

Canadian Friends  
Service Committee  
(QUAKERS)



*“We walk side by side right into the heart of hurt, the deep and  
frightening darkness, and look for light.”*  
- Laura Shipler Chico

# Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights



At a symposium CFSC helped organize, Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould makes her surprise announcement

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) has called the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* the “framework for reconciliation.” Its implementation is the main goal of CFSC’s Indigenous rights work.

This year we continued working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and partners at UN meetings in New York and Geneva where we helped to issue joint statements and organize off-the-record meetings where important dialogue could take place. The coalition we are a part of helped in advancing government legislation, Bill C-262, that creates the framework for implementation of

the *Declaration*. Our support for Bill C-262 saw us working with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, human rights groups, and other allies to meet politicians, present to a Parliamentary standing committee, write op-eds and continuously share the facts to respond to concerns and counter misinformation circulating about Indigenous rights.

We supported grassroots awareness raising projects such as the Walk for Reconciliation and the production of educational resources for our elected officials and the general public. We attended many educational events, including a two-day symposium where the Minister of Justice made a surprise announcement of the Government's support for Bill C-262. We did a tour of northwest British Columbia sponsored by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, Kispiox Seniors Association, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Kaien Islands Elders, and the Gitwilgyoots Tribe. The tour included seven presentations to the public and Indigenous leadership.

We also assisted Quaker reconciliation work by developing a reconciliation kit, supporting territorial acknowledgements, coordinating a report of actions taken by Quakers, and providing five presentations at Canadian Yearly Meeting in session, the annual Quaker gathering.

# Peace



Parfaite Ntahuba stands in front of the Friends Women's Association clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi

CFSC's peace work contributes to creating a culture of peacebuilding that can transform conflicts. To that end, our work assisted with healing and rebuilding training in D.R. Congo and work on gender-based violence and providing HIV diagnosis and care in Burundi. We helped in convening a Canadian conference on faith and synthetic biology (a suite of rapidly advancing genetic engineering and manipulation techniques, such as CRISPR) and released a paper and brief news updates on the issues.

We supported Toronto Monthly Meeting's Quaker Committee for Refugees in offering free services to refugees and other newcomers. We helped the Canadian Peace Initiative update their website and develop the short animated video *Syria: Imagine Another Way*, which was viewed over 9,000 times and generated interesting discussions to raise awareness about the fact that Canada can do more to support peace.

We assisted with raising up Quaker voices on other issues of concern as well, such as: the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty; Canada's massive increase to military spending; famines in places like Yemen; Israel/Palestine concerns; the International Day of Peace; and multiple deeply important but under-discussed civil liberties issues.

Our work on peace and our experiences also led us to develop *Are We Done Fighting?*, a book that will be published next year, which is full of evidence and exercises we will use to help people develop practical peace skills.

# Criminal Justice



Dick Cotterill (Halifax Meeting), David Summerhays (Montreal Meeting), Kirsten Van Drunen (Kitchener Area Meeting), Michael Pedruski (Montreal Meeting), and Sarah Chandler (Interior British Columbia Meeting) at the National Restorative Justice Symposium

The goal of CFSC's criminal justice work is to eliminate the punitive mindset that pervades society and justice systems, by transforming harmful approaches to ones that are healing.

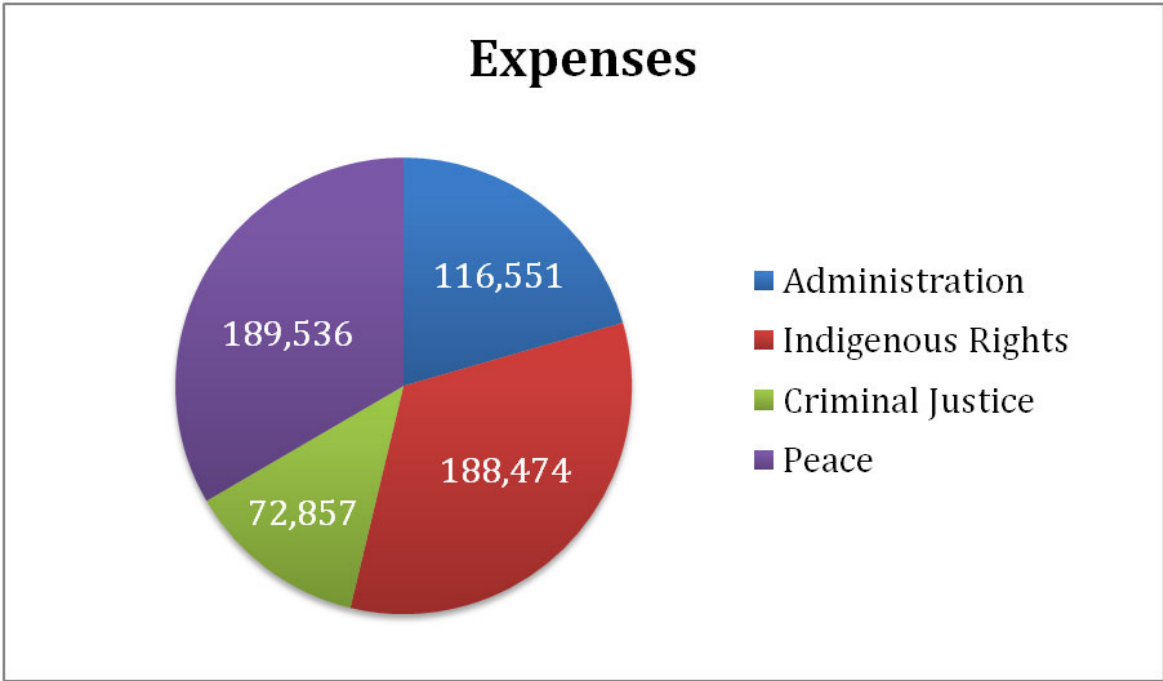
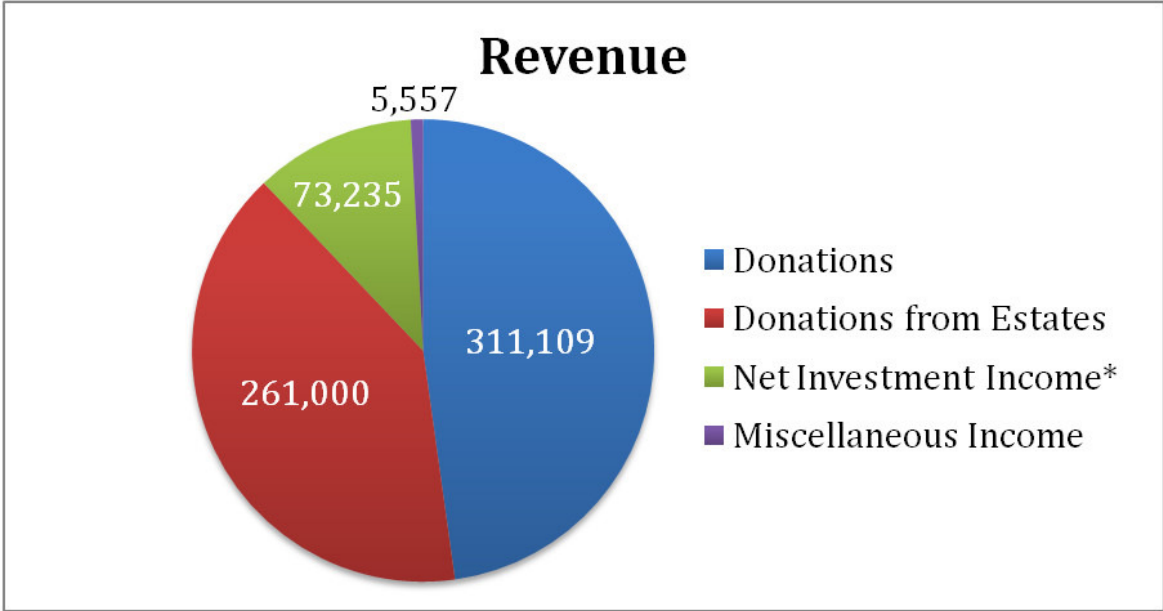
We continued to shine a light on the effects that prison has on children of incarcerated parents and provided feedback on a number of government consultations, continued to raise awareness around the problematic use of

solitary confinement, and were delighted to see the reinstatement of the prison farms programs in the Kingston area – something we had worked toward. We supported: an Alternatives to Violence Project in Ontario; a project that provides basic necessities for people when released; reprinting Jeffrey's Out of Jail (a UN-recognized resource for connecting incarcerated parents with their children); and a project raising awareness about mental health problems in prisons.

Through our active participation in the Church Council on Justice and Corrections we assisted with the organizing for the National Restorative Justice Symposium and provided funding for a special workshop and for Quakers to attend. We facilitated five educational workshops with Quaker meetings and created a video of Keith Maddock, long-time Quaker prison chaplain, discussing his experiences.

## Financial Information

**Your donations are transforming conflicts and changing lives.** 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 year. Without you, none of this work would have been possible. This truly is your work. Thank you!



\*The Net Investment Income, as stated, represents dividend and interest income received together with realized and unrealized gains minus investment management fees.



## In Closing



Far more happens at CFSC than we could ever put into words. Much of our work is done behind the scenes, providing space and light to important issues. Direct success is often hard to measure, even as conflicts are transformed and lives positively changed. We hope this *Annual Accountability Report* has given you a small glimpse of the

many accomplishments donors like you have made happen in the past year. For more in-depth information on everything discussed above, please visit [quakerservice.ca](http://quakerservice.ca) or contact us at 416-920-5213 or [info@quakerservice.ca](mailto:info@quakerservice.ca)

**You, as a supporter of Canadian Friends Service Committee, make a difference in people's lives every single day, even when you don't know it. Please donate again to continue transforming conflicts and changing lives.**