

Canadian Yearly Meeting Annual Report on Truth & Reconciliation Work

Period covered: 2018

Prepared by Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)

August 2019

At its annual gathering in 2016, the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) approved a minute (<http://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CYM-2016-Minute-on-Reconciliation.pdf>) that reported on the work done by Quakers in Canada in support of Indigenous rights and Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The minute also listed six action points for Quaker Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to take forward into the coming year. One of the action points asked local Quaker groups to report back to Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) on their annual reconciliation work, and tasked CFSC with preparing a report for CYM.

The present report is the third such annual report (the 2017 and 2018 reports are available at <http://quakerservice.ca/QuakersinAction>) compiled by CFSC. It is based on reports sent by 13 Meetings (Calgary, Coldstream, Cowichan Valley, Hamilton, Interior BC, Kitchener Area, New Brunswick, Ottawa, PEI, Pelham/Niagara, Peterborough, Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver, Victoria Island, Yarmouth, Yonge St.) and CYM Education and Outreach Committee about their activities since July 2018.

Some reflections are emerging from this third year of reporting on our reconciliation work:

- a. The ***number of Meetings and CYM committees who reported has remained relatively steady***, with a total of 17 reports submitted this year compared to 18 in 2018 and 13 in 2017. We are encouraged by having several Meetings report for the first time this year, and by Meetings who are making this annual report part of their practice.
- b. The number of Meetings that are ***doing land/territory acknowledgments*** or have entered into ***a process of discernment around how to do territory acknowledgments*** has increased. We take this as manifestation of the fact that Friends are continuing to grapple with the complexities and responsibilities of living on Indigenous land. We hope that the recent resource of Territory Acknowledgments produced by CFSC will be helpful to Friends in this process (<https://quakerservice.ca/territory-acknowledgment>).
- c. Meetings that reported have several individual Friends and/or attenders who are committed to the work of reconciliation; connected with local Indigenous peoples, leaders and organizations; and involved to varying degrees in relevant local efforts. Similar to the last two years, this remains ***the primary process through which the work of Truth and Reconciliation is moving through our Quaker communities***. The full Meeting reports, compiled in an Addendum and available from CFSC by request, have many details of the work and commitment of Friends across the country.

- d. **More Meetings also report that they have established groups or committees to work on Indigenous rights.** These committees brought relevant information to their Meetings, connected the Quaker community with local reconciliation efforts, and helped organize events and educational initiatives within their Meetings and in the community.
- e. Overall, we are encouraged by emerging signs that **Indigenous concerns are becoming mainstreamed in the life and work of Meetings across Canada.**

Below are examples of activities and initiatives undertaken by the reporting Meetings and the CYM Education and Outreach Committee over the last year. They are organized loosely by the six action points from the 2016 CYM minute, though some would fit more than one action point. The reports can also be read in full in the Addendum, available by request from CFSC.

1. to continue to educate themselves, including children and youth, about the doctrine of discovery, the ongoing effects of colonialism, the UN Declaration, residential schools and their legacy (including the TRC Report), the history of the land on which they live, and reconciliation efforts.

Calgary: Many Calgary Friends attended the Saturday evening gathering at Western Half Yearly Meeting: Truth and Healing: Honouring Indigenous Rights, Acknowledging Quaker Legacies, and Seeking Right Relations. Barbara Heather presented her learning from the Pendle Hill Truth and Healing Conference. The keynote addresses can be viewed at: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/live-recorded-lectures/#.W9sfa2hKjIU>. Rachel Yordy spoke of her Master's work, "Two Row Reconciliation Framework," and reconciliation/decolonization education programming. We continue to share information on lectures, courses, plays, art shows, and books on and by Indigenous writers, artists and activists.

Coldstream: A Bulletin Board listing First Nations Peoples' activities in our area. We suggested anyone wishing to attend could contact one of us and we might go as a group. This Bulletin Board will be replaced by information on our website which is in process of redesign and reconstruction.

Workshop on 94 Truth and Reconciliation recommendations and on UNDRIP on January 27, 2019. Workshop designed as follows: Interactive, consisting of 4 parts: 1. A historical timeline to understand where reconciliation and calls to action came from. Participants organized the events in a timeline posted on the Meeting House wall.; 2. 94 Calls to Action were organized under headings; 3. Calls to action colour coded according to what the government has done with them. Participants organized these calls to action into what has been done, what is proposed, and what has had no attention.; 4. Discussion Pat led using a flip chart listing questions and observations. Discussion lively and informative. Discussion around bringing the workshop to other worship organizations in the area. A detailed report about the day has been compiled and can be obtained from Heather Barclay.

Education and Outreach, CYM: Grants and loans: In 2018, the Education and Outreach Committee using funds from the Quaker Renewal Fund sponsored two friends to attend a weekend conference titled "Truth and Healing: Quakers Seeking Right Relationships with

Indigenous Peoples” at Pendle Hill in Philadelphia. We asked these friends to share their learnings from this conference, which they did by facilitating a Special Interest Group (SIG) at spring Western Half-Yearly Meeting (WHYM) in Sorrento BC and as an evening presentation at Fall WHYM in Water Valley AB.

E-Courses: Reconciliation issues come up in the online discussion even though they are not part of the course agenda. Both facilitators agreed that it does come up particularly in the Introduction to Quakers and Friends Ways class.

The Visitation Program: We have visitors who could speak to meetings about reconciliation but there have been no requests from Monthly Meetings for such a visitation.

Kitchener Area:We organized a Meeting visit from Sandy Greer, an attender from Lucknow Worship Group (a Worship Group of KAMM). Sandy collaborated with Everett Soop, an Indigenous graphic artist and political cartoonist to produce a movie, “Soop on Wheels.” In the movie Everett spoke about his life, physical disability, and residential schools. The viewing and discussion with Sandy was fruitful for the entire Meeting. We encouraged Sandy in sharing the movie more widely.

Ottawa: On April 30th, Judith Brown (representing OMM), Janyce Elser, and Ed Bianchi of Ottawa KAIROS organized an ecumenical talk by Jennifer Preston of CFSC on Bill C-262 that was attended by 100 people representing many Ottawa KAIROS churches. About 15 Friends attended. Elder Barbara Dumont Hill opened and closed the event with stories, prayer, drumming and song and her strong spiritual presence. Jennifer provided a wealth of historical context, and experiential knowledge, and answered questions.

Supported by OMM, Judith attended a May conference at Pendle Hill called “Truth and Healing: Quakers seeking Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples”. Elaine Bishop of Winnipeg Monthly Meeting was an organizer and presenter. Judith became a member of a follow-up group that meets monthly online and is working toward creating a website of resources for Monthly Meetings on Turtle Island and planning for a second conference in 2020. Both of these groups were comprised of mainly settlers but also included many Indigenous peoples.

Manuela Popovici continues to manage the Right Relations Network, an electronic list which keeps many ecumenical groups and individuals informed of Indigenous reconciliation events in Ottawa. Members are mostly settler, but there are many Indigenous Christians as well. The events typically bring settlers and Indigenous peoples together in ceremony and learning.

PEI: As a Meeting, we did not carry out any activities or make contact with First Nations people in the past year. Several Friends shared the following thoughts on their individual explorations or insights. The general feeling, both within our Meeting and as we observe in the wider community, is that awareness of Indigenous issues is rising.

Vancouver: On October 27 2018 the annual fall retreat at the Vancouver Monthly Meeting had the theme “Peaceful together: Indigenous people and Quakers contemplate truth and reconciliation”. The morning portion of the retreat consisted of 9 members who read a selection of Indigenous literature from the Vancouver Monthly Meeting library on issues such as police, prisons, missing women, residential schools, artists, and racism, and identify passages

that touch their own lives. After a shared lunch we had two speakers share stories of their lives related to their journeys with Indigenous matters. Sid Harrison a retired RCMP spoke first. He related about his experiences in his work where Indigenous individuals were wrongly treated by R.C.M.P. He later was part of team with an Indigenous R.C.M.P officer who traveled across Canada as an aid to develop more fair and stable relations with the R.C.M.P and Indigenous peoples.

Our second speaker was Gail Harwood, a member of Vancouver Monthly Meeting. She related her experiences as an adult educator helping different Indigenous communities throughout BC. She witnessed non-institutionalized segregation in high schools and lack of understanding and neglect of the general problem of Indigenous relations with the Settler population. With the willingness to listen she adapted her teaching styles to serve her Indigenous students. The attendees were left with a feeling of inspiration with the positive approaches brought by these trusted public servants who recognized a problem and did their part to establish sound practices for reconciliation.

Victoria Island: Relations with First Nations Working Group member (Gordon Switzer) has devoted many hours to searching available archives to summarize the written historical records of early settlement in the greater Victoria area. His research has included many visits to the Songhees Wellness Centre and Victoria Friendship Centre for discussion and library access. His gleanings will be shared in 2019.

Timely information on First Nations events and activities has been provided to VIMM through the Fern Street News, enabling F/friends to plan attending events and attractions. This includes protests and marches in solidarity with First Nations response to environment and social issues as well as accessible First Nations facilities, Arts events and Galleries.

In October Florence Dick a Songhees First Nations liaison for the Songhees Wellness Centre made a presentation to Victoria Friends at our Meeting House. Other denominations were invited and attendance was good. She provided historic and cultural context around our nearest First Nations neighbours and a much deeper feel for the consequences of Colonization by European settlers in our region. Her very personal family history made this event a highly emotional learning experience. Her direct family line (Chilcowich) signed the Douglas Treaties of 1850 pertaining specifically to the area around the Fern Street Meeting House. Knowing this deepens the sense of place beyond Quaker Meeting history in this location.

2. to formally acknowledge the traditional territories where their Meetings are located and engage in processes of reflection on the meaning of this.

Calgary: Calgary Monthly Meeting meets on Treaty 7 land: the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (the Siksika, the Piikuni, and the Kainai), the Tsuut'ina and the Stoney Nakoda Nations and the homelands of the Métis Peoples.

Coldstream: We recognize Coldstream Friends Meetinghouse is located in the traditional territory of the Anishnabe, Haudeneausaune, Lenaape and Attowandoran people, all of whom have a longstanding relationship with this land. The Indigenous Nations of our area include the

Chippewa, the Munsee Delaware and the Oneida. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation we commit to our relationship with each other and with this land.

This First Nations Territorial statement regarding which peoples used the land where Coldstream Meeting is located will be discussed in an open meeting with any Meeting members and attenders who wish to come. Where, how, when the statement will be used has yet to be decided.

Hamilton: Our land acknowledgement is a work in progress. The framed announcement and the wording printed on our business agenda and minutes remain the same: "Hamilton Quakers acknowledge that the land on which they gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishnaabeg (Ojibway) peoples, covered by Upper Canada Treaty Number 3", but when given orally it usually includes expressions of gratitude for the care of the land given by First Nations peoples, intent to continue to care for it, and hope that we and the First Nations peoples may live together in peace.

Interior BC: We take care to acknowledge that our Meetings in Kelowna takes place on the unceded traditional territory of the Syilx people. This acknowledgement is read aloud at the beginning of the Meeting for Worship. Our meeting includes Prince George, Lillooet (Stl'atl'imc Peoples), Kamloops (Secwepemc Peoples) and the Okanagan (Syilx Peoples).

Kitchener Area: We have discussed, but have not resolved, how to address a Meeting Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

Ottawa: In March 2018 the Meeting wrote a minute asking Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC) to organize a called meeting on acknowledging that our Meeting is on unceded Algonquin territory. In response, in November Manuela Popovici and Judith Brown formed a Waters of Reconciliation Group under the discernment of P&SC. At the first session, Manuela gifted us by delivering her CYM lecture on "Faith Reconciliation, and Relationships with Indigenous People". We then watched episode 1 of the First Contact series and responded to it within a circle. We have continued to watch this series into 2019 and it has engaged 20-25 Friends. We are preparing for a called meeting on acknowledgements in 2019.

Pelham/Niagara: Our area is rich in formative history of peace. In the Niagara Peninsula we recognize the peacemaking achievements of the Two Row Wampum Treaty of 1613 establishing peaceful and considerate relations between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee of territories extending west to the Niagara area. We are also aware of the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 when 24 Indigenous Nations gathered on the banks of the Niagara River to express their concepts of equality and friendship. At Meeting we recognize that we meet on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people.

Peterborough: We meet on the traditional territory of the Anishnabe Michi Saagiig people. This territory is covered by the Williams and number 20 Treaties. In 2018, beginning in April, we decided to begin each Meeting for Worship for Business with an acknowledgement of the land we live on.

Vancouver: The Vancouver Monthly Meeting meets in the heart of the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam Nation. Our meetinghouse is located near the site of

ćasnaʔəm, an ancient village and burial site of the Musqueam, dating back over 4,000 years. We also acknowledge that in an urban landscape such as Vancouver, we mingle with Indigenous people from throughout Turtle Island. In particular, the Downtown East Side reflects a significant urban Indigenous population from many Nations, including those displaced from their communities through the processes of colonization.

Victoria Island: Relations with First Nations Working Group has been grappling with the development of an appropriate acknowledgement statement to take to VIMM monthly meeting. For a simple statement, this is a complex process. We have examined wording very closely as we incorporate many and varied suggestions with an eye to respect for First Nations Sensibilities and for Quaker practices and protocols. The suggested wording will be looked at by the whole Victoria Friends Meeting in 2019.

Yarmouth:Yarmouth Monthly Meeting raised \$500 to sponsor a KAIROS Blanket Exercise which was held at the Meetinghouse on April 27th, 2019. Many employees of our local Family and Children’s Services attended as well as other members of the Meeting and local communities. It is difficult to know what the impact of this was, but the response on the day was very moving. We also raised \$200 to donate to a local initiative to teach indigenous cooking classes at a local church.

Yonge St.:Because our meetinghouse is located in an area that was used traditionally as a trading route, it was used by different Indigenous groups. We have not yet found out if there is one group we can name. The clerk of YSMM read the following statement at the beginning of Meeting for Worship for Business throughout 2018:

Yonge Street Monthly Meeting Minute to Formally Acknowledge Traditional Territories before European Settlement

We acknowledge and honour the First Peoples who inhabited this land and used its waterways for 9000 years before it was taken over by non-Indigenous people. We ask ourselves how it is that we know exactly who came to this place in 1800, and which tracts of land were given to the families who founded the settlement here, but we do not know the families who lived and worked here before that.

We will work to understand all of that history. We pledge good stewardship of the land surrounding this building and thank the Indigenous people who were here at first contact with the settlers, who shared their place and helped the new families to settle. We also pledge to work towards eradicating the systemic racism which has shadowed our relationship with First Nations, decolonizing our own thinking and attitudes, embracing what hurts and thus walking the path towards healing and wholeness in the future.

3. to find out about current concerns of Indigenous Peoples from those territories, including land appropriation or resource development, with which the Meeting could be engaged.

Calgary: The O&SA Committee met on February 26 and sent all Senators the Canadian Friends Service Committee letter regarding Bill C-262. A copy of the letter can be found at https://quakerservice.ca/news/open-letter-mps-bill-c-262/?blm_aid=21892.

Cowichan Valley: A member and her spouse continue to live some of the inspiration of truth and reconciliation in their daily lives at Ts'i'tuwatul'Lelum assisted living residence, run by M'akola Housing Society in partnership with Island Health, Cowichan Tribes, and BC Housing.

A number of Cowichan Valley Quakers are members/participants in the Inclusive Leadership Co-operative (<https://inclusiveleadershipco-op.org>), which encourages people to embrace diversity as a gift. ILC gatherings are attended by indigenous and non-indigenous people of all ages. Two members of our Meeting are founding members of Inclusive Leadership.

One of our members has served for many years on the board of directors of the Canadian Mental Health Association -- Cowichan Valley Branch. In addition to work on homelessness, poverty, mental health, and addictions, the Association partners with the Malahat First Nation to provide an innovative prevention program, "Circles of Care -- Circles of Courage" for Malahat and other First Nations girls ages 8 to 14. (The lead staff member in this program is a former participant in Inclusive Leadership).

A member focuses on reconciliation through ecological restoration, including restoring the viability of the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve and its Camas meadow after decades of compaction by grazing cattle. A number of Cowichan Tribes members are keen to restore the Camas meadow and rebuild the relationship between the meadow and the Cowichan people. This Friend believes that working to restore the pre-contact ecosystems and ecosystem functions can be an effective way of building reconciliation.

Hamilton: Individual members of the Meeting are involved in numerous actions to make meaningful connections with our Indigenous neighbours, from attending pow-wows to being a technical advisor on water issues, from supporting the "Walking with Our Sisters" movement to participating in vigils and marches, from recommending books by Indigenous authors to being part of an exhibition with art inspired by the "Two Row on the Grand" paddle (<http://www.tworowonthegrand.com/>).

New Brunswick: We continue to hold the efforts of the Peskotomuhkati (also known as Passamaquoddy) people in the Light and to maintain our friendships as their efforts to be recognized as a first nation in Canada picked up steam and finally bore fruit. We were overjoyed to learn in early 2018 that a 2500-acre forested tract on the Skutik (St. Croix) river has been transferred to the First Nation with the assistance of the Federal Government. There is a lodge on the property containing valuable artifacts that will stay with the Peskotomuhkati under an agreement with the Canadian Museum of History to co-curate the artifacts. Sakom Hugh Akagi told the CBC: "This is real. This reconciliation you can actually put a story to it, and take it away from just being a word." <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/lodge-and-riverside-property-acquired-for-peskotomuhkati-nation-1.4540889>

Vince Zelazny of the Fredericton worship group shares his experiences as a Friend and a board member of a land trust also involved in this unfolding story. A conservation easement is held by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick on the lands surrounding the lodge, and the Trust and the Peskotomuhkati are working toward legal and practical understandings of how the relationship will evolve and grow going forward. This work is challenging and interesting, and the way forward is not always clear, and the prayerful encouragement by Quakers remains very

important. As a long-time board member of the Nature Trust, Vince has encouraged the board's inclination to be involved in reconciliation with indigenous people through consultation and partnership on land acquisition and stewardship. The staff and board of the Trust spent considerable time in 2018 becoming educated about the difficult local and national histories of coexistence. The Nature Trust has a deepening relationship with the Peskotomuhkati, and is similarly engaged with the Woastoqey (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq people, the other two first nations in New Brunswick.

Ottawa: Six Friends attended the Spirituality is Unity Walk on June 22nd to support elder Albert Dumont in his efforts to recognize the spiritual significance of, and release Akikodjiwan/Asinobka/Chaudiere Falls.

In November the Adult and Religious Education Committee held a coffee house and raised funds for Minwaashin Lodge, a domestic abuse treatment centre for Indigenous women.

On Dec 6, 8 Friends gathered at the Centennial Flame in support of youth and elders from Gassy Narrows reserve, which is 100 kilometers northeast of Kenora, Ontario. The demonstration highlighted the recently released scientific study that documents the poor health and well-being of Grassy Narrows residents relative to settlers and relative to other Indigenous communities. Grassy Narrows would like a treatment centre, especially for elderly people afflicted with mercury poisoning who need a great deal of care.

Peterborough: Several Friends are involved with the Sacred Water Circle and concerns about the wetlands around Trent University.

Vancouver: Trans Mountain Pipeline Protest in Solidarity with the Tsleil-Waututh: On April 28 2018 there was call to action by Will George Tsleil-Waututh Member Project Leader for Kwekwecnewtxw-Protect the Inlet. He said in a letter dated April 14: The moment to stop the dangerous Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project is upon us. For 7 years now the Trans Mountain Pipeline project has been threatening Coast Salish lands, waters, culture and spirit by poisoning our territory with oil and wrecking the climate that sustains us all. And for 7 years, Tsleil-Waututh members have been protecting our territory from proposed oil flowing through our lands, and tankers intruding our Inlet. Specifically, it was for peoples of various faiths to have a day of action. 12 Friends including 2 young friends arrived at Burnaby mountain near the Kinder Morgan Tanker Farm and joined in with Tsleil-Waututh members and 100 other activists from 8am-4pm. Training was given to those taking action including those willing to be arrested. On that day 7 activists were arrested.

Earth Witness Worship on Burnaby Mountain (Trans Mountain Pipeline): A Reconciliation Committee member had a leading to hold an "Earth Witness Worship Meeting" - a multi-faith worship meeting, as a way of witnessing for the integrity of the land, water and air, in the face of the threat to all of these things posed by the proposed Kinder Morgan Expansion. The first one took place July 7 2018 and subsequently July 28, September 8 & 22, October 13, November 17 and December 15. The worship in the outdoors in sunlight, wind, trees, birds and passing by humans and dogs was invigorating and peaceful. Subsequent ministry and fellowship with tea and snacks was also lively and rooted in Spirit. The meetings moved from near the tank farm to the Kwekwecnewtxw: traditional Coast Salish Watch House on Burnaby Mountain on October

13. 10- 15 Friends and other activists participated regularly.

Victoria Island: Tom & Marilyn Mahan: We continue to focus our efforts on land claims and indigenous rights through contributions to Raven Trust. As part of their 'Circle of Allies' we have attended informative discussions. In addition, we try to be aware of all current litigation involving, especially, BC land claims.

Yonge St.: The Regional Municipality of York is planning on building a sewage treatment plant known as the Upper York Sewage Solutions (UYSS), on the shores of Lake Simcoe that will dump 40 million litres of treated sewage a day into this lake. This will impact an already vulnerable state of the drinking water for the Chippewas of Georgina and will impact the overall health of Lake Simcoe. In June, letters were sent by the clerk of the Meeting to all levels of government. There were many responses to the letters, but mediocre results. Three members of Peace, Environment and Social Action Committee visited Georgina Island at the invitation of Brandon Stiles, had a good discussion with Brandon and also met Chief Donna Big Canoe. She thanked us for our concern and commented on the problems of being under a boil water advisory. She noted that it was the Chippewas who took the initiative to refurbish the filtration plant, which is underway (without government funding as required).

From these opportunities and the work that went into them, we have learned just how important our own personal decolonization work is. Members of YSMM are surprised that residents of Georgina Island, part of York Region, should suffer with unacceptable drinking water. We have also learned just how lightly we need to tread, as many groups try to meet the Calls to Action, and the attention of representatives of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is stretched in many different directions. We are glad that we have begun to build relationship with the Chippewas, after having made several attempts at this. We learned that it is best to approach such an undertaking with concrete action, proof that we will do something.

4. to investigate projects of cultural revitalization that Indigenous Peoples are involved in and discern if there is an appropriate role (including funding) that Friends can play.

Kitchener Area: Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting has for a long time offered our Meetinghouse for the use of non-profits or community groups and for the last three years, we have shared space with Indigenous groups. We have found it rewarding to develop these relationships in an organic way.

We currently share space with two individuals who are in the process of starting an Indigenous theater group and hosting an Indigenous arts group collective. There have been weekly evening arts-creation events offered to Indigenous youths, as well as other community activities. In May 2019 they collaborated with others in the wider community to co-host Debajehmujig Theatre Group from Manitoulin Island, who gave workshops involving many different communities including local activists, arts workers, and various faith groups. The wrap-up event at the University of Waterloo had a few hundred attendees including local political figures.

Starting this spring, we have also agreed to also offer our space for an Indigenous facilitator of community circles which involve alternatives to the courts for Child Protection Services for

Indigenous families.

New Brunswick: Ellen and Keith Helmuth share the following stories relating to their publishing business (Chapel Street Editions, Woodstock, New Brunswick): As a publishing business, we have undertaken two projects that involve Indigenous People in NB.

The first was a contract book published for an artist illustrating the Glooscap stories with text in both English and French. This opportunity enabled him to do the marketing of his own book which meant that he could organize his own promotions and advertising and conduct his own selling strategy with the sales revenue being entirely his own. He returns periodically to tell us about his enthusiasm for experiencing his own entrepreneurship. He also reports that this venture has provided him with numerous positive interactions with the public in many different venues. And he repeatedly says “thank you for putting me on this path”. (He had been repeatedly turned down by other publishers.)

The second project was a novel by an Indigenous person depicting Indigenous culture. Since his native tongue was his Indigenous language, we spent a lot of editorial time working with him on the text in English, specifically grammar and tense usage. After the book’s publication, we worked with him on organizing public presentations of book readings and engagement with the public in Q & A discussion times. This activity provided a platform for genuine interaction with individuals who were truly interested in becoming more informed on Indigenous issues. The success of the book has given him confidence in his writing skills and put him on the path for continued writing possibilities.

Pelham/Niagara: In the centre of the Niagara Peninsula a traditional bow-and-arrow deer hunt has been arranged between the Provincial government and the Haudenosaunee, (Six Nations) recognizing the hunt as a treaty right (<https://sixnationsrighttohunt.com>). In each year of the autumn hunt an ongoing but lessening number of residents near the park have mounted pickets and objections at the Park entrance.

Members of the Niagara Quaker meeting attend on weekends to the Indigenous teaching and discussion encampment at the entrance to the park where the traditional hunt is in progress. The Indigenous community has established a practice of not countering pickets with placards and noise, but of making it a teaching moment. Prearranged topics of Indigenous ways and of reconciliation are explored. In 2018 a member of Pelham Meeting organized one of the outdoor workshops around the topic “Faith and Reconciliation”. CFSC helped with a small individual grant, to establish the encampment that year. A staff member of CFSC was also a presenter among several members of faith communities who described their reconciliation efforts. Friends in Pelham have learned much from these weekend gatherings.

Peterborough: We received requests for financial support for two Indigenous related events and decided to donate \$300 to Reconciliation Day June 1st and \$50 to the Lynn Gehl event. We further encouraged Friends to donate personally to these two worthy events. Several members volunteered at Peterborough’s first Reconciliation Day and others attended. Several members attended the Pow-wow at Curve Lake First Nation. Several Friends are involved with the Sacred Water Circle and concerns about the wetlands around Trent University.

Saanich Peninsula: We meet in Brentwood Bay on the Saanich Peninsula. This area is home to

four Wsanec (Saanich) coastal Salish bands, the Tsawout, Tsartlip, Pauquachin and Tseycum nations. Together these bands have come together to operate the Lau WelNew Tribal School just outside Brentwood Bay for the past 30 years. (<https://wsanecschoolboard.ca/>). As a small meeting (about 20 members in total) we determined that a small and concrete action would be the most meaningful and practical approach to connect with our closest indigenous neighbours.

We reached out directly to the staff of the Tribal School who identified the need for jerseys for the school's junior track team. We feel delighted to offer a concrete support to assist the school in its efforts to build school and community pride. Our contribution is about \$200. We look forward to building an ongoing connection with the Tribal School and identifying other needs that we can assist with.

5. to uphold and support individual Friends involved with grassroots Indigenous rights and provide spiritual support to Friends led to this work. This might include offering committees of care and approving minutes of support.

Calgary: We are a small but growing group of 10 to 14 people at Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship for Business and have this year revived our Outreach and Social Action Committee. We keep the TRC Calls to Action item on our agenda and keep all Friends on our email list (40 people) informed of pertinent local events related to Indigenous concerns or celebrations. We report on our activities and exchange stories of what we are doing to further the work of reconciliation. We announce all Canadian Friends Service Committee and KAIROS events and petitions to members and record them in our minutes.

Coldstream: Coldstream Monthly Meeting has a designated group of seven members who meet monthly to discuss issues related to Truth and Reconciliation. Membership is open to anyone wishing to join. When we formed in June, 2018 we did so as a response to the 94 Recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We have named ourselves the Truth and Reconciliation Response Committee.

Hamilton: We have a small working group seeking ways for us to advance our understanding of and connection to Native peoples in our area. The group assesses ideas and suggestions and presents them to the Meeting. For instance, the group has recommended a special exhibition of quilt squares by Native and settler artists, several books by Native writers, and an upcoming pow-wow at Six Nations reserve. Inspired by a presentation by Native artist Elizabeth Doxtater at our Half-Yearly Meeting in 2016, we have purchased her book, "The Art of Peace" and placed it in our Meeting library.

Interior BC: Friends within our Meeting live in many communities widely separated across Interior BC. Some (3-4) take individual actions towards reconciliation, supporting Indigenous arts, supporting Indigenous land claims, attending local presentations, and working together with local bands on specific issues. However, we have not been led to take any actions as a Meeting as a whole towards reconciliation.

Kitchener Area: Our Indigenous Concerns Working Group has met intermittently. In the last year we had a discussion involving half a dozen from the Meeting, on "Moving from Talk to

Action."

Pelham/Niagara: Niagara Quakers (Pelham Executive Meeting) continue their Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation efforts in the knowledge that about six members of the meeting are active individually with ongoing support from the meeting.

Peterborough: We do not have a specific committee or group to take the lead on responses to the TRC Calls to Action. However, several of our members and attenders have been involved for a long time in this work.

Vancouver: The members of the Reconciliation Committee met monthly to plan events that continued our mandate to increase our own education around Reconciliation lead by Indigenous teachers and take part in actions lead by the Indigenous leaders locally. The rest of this report gives specific details of these actions. The Reconciliation Committee was originally formed in December 2017. Our listserv has 15 members and 8-10 members attend our monthly committee meeting.

Yarmouth: No designated group or committee has been appointed for Truth and Reconciliation. Individuals in the Meeting are active in various ways in their personal lives. One attender teaches about indigenous history and issues at the University level and did an excellent presentation to Pelham Half Yearly Meeting in the Spring of 2017. Another member has taken the training to be a KAIROS Blanket Exercise Facilitator and has done facilitating locally. As a Meeting Community, we continue to try and increase our understanding and support of indigenous issues and peoples with the awareness that there is much work to be done.

Yonge St.: The Peace, Environment and Social Action Committee of YSMM works on fulfilling the 94 Calls to Action. The committee is comprised of 6 members (nominated and approved by the Meeting) and about 3 regular attenders, who work on various projects in the community, including Indigenous Affairs, Court Work (Helping Hands), Climate Change, etc.

6. to report back annually through CFSC on actions taken. We ask CFSC to collate such information in their reporting to CYM.

Peterborough: We opened a line in our agendas to record any actions relevant to this report. [The Peterborough MM report consists of] the minutes recorded after these decisions. We have not measured the impact of the recorded activities in any way, although the sense is that we are keeping these issues more alive in our thoughts.