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July 2020

Dear Friend,

As a member or attender of a Meeting or Worship Group, you are part of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), our family of Quakers in Canada. At whatever level you have accessed resources, or participated in CYM gatherings or committees, we invite you to explore the many ways that donations to CYM are used and the range of opportunities that are open to you and your Meeting.

If you do not already participate in Yearly Meeting committees or activities, please know you would be welcome! And if you do not yet donate to CYM, please consider this as a possibility. The work of CYM is supported in large part by donations from both Meetings and from individuals. Individual donations help us to offer most of our activities either free or at reduced cost.

Canadian Yearly Meeting in 2020 faces new challenges, and new opportunities. One result of the pandemic is a dramatic increase in the use of online technology. In many ways using the internet to access activities and resources has been a positive and exciting experience, including an increase in attendance and participation. In May 2020, the Canadian Quakers [group on Facebook](#)¹ included more than 440 Canadian Friends. And this year, many Friends from across Canada were able to 'attend' Western Half-Yearly Meeting online, some for the first time.

On the other hand, we know that something is lost when all our activities and resources are only available online, and we hope a time will come soon when we are once again able to meet face-to-face.

Of concern, as we transition to an increased online presence, are Friends for whom accessing activities and resources online presents a significant barrier. As we move forwards, we are keenly aware of the need to ensure that all Friends can fully access all available activities and resources. CYM will be offering support as we transition, to which Gini Smith, a long-time Friend, responds:

"As many of you know the ongoing communication changes have been a struggle to me. I am going to grab this golden ring which will enable me to continue my journey as an active member of Canadian Yearly Meeting."

If you, or another Friend, could use a "little help from their Friends" send a message to TechHelp@quaker.ca, or leave a message at 1-888-296-3222. We will work with you, or the other Friend, and try to help you connect with other Friends via Zoom or navigate the www.quaker.ca website.

A major challenge for CYM this year is the cancellation of our planned in-person CYM in Session for August 2020. The work of CYM Program Committee, which usually organizes the session, has been laid down until August 2020, at which time they will continue to plan for CYM 2021, in Winnipeg. In its place, an Interim Program and Support Committee (IPASC) has been formed to offer some parts of our usual CYM programming to members, attenders, and inquirers in

¹ The underlined links in this PDF will take you directly to the relevant webpage. Depending on your system, you might need to press and hold the Control key and left-click your mouse or touchpad on the link you wish to follow. (A simple left-click or tap will suffice for others.)

2020. The latest information on the online CYM 2020, along with links to join its sessions will be at quaker.ca/yearlymeetinginsession.

For those able to access the internet, the [Canadian Yearly Meeting website](http://www.quaker.ca) (www.quaker.ca) has been developed as an online hub for resources. It is a good place to keep up to date on our activities. We hope you will explore this resource and discover opportunities that will enrich your life as a Quaker and speak to your spiritual journey.

Below are some of the activities and projects that donations to CYM supports.

- Our [Yearly Meeting office](#)
- CYM in session (our annual gathering)
- Grants to support participation in the annual gathering and youth gatherings
- [Committee](#) travel and work
- Our [CYM website](#)
- [The Canadian Friend](#) and the [Quaker Learning Series](#)
- [Grants](#) for Quaker studies, travel in the ministry, or sojourns at Pendle Hill
- Quaker representation at both national and international levels ([Friends United Meeting](#), [Friends World Committee for Consultation](#), [KAİROS](#), [Canadian Council of Churches](#)), [World Council of Churches](#), [Friends General Conference](#)

The “[Who We Are](#)” section of the website, provides descriptions of our beliefs, testimonies, way of worship, and Quaker history. From the section on our testimonies:


Quaker faith springs from a deeply held belief in living our lives according to our spiritual experience. Those of our spiritual insights that we call our testimonies spring from deep experience and have been a part of Quaker faith for many years. They arise out of inner convictions and challenge our normal ways of living.

With reference to our testimonies of truth and integrity, justice, equality and community, simplicity and peace:

Throughout our history, Quakers have sought to live out these values, both individually and as a community, in the ordinary detail of our lives and in the wider world – where much of our work is done through Canadian Friends Service Committee. This way of life is shaped by a deep commitment to these testimonies. It grows from a belief in the sanctity of all life and that there is something sacred in everyone. It is nourished and rooted in our practice of silent and attentive worship.

The [What We Do](#) section on the website provides links to other regional gatherings across Canada. It also describes the work of [CYM Committees](#) to guide the organization. If so led by the Spirit, there are opportunities to serve on these committees.

The [Resources](#) section provides recordings of Sunderland P. Gardner lectures, Bible and Quaker studies, free online courses and pamphlets, links to other Friends’ groups, and information about grants and loans and the visitation program. Issues of [The Canadian Friend](#) are posted back to 2001, as well as the 2020 version of our [Organization and Procedure](#). Excerpts are available from our [Faith and Practice](#), which was created by Canadian Yearly Meeting and published in 2011 to provide support, guidance, and growth for the spiritual lives of Canadian Friends.

If you are interested in donating or updating your donation, there is a  button on the home page of the CYM website that will direct you to a [donations form](#), and also to the yearly financial statement providing further details on spending. Alternatively, you can complete and mail in the voucher included with this letter.

In Friendship,

CYM Contributions Committee

Penni Burrell, Martha McClure, Fran McQuail, Gini Smith, and Kerry MacAdam