



Canadian Friends Service Committee
E-Newsletter



We joined in rallying behind Indigenous rights in BC

A new joint letter from over 80 civil society leaders including CFSC supports British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The letter explains how a "recent rise in anti-Indigenous rhetoric and fearmongering" has put this Act at risk, which would "set back our collective reconciliation efforts by decades." Find out more: <https://QuakerService.ca/BCDeclarationAct>

“ Without this amendment, Canada continues to be at serious risk of being complicit in the very kinds of atrocities the international Arms Trade Treaty was created to prevent.



Canadians want arms export loopholes closed

As Canadian organizations, faith leaders, and experts in peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, and development, we write to encourage you and your colleagues from all parties to find common ground to support the movement to committee at second reading of Bill C-233, An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act, which seeks to close critical gaps in Canada's arms control legislation by amending the Export and Import Permits Act to better align with Canada's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

We believe this moment of global disruption offers a vital opportunity for Canada to demonstrate principled, non-partisan leadership and its longstanding commitments to human rights, peace, and the protection of civilians, including children, by fully harmonizing its arms control regime with international law.

As agencies with global experience – including in conflict zones where weapons fuel immense human suffering – we are deeply concerned by the risks posed when arms exports are not subject to rigorous legal safeguards. The stakes are high – for human life, for international law, and for Canada's reputation as a principled global actor. Children, who are disproportionately affected by armed conflict and violations of international humanitarian law, bear the gravest consequences when these safeguards fail...

Keeping reading this open letter to all Members of Parliament (PDF):
<https://QuakerService.ca/CloseExportLoopholes>



Joint submission to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' review of Canada



Reviewing Canada's human rights record

Canada ratified the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the '70s. As a signatory, Canada is legally bound to uphold the Covenant's provisions. Canada and other signatories are periodically reviewed by a UN human rights committee that monitors compliance.

We took the opportunity of Canada's current review to join with Indigenous partners and human rights groups in making a submission to the human rights committee.

The submission asks questions and highlights pressing issues around Indigenous Peoples' human rights in Canada. Have a look (PDF):

<https://QuakerService.ca/ICCPR2026>

Have you been wondering about nonviolent resistance in Canada? Unsure if it really works in the face of an invasion, occupation, or other violent force?

Join us for our new monthly
BOOK CLUB



**CIVIL RESISTANCE:
What Everyone Needs to Know®**
by Erica Chenoweth

March-July: Every 3rd Thursday @ 7pm ET

Reminder: Join us to learn about how everyday people successfully resist invasions, authoritarians, and more!

Have you been wondering about nonviolent resistance in Canada? Are you unsure if it would really work in the face of invasion, occupation, or other violent force?

Join us, our friends at the Canadian Coalition for Nonviolent Defence, and others across Canada for a new monthly book club that will explore those very questions!

We'll be reading *Civil resistance: what everyone needs to know* by Erica Chenoweth—one of the world's top researchers and scholars in this area. This book is the perfect

starting point for anyone wanting to better understand how nonviolent/civil resistance actually works.

The book club will be every third Thursday starting March 19th at 7pm Eastern. Register for free! <https://QuakerService.ca/BookClub>

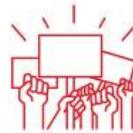
"The main thing is the belief that there's not much point in faith without work. You put into practice what you believe."—Betty Peterson

6. TOOLS AND RESOURCES

To support Friends in their peace advocacy, we have compiled a set of tools and resources that can be used in rallies, discussions, and communications with elected officials. These tools are designed to amplify our call for peace and to engage a wider audience in the cause of nonviolence.

Slogans for Protests:

"Peace is Possible. Choose Diplomacy."
"Stop the War. Start the Dialogue."
"Weapons are for War. People are for Peace."
"None of us are free until all of us are free."
"Nothing for Us, without Us"



Social Media Hashtags:

#QuakersForPeace
#ChooseNonviolence
#DiplomacyOverWar
#StandUpForPeace
#AlternativesToViolence
#AlwaysAlternatives
#UnarmedCivilianAccompaniment



Talking Points:

"War only perpetuates cycles of violence. We must support nonviolent solutions that address the root causes of conflict."

"Peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, equity, and respect for all people."

"Canada can and should play a leading role in promoting peace through diplomacy, not arms."



Featured resource: Toolkit on how to respond to wars

This short toolkit was created to collect and share some ideas and resources about nonviolent citizen responses when governments start wars. Have a look (PDF):

<https://QuakerService.ca/ViolentConflictsToolkitPDF>