



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

January, 2019

CFSC stands with all Wet'suwet'en people

CFSC stands with all Wet'suwet'en people in their efforts to ensure their human rights are protected. We feel any use of force by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is the opposite of reconciliation. Respectful dialogue is what is needed.

The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed the need to reconcile pre-existing Aboriginal sovereignty with assumed Crown sovereignty. The Wet'suwet'en People have rights in their territories that must be respected. Governments should engage in good faith with the Wet'suwet'en to resolve their concerns. Sustainable development protects lands, territories, and waters. Sustainable development also includes the protection of human rights.

CFSC is taking this situation very seriously and is in ongoing dialogue with our Indigenous partners in the region, supporting them as requested.

The most read posts of 2018

As we start a new year we thought it might be fun to share a top 10 list from 2018. CFSC added 41 posts to our website last year, here are the 10 most read:

1. Open letter to all MPs – Parliamentarians should embrace Bill C-262
<https://quakerservice.ca/news/open-letter-mps-bill-c-262/>
2. Commentary – *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
<https://quakerservice.ca/news/commentary-un-declaration/>
3. Truth and Reconciliation: Quakers in Action <https://quakerservice.ca/news/truth-reconciliation-quakers-action/>
4. Indigenous land rights in Canada: Landmark case points the way to true reconciliation
<https://quakerservice.ca/news/indigenous-land-rights-canada/> (this is actually a 2013 post about the Supreme Court's Tsilhqot'in nation decision but it continued to be popular last year)
5. New fact sheets explain Indigenous rights issues <https://quakerservice.ca/news/new-fact-sheets-explain-indigenous-rights-issues/>
6. The latest news on synthetic biology <https://quakerservice.ca/news/latest-news-synthetic-biology/>
7. Penal abolition resource launched <https://quakerservice.ca/news/penal-abolition-resource-launched/> (this is actually a 2015 post but it continued to be popular last year)
8. Canada: abolish mandatory minimum sentencing <https://quakerservice.ca/news/canada-could-abolish-mandatory-minimum-sentencing/>

9. Open letter to Prime Minister over Jerusalem <https://quakerservice.ca/news/open-letter-prime-minister-over-jerusalem/>
10. Canadian Quakers and reconciliation 2018 <https://quakerservice.ca/news/canadian-quakers-reconciliation/>

Canadian tax dollars subsidizing Israeli military, illegal settlements?

At CFSC we are moved by the sufferings of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. We know that both Israelis and Palestinians have committed acts of violence against each other. We are also aware of the huge inequality of power between them. We yearn for a just peace that will benefit all peoples in the region.

A January 4 CBC article seems to find that the Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada has used charitable donations in ways not permitted by Canadian tax law, such as to develop infrastructure on Israeli military bases and in West Bank settlements (Canadian foreign policy says the settlements are illegal and a serious obstacle to peace) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/jnf-charity-donations-1.4949072>

This is not the first time CBC has investigated the JNF. In the '90s CBC's *The Fifth Estate* ran a piece about "Canada Park." The CBC found that the park, funded by Canadian donations to the JNF, was created in the occupied West Bank on top of the ruins of three Palestinian villages that the Israeli military depopulated and demolished in 1967.

A new Parliamentary E-Petition says, "We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of National Revenue to revoke JNF Canada's charitable status if found to be in violation of the Income Tax Act and CRA guidelines and policies."
<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1999>

Find out more on Independent Jewish Voices' campaign website: <http://www.stopthejnf.ca>

Learn about CFSC's concerns for a just peace in Israel/Palestine: <https://quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/israel-palestine>



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