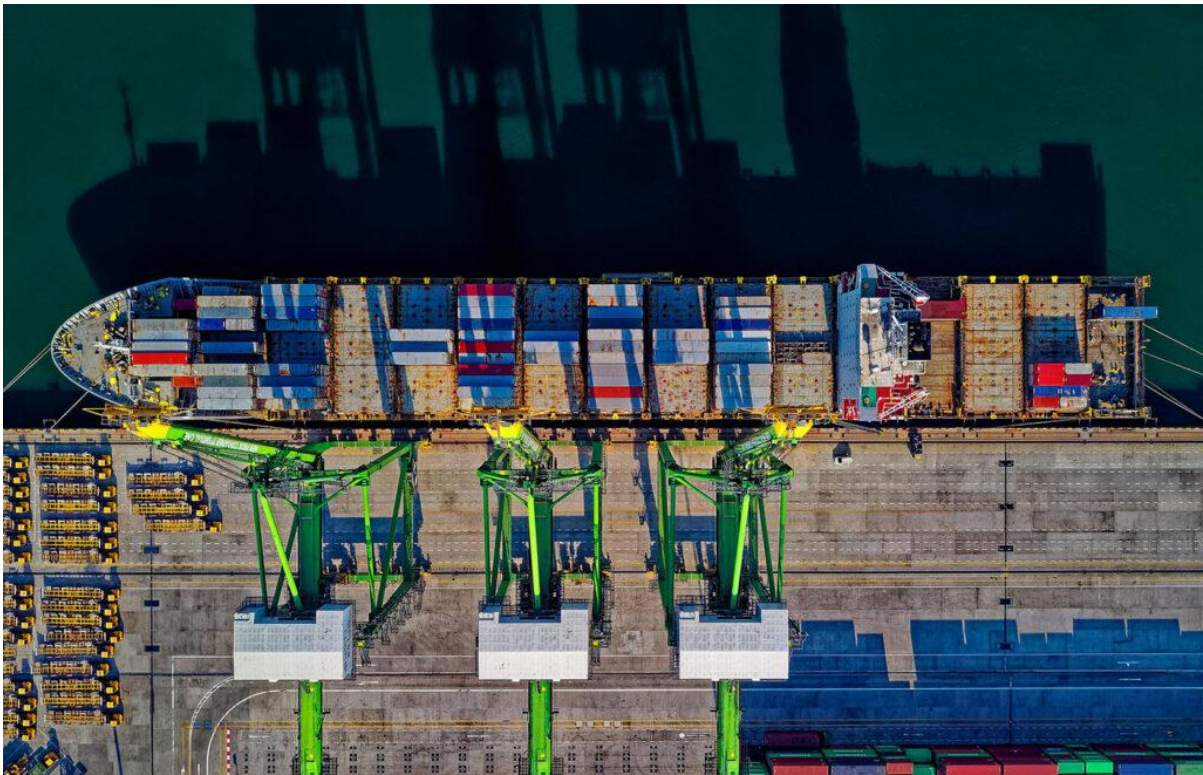




Canadian Friends Service Committee

E-Newsletter



Statement on US-Canada trade war

The US has initiated a trade war with Canada. It's very unclear what the ultimate plans of the US administration are. The deep uncertainty that Canadians are facing—whether to interpret rhetoric about annexation as a US negotiation tactic or a deeper threat—is resulting in a range of feelings and experiences such as fear, anger, and betrayal.

At Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers), we are clear that, as in all wars, this situation will create mostly losers. It will cause great suffering to almost all while further enriching a very few.

We call for continued relationship building with the US. We urge dialogue and diplomacy. We support acts of compassion—a form of bravery that resists simple narratives and refrains from demonizing the other side or distancing from them. We acknowledge with thanks and hold in the Light all those in the US who are practicing noncooperation and otherwise protesting this trade war and other harmful government policies.

We are disturbed by the voices we hear within Canada loudly proclaiming the need to strengthen the military as a means of defence against invasion. Such thinking is not surprising given the militarism that pervades every aspect of Canadian culture from film and video games to history textbooks. This thinking is completely unrealistic, outdated, and dangerous.

As we've explained elsewhere, civilian-based defence and related techniques of active nonviolence are viable ways for nations to defend themselves. They don't require killing. We urge Canadians to learn more about active nonviolence.

We urge Canada to engage in nonviolent resistance focused on justice and peace. Rather than just pointing fingers at the US, we join with the many voices calling the federal and provincial governments to use this as a moment to reflect on Canadian policies.

In this challenging moment, Canada can reassess, change course, and build more equitable, environmentally sustainable, and resilient economies that don't leave people behind. Canada can use the urgent need to reduce dependency on US trade as an opportunity to prioritize investments in human rights and social justice... [Read the full statement with links.](#)

Actions

1. **Take in news with care.** Psychologist Rick Hanson explains, "What flows through the mind sculpts your brain. Immaterial experience leaves material traces behind." Placing sustained attention on something changes your body and mind, not always for the better. Social media is designed to capture your attention. This is often done by showing you sensational or inaccurate bad news. Try to notice where you're placing your attention and how you're feeling. More bad news intake might make you feel worse without informing or empowering you to take any meaningful actions. **Take breaks from bad news and remember to do things that bring you joy.**
2. What happens in the US tends to spread to Canada. **Reach out to people who are feeling particularly targeted** by current policies in the US and let them know you're thinking about them and they matter to you. **Building community can be done at any time.** It especially matters when people are feeling tense.
3. **Buy local.** It's usually a positive thing to do for lots of reasons and right now it's an even better thing when you can.
4. **Ask questions of candidates and vote.** Canada will hold an election on April 28th. This is an important opportunity to ask questions of candidates running for office. Would they support a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income that could help Canadians who are being hurt by the impacts of the trade war?

Election Kit 2025



2025 Canadian federal election kit

A federal election has been called for April 28th. A new kit by Canadian Friends Service Committee is here to help you ask candidates informed questions about important peace and social justice issues. At 9 pages, the kit offers a range of questions about the many areas CFSC works on. Have a look! <https://QuakerService.ca/Election>

Join our monthly discussion group



April 9th, 7 pm Eastern

We'll chat about the intersection of
guaranteed livable basic income and
reconciliation!



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Discussion group continues on Wednesday (April 9)

Our monthly discussion group continues for those who've been there before and those who have not. We'll be chatting online about Guaranteed Livable Basic Income on April 9th at 7 pm Eastern. We'd love to see you there and hear your thoughts! To register visit <https://QuakerService.ca/DiscussionGroup>



Momentum grows to cancel F-35 contract

Canada is planning to buy 88 war planes from the US weapons company Lockheed Martin. The planes are not only made in the US but their source code is processed through specialized US facilities. Parts and maintenance would need to come via the US. The first strike fighter jets are estimated to cost well over \$70 billion for their full lifecycle.

We have opposed this for years for reasons of conscience. But now, due to increasing trade tensions between the US and Canada, momentum is growing to cancel this order.

Portugal has announced it will cancel its order of these same planes. You may have seen recent opinion pieces in Canadian media calling for the same.

If so led **please consider adding your voice on this timely issue!** You can use this tool from the No Fighter Jets campaign that CFSC has endorsed:

<https://WorldBeyondWar.org/CancelF35Contract>



You're not just you: how others shape your true self

Our newest [post for Psychology Today](#) explores important and counter-intuitive findings about how we're each deeply interconnected. At a time of growing societal division and distrust, rediscovering our mutuality matters!



CFSC has three program areas: peace, Indigenous Peoples' human rights, and transformative justice. A GLBI in Canada would positively impact each program area.

"Because economic behavior is so often excluded by policy from the zone of right relationship, it is a primary area of injustice, conflict, violence, and war."
—Keith Helmuth⁵

"Income is the most significant determinant for the health of an individual or community... It will take generations to restore our nations to the levels of health and prosperity that existed before residential schools and colonization, even with a guaranteed basic income. But it will reduce the hardships people face, and bring First Nations to the starting line."
—Max FineDay, Sweetgrass First Nation⁶

"Canadian prisons and jails are receptacles for people who have been failed by other systems."
—Kim Pate

1. Beelin, N., Macdonald, D. and Wilson, D. (2019, June 24). *Towards Justice: Tackling Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada*. Assembly of First Nations and The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. https://www.afn.ca/en/content/uploads/2019/07/justice_report_final_english_-_June-26-2019.pdf

2. Pate, K. (2004, June). *Beyond the Resist: GDI & Bill S-213: How GDI Benefits and Supports Indigenous Communities & People*. https://www.afn.ca/en/content/uploads/2019/07/justice_report_final_english_-_June-26-2019.pdf

3. Zinger, I. (2023, November). *Ten Years since Spirit Makers: A Roadmap for the Reform of Indigenous Corrections in Canada*. Office of the Correctional Investigator, Public Safety Canada.

4. Government of Canada. (2021, November 5). *Ex-prisoner Helps Forge New Path for Others at Risk of Homelessness*. National Housing Strategy. https://www.afn.ca/en/content/uploads/2019/07/justice_report_final_english_-_June-26-2019.pdf

5. Helmuth, K. (2008). *The Quaker Peace Testimony, Economics and the Common Good*. Quaker Institute for the Future.

6. Broad, G., and Neelissen-Smith, J. (2007). *Bill S-213 and First Nations: Cautions for Implementation*. Northern Policy Institute.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)

From the perspective of CFSC's three program areas

Peace

Quakers in Canada define peace at three different levels: inner, interpersonal, and structural. When we consider structural peace, we're forced to look at the root causes of violence, including institutional violence. CFSC sees justice and opportunities as interconnected elements central to a culture of peacemaking. A GLBI framework holds the potential to address both the structural inequality in Canada (as a form of justice), and provide the opportunity many need to find new and meaningful ways to engage with their community. Both of these contribute towards a more peaceful society.

Quakers believe in the inherent value of each individual, which is described as 'that of God/Light in everyone.' A GLBI would act as a moral imperative that allows us to recognize the worth of each individual, without assessing that worth based on their physical contributions to society.

Indigenous Peoples' human rights

Indigenous Peoples are over-represented in poverty statistics, homelessness, and incarceration rates, while only making up 5% of the population. Child poverty rates have fallen since 2015 in Canada, but 50% of Indigenous children both on and off reserve experience poverty.¹ Call for Justice 4.5 from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is for a "guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples, to meet all their social and economic needs."

A GLBI, designed and implemented in consultation, cooperation, and with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples could be a vehicle through which Indigenous Peoples' self-determination is enhanced. It could also represent an investment by Canada in repairing systemic economic injustice, while advancing reconciliation, reducing harm, and moving forward together.²

Transformative justice

Canada's Correctional Investigator, Ivan Zinger, has stated that the disproportionate and growing number of incarcerated Indigenous people is Canada's most pressing human rights issue and needs to be urgently addressed.³

The leading risk factor for incarceration and/or contact with the legal system is poverty. A GLBI would be a transformational approach to preventing incarceration in the first place and would also constitute a solution for those exiting the carceral system as income and housing are often barriers to successful reintegration. Data shows that 85.5% of those who were homeless before being incarcerated anticipated being homeless again upon discharge.⁴ With no funds and prospects for housing, employment, etc. individuals can be put in a position where they breach their parole conditions, resulting in their return to prison. A GLBI would help to address this, serving as an important step in the process of dismantling inequities.



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Featured resource: Fact sheet explaining peace and social justice impacts of Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

This [one page fact sheet](#) (PDF) explores some of the likely positive impacts of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income in Canada. It's just one of many great resources available [on our website](#).

