



QUAKERS  
Canadian Friends  
Service Committee

**FRESH START COALITION**  
Working to change the law so people can move beyond their old criminal records



## Canada's criminal records system & upcoming documentary on parental incarceration

The Canadian Friends Service Committee has joined over 60 civil society groups who have come together to call on the federal government to implement real reform to Canada's outdated criminal record system. These much-needed changes "will promote reintegration and workforce participation and improve community safety." [Find out more.](#)

As well, we developed and supported a social media campaign for the Canadian Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents (CCCIP). The campaign celebrated National Child Day (November 20, which honours Canada's commitment to upholding

the rights of children and two historic events: the 1959 signing of the *UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child* and the 1989 adoption of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*).

The goals of the social media campaign were to direct people to [the CCCIP website](#) to raise awareness about the issues and to show a trailer for a documentary created by CCCIP member Barbara Pickering. [The documentary](#) highlights the stories of four adults whose parents were incarcerated when they were growing up.



## **Self-regulation of genetically engineered food & seeds?**

The government of Canada is proposing new regulatory standards for food and seeds. This

would shift some safety assessments away from government regulators to product developers themselves, with no government checks. Companies would be permitted to introduce many new genetically modified organisms (GMOs) without any independent science, and with no independent government science reviews.

Companies would be allowed to release these GMOs into the environment and sell them without notifying the government and without publicly disclosing which seeds are genetically engineered.

[Keep reading](#) (PDF) an open letter signed by CFSC and many others calling for transparency and government oversight in the regulation of genetically engineered food and seeds.

If so led, check out these [ways to raise this issue](#) with your elected representative or local newspaper.

Find out about CFSC's hopes and fears related to [synthetic biology](#).



The poster features a large yellow triangle on the left containing event details, and a white triangle on the right containing a stylized black silhouette of a person holding a sign. The text on the yellow triangle includes:

- Tales of Peaceful Protest**
- STORIES AND EXPERT ADVICE YOU CAN USE IN EFFECTIVE NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION
- NOVEMBER 18 | 7 - 9 PM EST**
- Hosted by [Matthew Legge](#), CFSC Peace Program Coordinator and author of *Are We Done Fighting?* with presentations by:
- RIVERA SUN & RUTH WALMSLEY**
- With remarks from Rachel Small of World Beyond War and the No Fighter Jets campaign
- LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE:  
[quakerservice.ca/PeacefulProtest](http://quakerservice.ca/PeacefulProtest)

Logos for World Beyond War, No Fighter Jets, and other organizations are visible at the bottom. The top right corner features "Hosted By" and "90 YEARS QUAKERS Canadian Friends Service Committee".



### **Video now available: *Tales of Peaceful Protest* webinar**

Rivera Sun, Ruth Walmsley and Rachel Small joined a CFSC-hosted webinar to share their stories and wisdom about what makes nonviolent direct action successful, the surprising range of techniques activists use, and how activism connects with Quaker spirituality. A [recording of the event](#) is now available!



## Improve conflict by setting boundaries

In his [latest post for Psychology Today](#) CFSC staff Matt Legge looks at how commonplace words, ones that we believe we understand very well, can actually have vastly different meanings to different people.

Taking two examples—antisemitism and white supremacy—the article shows how words can come to be used in ever broader ways, which contributes to confusing and bitter conflicts.

CFSC is offering free online workshops to help you in difficult conversations. Find out why participants love and recommend these workshops:

<https://quakerservice.ca/register>