in this work. We are compiling Meetings' reports to us about their reconciliation work and sharing this information publicly.

### **Criminal Justice**

CFSC's criminal justice work is rooted in penal abolition - transforming harmful approaches to ones that are healing. As part of this work, we provided workshops on healing approaches. This saw us traveling to Western Half Yearly Meeting, Island Gathering, Coldstream, Edmonton, and Calgary.

We made a number of submissions to provincial and federal governments on policing, pardons, prison farms, the use of force on children, and the need to abolish the cruel practice of solitary confinement in prisons. On each of these issues we worked with partners and on our own to call for evidence-based changes.

CFSC gave small community grants to:

- Spring House that provides accommodation and support for families visiting incarcerated persons (unfortunately Spring House has now been discontinued);
- the Canadian Families and Corrections Network for the development of activity sheets to help incarcerated dads to interact with their children;
- *Understory Magazine* for a special issue on women and justice; and
- 7<sup>th</sup> Step, which ran a training session on reintegration self-help groups.



We're pleased to see that CFSC's educational resource on parole and how it relates to community safety is now being used in the training of volunteers and as a resource for families with loved ones in prison.

We commissioned a case study to determine if judges consider the "best interests of the child" when sentencing individuals with parental responsibilities. Our next step is to have a policy dialogue with stakeholders to develop a general guidance document to assist judges in considering the principle of the "best interests of the child."

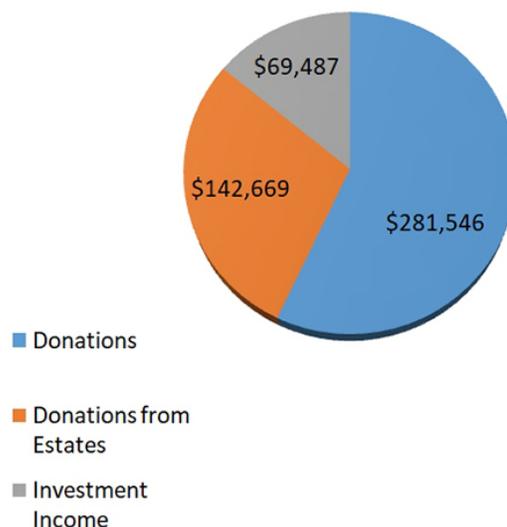
In this work CFSC collaborates with and is a member of: the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice; the Church Council on Justice and Correction; the Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education in BC; the Canadian Criminal Justice Association; the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child; the Canadian Network for Youth Justice; and the International Quaker Criminal Justice Liaison Group.

### Financial Summary 2016 – 2017

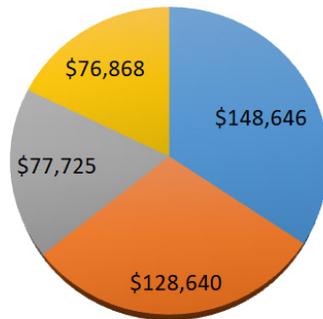
We are extremely grateful to all the people who financially supported us and to the dedicated volunteers who together contributed over 3,000 hours of their time to CFSC over the last 12 months. Without you none of this work would have been possible. Thank you.

The surplus in our finances this year is due largely to a generous bequest from an estate. We can't rely on such unexpected gifts in the future, so we still urgently need your financial support to carry out the justice and peace work that is so important to the people and communities that look to CFSC.

### Revenue = \$493,702



## Expenses = \$431,879



- Indigenous Rights
- Peace
- Criminal Justice
- Administration

### In closing



Far more happens at CFSC than we could ever put into words. We hope this *Annual Report* has given you a small glimpse of the many accomplishments donors have supported in the past year. For more in depth information on everything discussed above, please visit the CFSC website or get in touch with us.

Please stand up for justice and peace now. Make a donation to help this work continue. Thank you for your trust and vision of a world where peace and justice prevail.