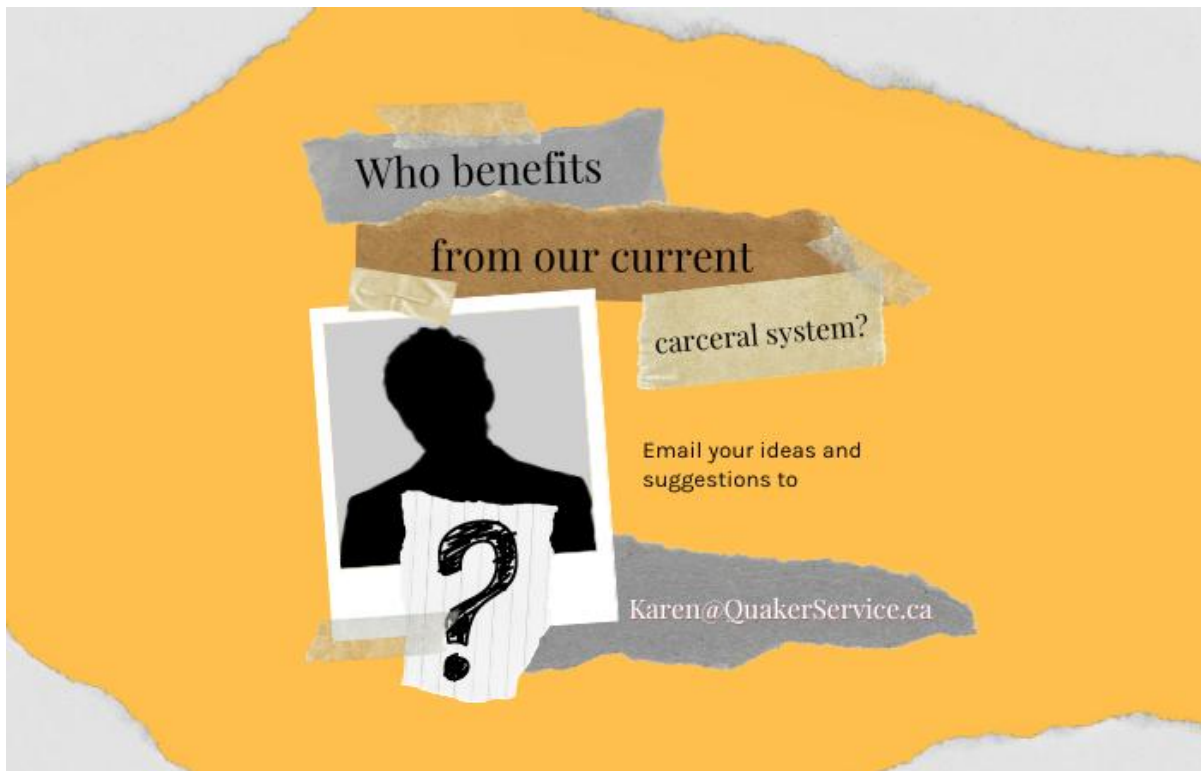




Canadian Friends Service Committee

E-Newsletter



Who benefits from our current carceral system? We want to hear your ideas

Canadian Friends Service Committee is doing a deep dive into the question of “Who benefits (especially financially) from the existence of our current carceral justice system?”

We know that many of you have been involved in relevant programs, and we'd like to warmly invite you to help us think this through!

As a start, some of the people and groups that we know benefit are (but are not limited to): justice officials such as lawyers, judges, correctional officers, police; Germany-based Telio Group that charges exorbitant rates for inmates to use the phones; Aramark Foods and its executives and shareholders; and so on.

Do you have any suggestions of groups or sectors who benefit from the current system? Send Karen your ideas: Karen@QuakerService.ca. Thank you for contributing to our research!



Some of the cards people made at Canadian Yearly Meeting in session in July.

Craftivism time! Can you help us?

In a moment where politics can be full of vitriol, contempt, and destructive polarization we're testing the power of positivity and encouragement.

We're sending handmade cards to each of Canada's Members of Parliament when they return to Ottawa in the fall. Can you help? **We ask that your cards be sent to us at 140 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa ON, K1P 5J4 before Sep 1.** Just fold a sheet of paper, make your

designs on it, and send it our way!

We'll forward your card to a parliamentarian with a note inside encouraging them to embark on the year ahead with grace, integrity, and respect. Please encourage others to send us a card too! <https://QuakerService.ca/Craftivism>



Submission to pre-budget consultation

Budget submission calls for investments in justice and peace

Government budgets might not sound all that exciting. But they matter greatly to the peace and social justice issues that Canadian Quakers care about and work on. For that reason, Canadian Friends Service Committee has made the following written submission for the pre-budget consultations in advance of the upcoming Federal Budget.

Recommendation 1

1.a) Increased funding from 2024 levels for advancing rights-based discussions with rights-holders to ensure Indigenous peoples can fully participate in negotiation processes. Meeting "consultation and cooperation" requires greater investments and would allow for enhanced participation, aligning with the minimum standard of free, prior, and informed consent, as affirmed in the *UN Declaration*.

1.b) The establishment of an independent Indigenous rights mechanism to monitor *UN Declaration Act* implementation and to provide accountability and remedies when individual or

collective rights are violated. This should also include monitoring of the recommendations from UN treaty bodies, as well as domestic bodies. In the interim, the creation of a high-level independent representative could help to lead the work of developing such a permanent oversight and remedy mechanism.

1.c) To plan and develop a strategy, in consultation with provincial and territorial counterparts and with Indigenous peoples, for the adoption and full implementation of the *UN Declaration* across all the jurisdictions in Canada.

Recommendation 2

2.a) To adopt legislation before the House and Senate on a Guaranteed Basic Livable Income (Bills C-223 and S-233).

2.b) To reassess and sufficiently allocate funding and the supporting structures needed for the effective implementation of the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism.

Recommendation 3

3.a) Allocate \$3 million over three years to develop a new training program for MPs that includes compassionate communication skills, using existing program models (from programs in the UK and US) and funding non-partisan Canadian-based organizations to run it.

3.b) Increasing focus on Canadian diplomacy and humanitarian aid as the vehicle to preserve the rules-based international order that will work towards greater security and prevention of destructive conflicts.

Read the full submission: <https://QuakerService.ca/BudgetConsultation>



BACKGROUND

Self-determination & Free, Prior and Informed Consent

*Understanding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples*

February 1, 2021

"Indigenous peoples must be part of decision making when our rights and well-being are at stake. Working with us to determine what that looks like is the smart thing to do. It will lead to fewer acrimonious decisions, fewer court battles, more timely decisions, and better outcomes for us all."

– Chief Wilton Littlechild, addressing United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2018

Executive Summary

The heart of the matter is the universal right of peoples to self-determination. Indigenous peoples, no less than any other peoples or Nations, have the collective right to make their own decisions through their own institutions and systems of governance and law.

Respect for the right to self-determination is crucial to reconciliation. Self-determination is at the heart of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* including its provisions on free, prior and informed consent. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada stated as its first Principle of Reconciliation that the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* "is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of society."

There is no inherent conflict between the human rights framework set out in the *UN Declaration* and Canadian constitutional law. To the contrary, the *Declaration* provides a way to achieve the constitutional imperative of reconciling Canadian law with the pre-existing sovereignty of Indigenous peoples.

The right of Indigenous peoples to make their own decisions includes the right to say "yes", the right to say "no", and the right to "yes with conditions" to proposals brought forward by others.

The term "veto" implies an absolute power, regardless of the circumstances in any given case. Characterizing the right to say no as an absolute veto is confusing, potentially misleading, and often deliberately alarmist. Veto implies a decision that is arbitrary, unilateral, without legal foundation, and taken outside of any legitimate process. None of these things are true of decisions taken by Indigenous peoples in the legitimate exercise of their rights.

Misrepresentations of the *Declaration* must be set aside so that Canada can get on with the necessary and long overdue work of ensuring that the rights of Indigenous peoples are recognized, respected, protected and fulfilled.

Featured resource: Backgrounder on self-determination and free, prior, and informed consent

If you watch the news, logging, mining, pipelines, and Indigenous land rights are likely to come up. When they do you've probably come across words like "self-determination" and "free, prior, and informed consent." But without a law degree, how can you know what all that means?

The Coalition for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of which CFSC is a founding member, is here to help. Here's [a detailed backgrounder](#) (PDF) explaining these concepts. It will help overcome misunderstandings and misinformation.

This is just one of hundreds of great [resources available on our website](#).