



Canadian Friends Service Committee **E-Newsletter**

Bill C-262 in the Legislative Process



It's time to pass Bill C-262

CFSC program assistant Keira Mann recently escorted a delegation of national leaders from the Anglican Church, the United Church, the Presbyterian Church, and Mennonite Central Committee around the Canadian Senate. The purpose of these visits was to urge Senators to pass Bill C-262, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the UN*

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The delegation met with four Senators and the staff of one more to discuss the Bill and what their congregations have been doing toward reconciliation and furthering Indigenous Peoples' human rights in Canada. The group encouraged each Senator to support the Bill within the Senate and among their colleagues. They were also introduced in the Senate Gallery by Senator Nancy Hartling, a supporter of Bill C-262.

CFSC program coordinator Jennifer Preston has also been busy promoting Bill C-262. Jennifer was part of an event in Winnipeg recently that drew hundreds of people as well as CBC coverage: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples-winnipeg-1.5072406>

Write to Canadian Senators using this tool to show your support for Bill C-262: <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/advocacy/campaigns/call-your-senator-pass-bill-c-262>



Penal Abolition Workshop in Winnipeg

In early March the members of CFSC's criminal justice program committee traveled to visit Friends at Winnipeg Monthly Meeting and host a Penal Abolition Workshop. The workshop was held in a space that usually hosts an Indigenous Healing Circle in the north of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Friends were actively engaged and shared their wealth of experiences with prisons, criminal justice work, and penal abolition. The workshop was a great success, and CFSC looks forward to returning to Winnipeg for CYM in session in August.

CIFTA

Joint letter asks Canada to distinguish between Israel and illegal settlements

Bill C-85 seeks to update the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA). The Agreement includes some commendable features, including chapters on gender, corporate responsibility, labour and environmental protections. CIFTA has some glaring omission as well.

In its trade agreement with Israel, the European Union makes it clear that the benefits of the agreement do not extend to Israel's settlements in illegally occupied Palestinian territory. CIFTA makes no such distinction. CIFTA is also silent about human rights and any

requirement to uphold them.

A new letter to Senators requests changes to bring CIFTA in line with Canada's legal and moral obligations. The letter was signed by UN Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk, Independent Jewish Voices, The United Church, Amnesty International Canada, Mennonite Central Committee, and Canadian Friends Service Committee. <https://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Joint-Letter-Bill-C-85-CIFTA.pdf>

Find out more about our concern for a just peace to benefit all peoples in Israel/Palestine: <https://quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/israel-palestine/>



New video on growing up around people in trouble with the law

“People who had committed offenses aren’t different,” says CFSC member Joy Morris in a new video from CFSC. This was one important lesson Joy describes learning from a rather unusual upbringing. In the video, Joy explains that she grew up in a household where her mother, Ruth Morris, regularly welcomed people to stay while they were awaiting trial for crimes ranging from petty drug offenses to murder. Watch this 4 minute video interview: <https://quakerservice.ca/news/new-video-on-growing-up-around-people-in-trouble-with-the-law/>

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