

91A Fourth Avenue / Ottawa ON K1S 2L1 CANADA

Phone: 613-235-8553 or 888-296-3222 / Fax: 613-235-1753 / cym-clerk@quaker.ca / www.quaker.ca

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Dear Friends

“I believe that we continually deepen our spiritual roots. However, there is a challenge before us to further nurture these roots and enhance our lives with dignity and spirituality.”

Donald Laitin, 1997, *CYM Faith and Practice*, #3.72

I am writing to you **to invite you to support Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) through a financial contribution.**

How do we further nurture our spiritual roots and enhance our lives with dignity and spirituality at this time in the life of CYM? **We are blessed to live in in these times of both challenge and opportunity!**

A time of opportunity! What do we receive by being part of the worshipping community of CYM? **CYM's Faith and Practice**, from which I quote above, is a recent offering created over a ten-year process by CYM. It now is available to Friends within and beyond our Yearly Meeting. It is a rich resource that nourishes our spiritual lives as individuals, and as Meetings. **We are further blessed by the activities of our Education and Outreach Committee.** It is offering spiritually-rich courses on line. These allow Friends from different parts of the country to study together by interconnecting electronically further building relationships one with another. Our physical distance can be overcome through spiritual relationships. See our website where course content is available for anyone to use.

CYM meets once a year in session, bringing together Friends from across the country. For those attending, this is **a time of spiritual refreshment**, seeing old friends and making new ones. Each year we are blessed with the wisdom and challenge of the **Sunderland P Gardner Lecturer(s)** who call us to some form of accountability with respect to our faith and our practice. This year our Lecturer, Alastair McIntosh from Glasgow, Scotland in Britain Yearly Meeting, enchanted and challenged us with his presentation, **Decolonizing Land and Soul: A Quaker Testimony.**

This presentation spoke to us as Friends at a unique time during which all Canadians are being challenged on issues of land and soul through the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). **CYM was represented at the release of the TRC report by the CYM Presiding Clerk, by Jennifer Preston on behalf of Canadian Friends Service Committee and by Friends able to be in Ottawa or to attend events across the country.** Many Meetings now are exploring ways of responding to the TRC Calls for Action. For Alastair, the revolution to reverse colonization involves three stages: Remembering the whole past; Re-visioning how

the future could be; and Reclaiming. These are processes that help us to nurture our spiritual roots, enhance our spiritual lives and contribute to the call to reconciliation! The text of Friend Alastair McIntosh's lecture is enclosed.

But what about those who do not attend CYM in session? What can CYM mean to you? Past SPG Lectures and Bible/Quaker Studies are **posted on the CYM website under the resources tab so that individual Friends and Meetings can use these rich educational resources.** The **Travelling Ministries project** coordinates and subsidizes the travel of Friends who can be resources for Meetings for retreats or workshops that will build community and strengthen relationships. Any Meeting can request a visitor thereby enriching our spiritual lives and communities. At Representative Meeting just passed **we heard of different Meetings that are prepared welcome Syrian refugees into their lives and communities.** Sharing information and experiences like this can both comfort and resource those involved. This is a time of so much opportunity within CYM!

And also we are challenged. To organize and offer opportunities such as those above **we need financial as well as people resources.** In past years we have faced financial challenges and responded to Canadian Yearly Meeting to meet our needs. To ensure that we are sustainably financed we need to continue to grow this generosity. Our testimony to integrity calls us to include as part of right relationship that we be in right financial relationship as a Yearly Meeting. That is **to strengthen CYM by contributing enough to support the work that we ask CYM to do.**

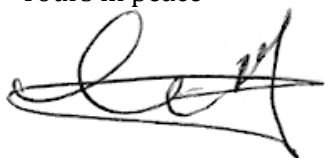
I am inviting you to take into worship the needs of CYM and to make a contribution that fits your income, ability and needs. Only a small percent of CYM members currently individually support CYM financially. I further invite Friends to take to their Monthly Meetings the opportunities that exist for their individual members to contribute personally to CYM. **If each member contributed \$5 monthly it would make a big difference.** No donation is too small.

These are different ways to contribute to CYM. Donations of over \$10 receive a charitable receipt.

- Send a cheque to our office at 91A Fourth Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1S 2L1;
- Use the CYM pre-authorized donation form available on-line under the Donate tab <http://quaker.ca/donate> for regular contributions to be transferred from your bank account to CYM's.
- Use the donate button on the website home page to make an on-line donation through CanadaHelps.

We live in challenging times in the world! **In such times the importance of faith community is even greater.** We can gain strength from this community. We are loved and nourished by it. It is a place in which hope is sustained. **Please join me in making a financial contribution to CYM so that we continue to nourish it, and to enable it to be all that we dream that it can be.**

Yours in peace



Elaine Bishop, Presiding Clerk