

## Faith and works are one at CYM

By Jane Orion Smith

*For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

~James 2:26

The annual sessions of Canadian Yearly Meeting, Friends' national church body, met in August in Camrose, Alberta. With so much attention to justice issues on the agenda, faith and works are clearly inseparable. To be a Friend is to be a witness for the peaceable kingdom.

"Synthetic biology" refers to the design and construction of biological functions and systems not found in nature. Anne Mitchell, an Associate Member of QPASC working on biotechnology issues with the Canadian Council of Churches' (CCC) Biotechnology Reference Group, asked CFSC to host an interest group on this issue at CYM, which brought recommendations to the floor for action by CYM and CFSC. CYM affirmed its caution about this new technology and urgency regarding response. As most Monthly Meetings don't have relevant expertise, they will be sent information by CFSC and will be asked to give the issue consideration. CYM will also ask the CCC how they might raise awareness about synthetic biology with other faiths, and it asked CFSC to write to the appropriate minister enquiring about government efforts to protect the common good from the unintended consequences of synthetic biology. More to come in a future *Quaker Concern*.

CFSC also hosted an interest group to consider the call from Friends in Ramallah Monthly Meeting (Palestine) for Friends worldwide to consider the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) strategy as a way to support those working to end this



Young Friends, including Chester Friesen (Winnipeg Meeting) and York Dudiak (Edmonton Meeting), revived the Quakers and business tradition at Canadian Yearly Meeting by making and selling Quaker Trading Cards. Proceeds were donated to CFSC.

conflict and bring peace and justice to this troubled region. A report came to the floor and Friends approved a consultation process, which will result in a report coming back to CYM in 2013. Friends also asked that the Clerks of CYM write a letter to Ramallah Friends Meeting to assure them of our care for them and our attention to their request.

Elaine Bishop, an Associate Member of QFJ, convened an interest group of 22 Friends, focusing on living out the peace testimony in an urban environment. Stories were shared which "illustrated both exemplary, sensitive dealings with authorities, and also ways in which racism, sexism, poverty, addiction, abuse, and indifference to the democratic rights of citizens have infused our dealings with peace officers and other agents of the legal system. How do we live the Quaker Peace Testimony in urban environments when engaging with

these structures? We heard about the trauma experienced by those working within police and legal enforcement structures. How are we called to minister to them?" There is a keen interest in transforming Friends' relationship with these structures. CYM approved asking CFSC to consider work on this concern with others, and established a list serve for Friends who share this concern to communicate. To join the list serve, email [Katrina@quaker.ca](mailto:Katrina@quaker.ca). As actions are determined, they will be brought back to CYM for consideration.

CFSC was asked by CYM to look at the issues raised by the government's changes to the Interim Federal Health Program for refugees and protected persons and determine whether it looks feasible for Canadian Friends to take action. If so, this will be done by CFSC and the Clerks of CYM in consultation with the Canadian

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# KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

## New video resource on restorative justice

The video production "Restorative Justice Is The LAW" illustrates that there are obligations and opportunities to respond restoratively at every level of the justice system and that the public interest is served when processes meet human rights obligations and satisfy sentencing objectives set out in the criminal code. Available on DVD at <http://www.heartspeakproductions.ca>, it can also be viewed online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OGgm\\_U96D8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OGgm_U96D8).

## QUAKER CONCERN

Canadian Friends Service Committee/Secours Quaker Canadien

**Quaker Concern** is the newsletter of Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers). Published three-times a year, it features articles on CFSC projects and concerns of Friends. CFSC's **Annual Report and Appeal** is sent to all donors in late autumn.

**Canadian Friends Service Committee**, founded in 1931, exists to unify and expand the concerns of Friends in Canada. Our work is carried out by three program committees (Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee, Quakers Fostering Justice, Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee).

**Donations** are received with gratitude. We rely on the support of individuals to carry out our work. CFSC issues tax receipts for donations over \$10.

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## CCJC celebrates 40<sup>th</sup>

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is having an evening of storytelling and celebration, featuring guest speaker Rev. Dr. Pierre Allard, on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Church of the Ascension (253 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON). Their Annual General Meeting will be held at 6 pm. Friends are welcome to both events. Please RSVP to 613-563-1688 or [splayford@ccjc.ca](mailto:splayford@ccjc.ca).

## Continuing medical education in Iraq

The sixth and final training visit of the CIDA-funded project to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan took place in December.

Twenty urban and four rural physicians and six nurses participated in the ALARM International course on treatment of difficult childbirth. Over six visits, 29 Iraqi physicians have been trained as trainers, three of whom joined the Canadians (Dale Dewar, Janet Northcott and Jaelene Mannerfeldt) on the training team. One significant change in delivery room practice as a result of this project is that new-borns who do not immediately cry are stimulated and resuscitated. Previously, they were assumed to be still-born. CFSC is investigating ways to fund a follow-up project to support the Iraqi graduates as they design a course for nurses, as our proposal to CIDA was not approved.

## Canadian Council of Churches supports US war resisters

On International Conscientious Objectors Day (May 15th), The Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace released a letter to Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism asking "the Government of Canada to either allow the US war resisters to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or to create a mechanism, perhaps a revision of Bill C-440, that would enable them to apply for status from within Canada."

The Council's letter states: "As

churches, rights of conscience and religion hold a particular significance for us as we seek to encourage people to live faithful lives. We are of the opinion that when they have followed their conscience in the decision they made to refuse to serve in war and to come to Canada then their circumstances warrant humanitarian and compassionate relief. Their beliefs are protected under domestic and international law, and facilitating their punishment by returning them to the United States, in our opinion, is regrettable." 80% of Christians in Canada are represented through the Council, so this endorsement is significant. Read more: <http://bit.ly/KcOSUT>

## CFSC submission to BC justice review

Earlier this year, Geoffrey Cowper was asked to conduct a formal review of British Columbia's justice system, as Chair of the Justice Reform Initiative. At the same time, the Ministry of Justice released a Green Paper, summarizing concerns identified by the provincial government. The goals of the independent review are to look at the facts underlying the concerns raised by the government and public with regard to criminal justice issues, and to recommend solutions that would make the system more efficient and effective. More information on the review can be found at: <http://bcjusticereform.ca/>.

Based on CFSC's experience (chaplaincy and remedial programs within prisons; re-integration into communities; work with victims, restorative justice and crime prevention in communities), it made a formal submission including recommendations from the perspective of restorative justice and the rights of the child. Copies are available from [qfj@quakerservice.ca](mailto:qfj@quakerservice.ca) or at: <http://quakerservice.ca/news-and-resources/public-statements/>.

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# Penal abolition - creating alternatives to prisons and punishment

By Lee Webb

**E**n route from Toronto to Trinidad, I devoured the pamphlets by the late Ruth Morris (Toronto Meeting). I was on my way to the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Penal Abolition – a conference that Ruth helped to create (see sidebar). This year’s conference took place at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad. There were more than 150 attendees, coming from Trinidad, Canada, the US, Holland, Australia, Scotland, New Zealand, Jamaica, etc. In addition, people who were working or studying locally, but who came from Germany, China, and Grenada, attended.

I learned from the regular attendees that Catherine Ali, this year’s organizer, had changed this year’s conference by going to lengths to invite locals into the discussion. This included holding a dispute resolution workshop for inmates and guards at a local detention centre; bringing in youth prisoners, police cadets and church outreach groups; and, on the final day, holding the conference inside a prison guard training facility. During the week, there were several

great lectures. Onwubiko Agozino, a professor at Virginia Tech (USA), gave a keynote about criminology as a ‘control freak’ science. His simple observation is that criminology sees the world as chaos in need of order. So, it is no wonder that criminology often ends up encouraging incarceration since it is a straightforward way of controlling people. ‘Biko’ advocated for a criminology of love based on nonviolence and dialogue. Frank Dunbaugh, a US lawyer, suggested that people mainly want prisons to help prevent crime and restore victims. For Frank, it is clear that educating children does this better than prisons, and so he advocates divesting resources out of prisons and



Lee Webb sharing CYM Minute 79 with ICOPA during a Justice and Faith Perspectives Panel.

MICKEL ALEXANDER

into schools.

A panel involving a local academic, Wendell Wallace, and magistrate, Indira Ramnarine, showed the foolishness of harsh punishments for people who had not yet fully matured, and the ripe possibilities for both reform and abolition in a youth justice context.

One of the first panels presented the different justice practices and beliefs of Hindus, Muslims and Catholics. From the floor, I took the opportunity to share Canadian Yearly Meeting’s minute 2010-79, titled “Justice is Possible” (read it at <http://bit.ly/P9whRu>).

The next ICOPA be held in Ontario in 2014 (read the proposal at <http://bit.ly/NqkaL4>). For more information on ICOPA visit [www.actionicopa.org](http://www.actionicopa.org); for the conference’s history visit <http://bit.ly/QbUmqh>.

*Lee Webb serves on the Board of CFSC and is co-clerk of the Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) Programme Committee of CFSC. He is a member of Coldstream Meeting.*

## Quakers and ICOPA: A History

By Meredith Egan

Friends’ concerns for justice, both as a spiritual calling and as practical active service, have been linked with the International Conference on Penal Abolition (originally called International Conference on Prison Abolition) since ICOPA’s inception.

Many Friends, first from Toronto Monthly Meeting, and then from Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting (YSHYM), founded the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice (QCJJ), as a program of CFSC, in 1978 (from what had previously been The Prison Committee of YSHYM). QCJJ’s work led to the drafting and acceptance of the Canadian Yearly Meeting’s minute on Prison Abolition in 1981 (minute 93 – read it at <http://bit.ly/OaZMmd>). This minute planted a seed that resulted in QCJJ being one of the founders of the International Conference on Prison Abolition (ICOPA), and QCJJ organized the first conference, which took place in Toronto in 1983.

At the third ICOPA in Montreal in 1987, the focus shifted from prison abolition to penal abolition – simplistically put, from the abolition of prisons to the punishment approach to justice expressed through prisons. This important change and distinction affected the work of many justice advocates since that time. Friends continue to be involved in this concern locally and internationally, including through involvement in ICOPA.

*Meredith Egan is the Program Coordinator for the QFJ Program Committee of CFSC.*

# Happy 5th anniversary UN Declaration

By Jennifer Preston

*“The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples represents an authoritative common understanding, at the global level, of the minimum content of the rights of indigenous peoples, upon a foundation of various sources of international human rights law.”*

*James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.*

September 13, 2007 was a momentous occasion when CFSC joined with partners globally to celebrate the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The *Declaration* is an instrument for justice and reconciliation. It is a catalyst for achievement and a beacon for renewed hope. In the five years since this historic achievement, the four dissenting states have all reversed their positions, making it a consensus universal human rights instrument.

The realization of the *Declaration* is crucial to the survival, dignity, security and well-being of Indigenous peoples worldwide. CFSC has been actively involved in implementation over the past five years. Our work with many Indigenous and human rights partners ranges from the community to international levels. Some examples of CFSC engagement illustrate the importance of diverse implementation strategies.

## **Setting standards internationally and nationally**

Our attendance at international forums includes annual participation in the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII). Statements we have made with partners at these meetings are all available on CFSC’s website ([www.quakerservice.ca](http://www.quakerservice.ca)). We also host gatherings at Quaker House in both New York and Geneva where representatives of states and Indigenous peoples can meet for positive discussions.

CFSC monitors developments at the Organization of American States

(OAS) working group to elaborate an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The OAS is working toward a regional human rights instrument using the *UN Declaration* as a baseline for the negotiations.

This year, CFSC participated in Canada’s review by the UN Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) by

drawing attention to challenges with implementation of the *Declaration*. While Canada has formally endorsed the *Declaration*, real change proves to be an ongoing undertaking.

In April, there was a significant victory in Federal Court that set a precedent in terms of the legal relevance of the *UN Declaration* in interpreting domestic law. The Complaint by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations alleges discrimination in federal funding of child welfare services on First Nations reserves. The Complaint will now be remitted to a different panel of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for re-determination. In interpreting domestic legislation and ensuring effective remedies, the relevance of international human rights law has been affirmed. The Federal Court also ruled that the *Declaration* may be used to provide context when interpreting domestic statutes.



PETER DINSDALE

Monica Walters-Field, QAAC associate member, enjoys working with Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo at UN headquarters during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The National Chief delivered a presentation, supported by CFSC and others, on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

## **Importance of human rights education**

Domestically, CFSC has been involved in many educational initiatives promoting the *Declaration*, such as the webinar hosted by the Assembly of First Nations (archived on line - <http://bit.ly/rb9K9G>). CFSC has participated in workshops and given presentations invited by Indigenous communities, NGOs, human rights commissions, political bodies, educational institutions and faith communities. We have worked with an *ad hoc* coalition to advance awareness of and engagement with the *Declaration*.

The coalition produced and distributed more than 100,000 copies of a booklet version of the *Declaration* in English and French, as well as a poster version. These and other educational resources developed by the *ad hoc* coalition are on our website. Booklets and posters can be ordered from the CFSC office. Currently the *ad hoc* coalition is

producing a DVD on the *Declaration* to further increase awareness.

Recently, I presented to students at both Ryerson and York Universities in Toronto, Ontario. At Ryerson, the theme was how non-Indigenous partners can effectively work as allies in the work for Indigenous justice. The students had read a chapter that I co-authored in *Alliances: Re/Envisioning Indigenous-non-Indigenous Relationships*. At York, the class was studying *Realizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Triumph, Hope and Action*, co-edited by Jackie Hartley, Paul Joffe and myself. This presentation focused on implementation – challenges and success.

Other recent presentations include an evening potluck event for Hamilton Monthly Meeting and Amnesty International to discuss events at Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario when the community called a state of emergency and images of living conditions shocked viewers around the globe. In our discussion we saw the connection between historical dispossession, current realities, and future potential using the *UN Declaration* as the framework for change in such situations.

In June, I was invited to present at Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting's annual sessions (southwestern USA).

This included an extensive three-day workshop on the *UN Declaration* and Friends' work on Indigenous rights. During the workshop, participants engaged with the history of dispossession of rights, including the 15<sup>th</sup> century papal Doctrine of Discovery – still used in litigation to justify land dispossession. Participants learned of the twenty-year process to achieve the *Declaration* and positive examples of implementation. The workshop ended with initiatives for Friends to carry out at the local level. Boulder (Colorado) Monthly Meeting's Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee has been

continuing this important work.

CFSC was delighted this year to sponsor the translation of the *Declaration* into Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) – a project of Kontinónhstats the Mohawk Language Custodian Association.

The first step of implementation is awareness. All of these educational opportunities are important for ongoing dialogue, information sharing and encouraging all aspects of implementing the *Declaration* with a human rights-based approach.

#### ***Our work continues***

While we are encouraged by positive examples of implementation, we are also deeply concerned with some developments at the international level. CFSC joined with global partners in a Joint Submission concerning the need for procedural reforms in international organizations.

Moving forward domestically, CFSC joins with many partners in addressing critical actions that are needed to live up to the standards affirmed by the *Declaration*, including:

- making the recognition and protection of Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands and resources an explicit objective of federal policies;
- ensuring decision-making processes are consistent with the constitutional duties of Aboriginal consultation, accommodation and consent, as affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada;
- eliminating discrimination in the provision of government services to Indigenous people and communities.

At the milestone of the fifth anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the *Declaration*,

Indigenous peoples and human rights organizations remain committed to ensuring the full and effective implementation of it. The ongoing and widespread human rights violations against Indigenous peoples worldwide underline the urgency of moving ahead in a timely manner.

It is imperative that states, including Canada, fully respect the standards affirmed and cooperate with Indigenous peoples to achieve its realization. CFSC is working with our partners on commemorative events in Ottawa, Ontario on September 13th as part of our ongoing commitment. We encourage everyone to engage with the *Declaration* - learn about it, promote it, and ensure that its standards are upheld.

*Jennifer Preston is the Program Coordinator for the Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee of CFSC. She represented Quakers globally during the development and adoption of the UN Declaration.*

## **Implementation Initiatives**

**Governments**, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, use the *Declaration* as the basis for reviewing and reforming laws and policies to ensure that Indigenous peoples' rights are upheld without discrimination.

**Courts and human rights tribunals** use the *Declaration* as a source of guidance in interpreting and applying domestic law.

**Indigenous peoples and their institutions** use the *Declaration* as a principled framework for advancing their rights, in their own policy- and decision-making and in their negotiations with governments and other third parties.

**Civil society organizations** work with Indigenous peoples in promoting and implementing their human rights and maintaining the *Declaration* as a living instrument.

**Educational institutions** include the *Declaration* in curriculum planning for both educators and students.

**Corporations and investors** ensure their human rights policies incorporate the standards in the *Declaration*.

The submission has gone to many UN bodies and mechanisms. New instruments (ex. treaties, international documents, etc.) are increasingly being negotiated or implemented that significantly affect Indigenous peoples and their human rights. Indigenous concerns relating to issues such as biodiversity, food security, climate change, development, free trade and intellectual property are being addressed to the detriment of Indigenous peoples. States must honour their commitments, including the standards affirmed in the *UN Declaration*.

## FAITH

*Continued from page 1*

Council of Refugees and Toronto Monthly Meeting which brought forward this concern.

An interest group on the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline brought forward a statement, approved by CYM, opposing the pipeline, which will carry bitumen from the Alberta oil sands to Kitimat, BC where it will be shipped by tankers through coastal passages for processing in other countries. There is deep concern about the potential impacts on the environment, humans and wildlife, as well as possible infringement of the legal rights of First Nations whose land the pipeline would cross and which oppose it. The statement will be submitted to the Joint Review Panel, an independent body appointed by the federal government to assess the environmental effects of the proposed project, as well as to governments, to Meetings, and to partners working on this issue. This concern was brought forward through an interest group at Western Half Yearly Meeting.

Another interest group brought forward a set of queries on faith and

genetics which CYM approved forwarding to the Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches for use in their Curriculum on Faith and Genetics. The faith groups involved in this project were invited to contribute an appendix expressing their particular perspective on the issue; queries seemed a perfect contribution by Friends. CYM asks Friends to consider this document in their own communities when it is available.

Friends who attended the World Conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation in April in Kenya brought our attention to the *Kabarak call for peace and ecojustice* approved by that gathering. CYM endorsed this thoughtful document, a result of Quakers from all over the world communicating for four years across deep divisions of theology and culture. They suggested that Friends try to get news coverage of this in their local areas. The Call can be found at: <http://bit.ly/P99B0f>.

CYM also reconfirmed its membership in the World Council of Churches (<http://www.oikoumene.org>) which operates many fine justice programs focusing on poverty,

creation, peace.

On the more irreverent side, Young Friends at CYM designed, printed and sold various sets of Quaker Trading Cards, some of which were “rare”, even “legendary” (Quaker founder George Fox, contemporary Canadian Friend Tom Findlay, and even James “Rebel with a Cause” Dean – did you know James Dean was raised Quaker?). Friends were happily buying and trading cards at the dinner tables, seeking to secure a full set of these “collectables”. All funds raised are to be given to CFSC. A huge “thank you” to the Youth Program volunteers and to the Young Friends for this initiative! What will it be next year?

And speaking of next year, the “Youth Challenge 2013” is underway. This is an effort to have 50 Young Friends and Young Adult Friends attend CYM sessions in Kemptville, Ontario. Funding has been secured to support attendance and create a great program – more information to come at <http://young.quaker.ca/>.

*Jane Orion Smith serves as the General Secretary of Canadian Friends Service Committee.*

## KEEPING UP

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### News from the UNPFII

In May, CFSC was represented at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by Jennifer Preston, Monica Walters-Field and Don Alexander. Happening at UN headquarters in New York City, this was the 11th session of the Forum, which had a special theme focusing on the Doctrine of Discovery. CFSC participated in several joint statements; they can be found at: <http://bit.ly/MTbrCB>. CFSC joined with many global partners in a Joint Submission concerning the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the need for procedural reforms in international organizations. The submission has gone to many UN bodies and mechanisms. It is available at: <http://bit.ly/LOHQHI>. CFSC will be working with Canadian Friends to develop a Quaker response to the Doctrine of Discovery, so stay tuned!

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Information will be sent to Meetings through CFSC Liaisons when ready.

### CO witness in War of 1812

In June, the witness and experience of conscientious objectors to the War of 1812 were commemorated during this 200th anniversary year through the unveiling of three historical markers in Niagara region (visit: <http://mcco.ca/historical-markers-peace>, and for a map, <http://bit.ly/IPpLbx>). Friends from Pelham Executive Meeting and Hamilton Monthly Meeting were a part of the organizing committee. CFSC contributed financially to the cost of the “Quaker marker” in Port Dalhousie.

### Brief submitted to the UN Committee Against Torture

The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, of which CFSC is a member, submitted a brief to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) which reviewed Canada in May. The CAT’s strong report included frequent references to the ICLMG brief

especially on: the transfer of Afghan prisoners, the need for apology and compensation to the three men at the centre of the Iacobucci Commission, and the importance of implementing Judge O’Connor’s recommendations from the Arar Inquiry. The CAT also took up ICLMG’s recommendation that Canada ratify the optional protocol to the Convention, the Convention on Migrant Workers, and the Convention on Forced Disappearances. Former Justice Minister Warren Allmand was the primary author of ICLMG’s brief, available at [www.iclmg.ca](http://www.iclmg.ca).

Canada was three years late in responding to the CAT’s previous report. The government’s reception of the recent report was dismissive and this has been criticized in the press. This follows on the very public attacks on the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, who visited Canada this year. This criticism was the subject of a public letter of concern signed by many human rights agencies (see <http://bit.ly/Kt7xR1>).

# Hand-made fashions support peacebuilding in Kinshasa

By *Gianne Broughton*

The last issue of *Quaker Concern*, I wrote about the four elements of peacebuilding and how they reinforce each other. While the military paradigm dominates the world's economic system, providing sustained material support for peacebuilding work is a challenge. Self-reliance, both in the psychological sense and the economic sense, is important for peacebuilding organizations since their effectiveness depends on their credibility, which depends on their neutrality and independence.

One solution that a growing number of organizations are pursuing is to organize a revenue-generating activity. In Burundi, the Mission de la paix et reconciliation sous la Croix (MIPAREC) runs a guest house and conference centre and several vocational training workshops that sell goods like carpentry and metal ware. Part of the revenue supports the



Sales of clothes and crafts made by the women in Action Jeune Fille sewing workshop help fund Project Muinda's peacebuilding work.

peace education staff. In Guatemala, Pop Atziak (a former CFSC partner) provides a marketing service for local Mayan weavers. Again, part of the revenue supports a peacebuilding activity - cultural reinforcement seminars for Mayan high school students. In D. R. Congo, Project Muinda, CFSC's partner in Kinshasa, runs a sewing workshop called Action Jeune Fille. Employing six tailors who are graduates of courses that Project Muinda used to offer young women, the workshop produces gorgeous handbags and backpacks in a wide variety of styles, all designed in-house, as well as some cool summer wear for men and women.

In the past, sales in Kinshasa have been adequate to cover the operating costs of the sewing workshop and to pay the salaries of the three staff of Project Muinda's peacebuilding work. Whenever a CFSC representative visited the project, or met a project representative at a Quaker conference, he or she would bring back a small stock of their products and CFSC would sell them at Quaker events here in Canada. These funds would be an addition to our annual grant to Project Muinda which covers the office rent,

communications costs and some incidentals.

The economic situation in Kinshasa has worsened in the past two years due to political uncertainty, and sales are slow. Of course, the same political uncertainties increase the need for peacebuilding activities, such as the election monitoring and neighbourhood mediation (see previous articles in *QC*). As such, CFSC has invited Project Muinda to send us regular shipments of their beautiful things, and we have begun to look for more outlets to sell them. Sandra Anderson of Hamilton Monthly Meeting has generously offered some space in her "gifts for the home" shop in Dundas, Ontario. Friends at Yearly Meeting this year were treated to a larger than usual selection.

If you can help CFSC find new places to sell Project Muinda's products, we would be glad to hear from you – email me at [gianne@quakerservice.ca](mailto:gianne@quakerservice.ca).

*Gianne Broughton serves as the Program Coordinator of the Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee of CFSC.*

# FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

CFSC co-sponsored **Dale Dewar's** (Prairie Meeting) participation in the March 2012 international conference on Uranium Health and Environment, held in Bamako, Mali. Her participation will help in the organizing of a similar conference in Saskatchewan in 2013.

**Christel LeBlanc** (Halifax Meeting), **Sheehan Moore** (New Brunswick Meeting), and **Matthew Webb** (Coldstream Meeting) attended the War Resister's International Conference "Countering the Militarisation of Youth" in Germany in June. Read their reflections at <http://bit.ly/NIT6a4>

On May 29th, **Gordon Hirabayashi**

(Edmonton Meeting) was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by US President Barack Obama. Read more about Gordon's contribution in the White House press release: <http://1.usa.gov/ltwV7D>.

We offer our sincere thanks to **Elizabeth Block** (Toronto Meeting), **Tamara Fleming** (Winnipeg Meeting), and **Michael Paetzold** (Wooler Meeting) who have completed their service on the board of CFSC. We also thank **Dick Cotterill** (Halifax Meeting) who retired this spring. We welcome those appointed to serve by Canadian Yearly Meeting in August 2012: **Rob Hughes** and **Heather**

**Nuen** (Vancouver Meeting), **Maggie Knight** and **Rick Juliusson** (both Vancouver Island Meeting), **Ruth Urban-Shipley**, **Daniel Way** and **Sylvia Lewis Havard** (all Ottawa Meeting), **Julie Berry-Imbert** (Yarmouth Meeting), and **Justin Coutts** (Yarmouth Meeting) who was appointed by Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting.

This fall, we say farewell to **Helen Melbourne**, who has faithfully served CFSC as our Office Administrator in Toronto since 2007. Helen's care and concern for others, creative ideas, and good humour will be missed. We wish her all the best in her retirement.



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