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Dear Friends in Canadian Yearly Meeting,

Greetings from home, where I'm staying just about all the time, as is true for many of us. I wish you Light as we make our way through these sometimes dark times.

As you know, last summer, the Interim Program and Support Committee (IPASC) came together on scarcely any notice and produced a wonderful array of online offerings which attracted a large number of Friends, many of whom were not ordinarily attenders of CYM-in-session. I'm sure I wasn't the only Canadian Friend who was dazzled by the programme and the attendance.

However, Meetings for Worship for Business were not part of the week-long virtual gathering. In these times of isolation, your Clerks, Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, and the IPASC felt that spiritual support and the upholding of community were our primary goals as we re-invented our August gathering. Necessary business was conducted in a series of several-hour, online Representative Meetings between June and December.

Now we face another year without an in-person Yearly Meeting. At the same time, the Change and Sustainable Transformation (CAST) working group, appointed last February, is putting huge amounts of spirit, energy, and time toward making our beloved community of Quakers across the country one that will last, that is structurally and financially sustainable and spiritually supportive and supported. Some decisions that CAST asks of us cannot be made in Representative Meeting, and we haven't had CYM Meetings for Worship for Business since the summer of 2019. We need a way to do the CYM business which can only be done at CYM.

We have had some of our 2020 Reporting and Clearness sessions at the fall Representative Meetings but the CYM Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Archives Committee have yet to report. If you're familiar with CYM business, you know that these are occasions for the groups reporting to let us know how things have been going for the last five years, what their plans are for the coming years, and what they want to know from Friends about their goals and activities. These sessions are informative and engaging.

To do all these things with the best participation of Friends from across CYM, your Clerks' Committee has planned two virtual CYM Meetings for Worship for Business, on the 23rd of January and the 6th of February, from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with a half-hour break midway. We hope that you'll be there! Along with this letter you'll find instructions – as you did for CYM activities last summer – about how to attend. We hope to see hundreds of CYM Friends, to review a bit of our recent past, assess our present state, and plan for the future of a rich and supportive community of Quakers. Please attend, and *please*, encourage other Friends to join you!

Wishing you a New Year of peace, safety, and hope,

Mentoring Clerk