



Canadian Friends Service Committee

E-Newsletter



New short video *Monica's Story: The Invisible Children of Incarcerated Parents*

CFSC has produced a new three minute short sharing a real and heart-wrenching story about the experiences of children when a parent goes to jail. This is the situation faced by an estimated 400,000 children in Canada. You can [watch the video and comment on it on YouTube.](#)



CFSC welcomes new Transformative Justice Program Coordinator, Karen Ridd

We're excited to welcome Karen Ridd as our new Transformative Justice Program Coordinator! Karen comes to CFSC's small team with an impressive career and long list of accomplishments already.

Karen holds an MA in Peace and Justice and is a mediator, facilitator, teacher, and public speaker who began working as a practitioner in the field of conflict resolution in 1986. In the '80s Karen worked as a human rights volunteer in war zones in Central America with Peace Brigades International. Her work there was recognized with the 1992 Governor-General's Award: Government of Canada 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation Medal, the 1990 Canada YM/YWCA Canada Peace Medal, and the 1989 Manitoba International Human Rights Achievement Award.

Karen has worked extensively with communities in international settings, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Cambodia, Thailand, First Nations Territories, the United States, and Colombia. She is an associate of Training for Change (Philadelphia) and Mediation Services (Winnipeg).

Karen has spent many years teaching Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies at Canadian Mennonite University. In 2013 Karen was awarded the international Peace and Justice Studies Association's "Teaching Excellence Award." In 2022 Canadian Mennonite University awarded Karen as a co-recipient of the inaugural "Kay and Lorne Dick Teaching Excellence Award." She has been in demand (Dawson College Montreal, Queen's College City University of New York, Rollins College Fla.) as a consultant on the effective use of participatory education in the University classroom.

Karen is a member of the Walls to Bridges Collective (teaching University courses inside prisons and jails), and has experience with Alternatives to Violence Program, Circles of Support and Accountability, and Prison Book Clubs. She's a member of Geshar/Bridge/Gasr (dialogue and action on Israel and Palestine), and Peac-ing it Together (connecting social activists with conflict resolution practitioners and resources). She enjoys cycling and white water paddling.

Learn about CFSC's [transformative justice work](#).



Reconciliation Queries for Friends

As Friends engage in the work of upholding Indigenous rights; actively pursuing the decolonization of Canadian society; and building practices of reconciliation, we are committed to grounding our actions in our spiritual practices, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and Principles of Reconciliation, and Quaker testimonies.

We honour the good work that Canadian Yearly Meeting¹ and Canadian Friends Service Committee² are undertaking on the path of Indigenous rights, decolonization, and reconciliation. In light of the legacies and continuity of colonization, this journey of listening, relationship-building, learning, and healing will continue for generations to come.

We offer a few queries for Friends. Overall, they ask:

How can we follow leadings of the Spirit, both individually and in our Meetings, to actively work towards the decolonization of Canada, recognition, promotion, and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?

These queries are an invitation to challenge and inspire Friends individually and corporately as a faith body.

To learn more about our peace and justice, click the link below.
QuakerService.ca/Reconciliation



Queries

1. How am I learning about and building respectful relationships with Indigenous people in the communities in which I live, work, and/or worship? How am I building relationships of truth and understanding with non-Indigenous people in the communities in which I live, work, and/or worship?

2. What protocols or practices do we honour in our Monthly Meeting and collective gatherings to recognize Indigenous lands, waters, lifeways, and rights? How do we ensure these do not become tokenistic or rote over time?

3. How can we increase our awareness of the local history of colonization and reconciliation efforts in our faith community?

4. In what ways can I stand in solidarity with the current concerns and rights of Indigenous Peoples? What protocols and/or permissions may I need to seek in this process?

5. How do I relate to concepts of 'home' and 'belonging' in the context of settler colonialism?

6. Do my actions support Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty?

7. Am I doing my own work in educating myself about reconciliation and decolonization? Am I aware of my own areas of ignorance, bias, and discomfort? Reconciliation is work that settlers must do, being careful not to put the burden of this work onto Indigenous Peoples.

8. How are we doing our own work to decolonize and honour the rights of Indigenous Peoples as a faith community? How are we actively challenging the direct personal, structural, and cultural violence of settler colonialism where we encounter it? What does reconciliation require of us as Friends?

Have questions? Contact us at info@quakerservice.ca

¹ See CFM Minutes on Truth and Reconciliation from 2015-04-03, 2016-09-30, and 2021-09-03.

² See QuakerService.ca/resources for related CFSC resources.

Featured resource: *Reconciliation Queries for Friends*

Whether you're a Quaker or not, these eight reconciliation queries are here to help generate reflection, discussion, and new action toward reconciliation. Read them at <https://QuakerService.ca/ReconciliationQueries> or contact us for print copies. This is just one of hundreds of great [resources available on our website](#).

