



Canadian Friends Service Committee **E-Newsletter**

October, 2018



Annual Accountability Report launched

We're pleased to launch our 2017-2018 *Annual Accountability Report*. It offers brief highlights from the past year, showing how your support is transforming conflicts and changing lives. This work continues thanks to the vision and generosity of individual donors. Please have a look at the report and donate to CFSC to help our work continue. <https://report.quakerservice.ca>

New video explains how a Department of Peace could make a difference

CFSC program assistant Keira Mann narrates a new five minute video *The Story of the Rohingya: Imagine Another Way*. Taking the case of the Rohingya, the brief animated video explains that a Canadian Department of Peace could coordinate an effective set of responses to help prevent mass atrocities. CFSC worked with the Canadian Peace Initiative (CPI) to produce this video. We don't claim to have all the answers, but we do hope this video will help to generate some much needed discussions.

Whether you love the video, partially agree with it, or completely disagree, CPI welcomes you to post your comments and reactions on Facebook and share this video as a discussion tool with your family and friends: <https://www.facebook.com/canadianpeaceinitiative/> Not on Facebook? Watch the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtCUFypt3jA>.

In related news, on September 22, Minister Chrystia Freeland announced that the government plans to create an Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security. CFSC has previously written on this issue: <https://quakerconcern.ca/an-ambassador-for-women-peace-and-security/> When MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj recently debated his private members motion M-163 to create this Ambassador, he stated that this should be just a first step toward a full Department of Peace.

At CFSC, we have many remaining questions about the Ambassador, including what powers the position will have. We also remain deeply concerned that other aspects of Canada's "feminist" foreign policies include:

- continuing to arm some of the worst human rights abusers in the world: <https://quakerservice.ca/ArmsTrade>
- allowing major loopholes in our arms control commitments: <https://quakerservice.ca/ArmsTradeTreaty> and
- a 73% increase to military spending, largely to increase Canada's offensive capabilities: <https://quakerservice.ca/DefenceBudget>

CFSC has white poppy buttons for sale

Friends have been asking us where they can find white poppies and since we couldn't find any suppliers in Canada we've decided to make our own – in button form so they're reusable. They're now available for \$2 or 3 for \$5. The white poppy has been controversial because it's sometimes misunderstood as insulting to soldiers. The goal of the white poppy isn't to disrespect soldiers. White poppies symbolize remembrance of *all people* killed in war – civilians and soldiers alike. White poppies also symbolize a hope for an end to all wars. Contact us or drop by our office to order. We have other buttons and fair trade CFSC t-shirts available too!

New infographic: *Key Elements of Bill C-262*

Perfect for sharing on social media, a new infographic continues our work of educating the public and our politicians on the facts, helping explain why C-262 is so important and why fears expressed by some are unwarranted.

Bill C-262 creates the framework for implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. It is currently before the Senate. Unfortunately false and misleading information about C-262 continues to circulate, which is why the Coalition on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of which CFSC is a member, continues to create and circulate educational materials. <https://quakerservice.ca/news/new-infographic-explains-bill-c-262/>

CFSC writes on recent accusations against Dimitri Lascaris

In September, Canadian political leaders called lawyer and human rights activist Dimitri Lascaris anti-Semitic. CFSC wrote an open letter in response, after carefully examining the circumstances, and the perspectives of the groups involved. Importantly, the letter calls for caution and fact-checking before making such strong accusations, and raises the need to distinguish between criticism of the human rights violations of any government with hatred of an entire ethnic or religious group. Read it at: <https://quakerservice.ca/DimitriLascaris>



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5R 1C7
Tel: 416-920-5213 Email: info@quakerservice.ca Website: www.quakerservice.ca
<http://www.quakerservice.ca/facebook> | <http://www.quakerservice.ca/twitter>

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>