



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

December, 2013

CFSC Annual Appeal 2013



Improving the justice system for youth at risk, supporting local initiatives, seeding peace, supporting Indigenous peoples' human rights, educating Canadians, working in partnership. You make all of this happen. For CFSC, 2013 has been a year full of challenges and successes that are making a real difference in people's lives. Your support goes where it counts - toward a world where peace and justice prevail. We only ask once a year, so we are now asking.

Please - read our Annual Appeal for 2013 and make a donation today! <http://bit.ly/Appeal2013>

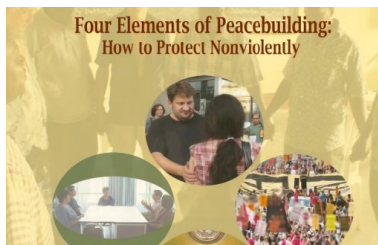
Report on CFSC's intervention at the Supreme Court of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada can establish a framework for Aboriginal title that respects international human rights law and Canada's Constitution. The Tsilhqot'in Nation's case is before the court this week and will set an important precedent around Aboriginal title. CFSC and Amnesty International Canada together were granted intervenor status in the case; we presented our arguments before the Court on November 5th.

You can read CFSC/Amnesty's full factum, and find links to videos and events here:

<http://quakerservice.ca/news/indigenous-land-rights-canada/>

Four Elements of Peace-building book now online!



In the last *E-Newsletter*, we announced the publication of a new book, "The Four Elements of Peacebuilding", by Gianne Broughton. With the help of Ottawa Friend Carl Steiren, an electronic version of the book is ready and up on our website, free for download. The Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities program committee of CFSC is working on a distribution plan for hard copies of book (stay tuned). To download, visit: <http://quakerservice.ca/news/cfsc-publishes-new-booklet-peacebuilding>

CFSC Young Friend Internship – application deadline: February 15th

The internship is open to 19-29 year olds and runs from May 1 – August 31. Information and the application package are at: <http://quakerservice.ca/what-you-can-do/cfsc-summer-internship/>

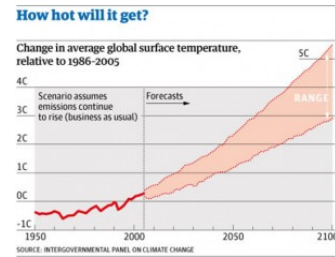
When Christian faith and genetics meet

Friends serve on the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group. The Group has just released a resource that can be "used as a series of workshops or a full day sessions for communal reflection on how to meet the challenges of these new technologies."

For more information on this curriculum, including how to use it with your Meeting, please contact Rebecca Ivanoff at ivanoff@councilofchurches.ca

Keeping up with KAIROS: Briefing paper on fossil fuels/climate change + new “Open for Justice” campaign

Our partners at KAIROS have released a new briefing paper that discusses the strength and weaknesses of the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). “It cites a new study by climate scientist James Hansen showing how burning just one-third of remaining fossil fuels would make the Earth uninhabitable.” Read more at <http://bit.ly/1hL4uDB>



Through the “Open for Justice” campaign, KAIROS and others are pressing for federal legislation to hold Canadian companies accountable when they are complicit in human rights or environmental violations internationally. Read more about how to engage in the campaign: www.kairoscanada.org/openforjustice

Ever wonder how to engage more Canadians around global issues?



global hive

Our partners at the Councils for International Cooperation have spent the last three years working with practitioners from across Canada to answer just that question! In the process they’ve held extensive consultations and collected case studies, good practices, and tools – all available for free on their recently launched website, Global Hive. It is an interactive and fun space to learn about the most effective ways to build global citizenship.

Well worth a look: <http://www.globalhive.ca/>

Elements of Justice gathering – report back

With the assistance of a CFSC Individual Grant, Ruth Walmsley of Vancouver Monthly Meeting attended the KAIROS Elements of Justice gathering held north of Vancouver in October. It was an amazing event, with over 200 people of faith learning and sharing about ecological issues and Indigenous rights issues. Read Ruth’s report on our website: <http://bit.ly/1avMMQp>.

Get a sense of what you missed by visiting KAIROS’s webpage with photos, video, comments, etc.: <http://bit.ly/1cOe443>.

CFSC Individual Grants are available to Friends and attenders of Canadian Quaker Meetings – interested? Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/1ergYxi>

British Friends divest of fossil fuel stocks

Britain Yearly Meeting has become the first church in the UK to divest of companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuels. The statement on BYM’s website notes, “We want to invest in renewable energy and energy-saving schemes. Action we will take as individuals, as meetings and as Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees should aim to minimise damage and strengthen our advocacy position.” Elsewhere on the site, BYM states,

...more sustainable and just alternatives to our current energy economy are possible. ...However, powerful companies and individuals have strong financial interests in maintaining our current energy economy.... Quakers in Britain recognise that our environmental crisis is deeply connected to economic inequality and destructive forms of economic growth. Quaker Peace & Social Witness is working with and on behalf of Quakers to speak out and create pressure in the UK for an energy economy that does not rely on fossil fuels.

You can download an 8-page briefing paper “Ending fossil fuel dependency” at: <http://bit.ly/177M4s3>

Celebrating the Spirit in the Life of our Friend, Edwin Abbott



Vivien and Ed Abbott, captured in all their joy and warmth, at Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting in 2011 by CFSC board member Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg.

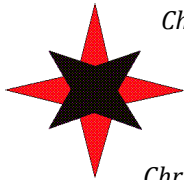
On December 1, Ed Abbott, member of Simcoe-Muskoka Meeting, died peacefully in British Columbia. Ed was a conscientious objector in World War II and undertook alternative service with the Friends Ambulance Unit in China.

For many years, Ed and Vivien (both medical doctors) served in Rasulia, India on a project jointly supported by British Friends and CFSC. Alongside raising their children, the Abbotts set up a health clinic and to provide medical services in the area, while also addressing with the community what we would now call “root cause” issues to health – clean water, proper

sanitation, and nutritious food. Ed developed many innovations in addressing these practical needs. The Rasulia project set the standard for CFSC in making long-term commitments to our overseas partners, understanding that this was a fundamental requirement for development projects, and to the relationships and partnerships with those directly affected that are so essential for their success.

Ed and Viv have been great supporters of CFSC, its staff, and committee members over the years. Always there with words of encouragement, of wisdom - and questions. Ed was a pattern and example to many, having lived a life long witness for a peaceful, sustainable, and more equitable world.

Warm wishes for the turning of the year ...



Christmas marks the birth of Jesus; as a Friend, I believe it has a more metaphoric perhaps mystical meaning – the entering into the deep depths of life and being (per se “into the darkness”) wherein new life, meaning, and wholeness can be found as it is revealed by the Inward Light, the same light that illumined Jesus’ life.

Christmas reminds us of the critical and revelatory role of both “light” and “dark” in our spiritual journeys – for both are inevitable and invaluable to our development as Children of God, or as the Early Friends said “Children of the Light”.

May you have the courage to go to your deep places, to become all of who you are, and to allow the Light to emerge and shine through you as you seek to walk cheerfully over this earth. Merry Christmas, Friends.

~ Jane Orion Smith, CFSC General Secretary



Practical assistance, policy dialogue, research, and education - CFSC works for a world where peace and justice prevail.

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Stand up for justice and peace: <http://bit.ly/SupportCFSC>.