

**Canadian Yearly Meeting — Final Agendas for
Meetings for Worship for Business to be held online via Zoom
on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9, 11, and 13 August 2022**

Documents Circulated with the Agenda

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Re CYM Agenda for 9 August 2022, Item 1

Births, Adoptions, Marriages, New Members, and Deaths August 2021 to July 2022

Please note that this list reflects information sent to the CYM Office or the CYM Clerks as of 26 July 2022. Please forward details regarding errors or omissions to the CYM Clerks. (cym-clerk@quaker.ca)

Births and adoptions

Yarmouth MM:

Lilliana Rose Laing (born 30 August 2021, to Jessica Andrews and Grayden Laing)

Interior BC MM

Grayson Henry Callaghan, born 1 May 2022 to Katherine Hope and Dane Callaghan

New Brunswick MM:

Tulley Robert Marguerita Burns, born 10 January 2022 to Melanie Burns.

Ottawa MM:

Gabor Aspen Vasary, born 8 November 2021, to Zoltan Vasary and Reykia Fick;
Adrian Elliott Baird, born 14 May 2022 to Ben Segel-Brown and Alexa Baird

Winnipeg MM:

Fiona Lynn Hildebrandt, born 17 December 2021, to Kelvin and Anna Hildebrandt

Marriages

Cowichan Valley MM:

Ruth Mills and Doreen Davidson, 22 September 2021

New Members and Membership Transfers

Coldstream Monthly Meeting

Donna Moore, May 2021

Cowichan Valley MM:

Ro Fife, sojourning member September 2021, membership transfer, February 2022
Lillian Henegar, March 2021

Halifax Monthly Meeting

Tanya Bilsbury
Jordon Daniels
membership by transfer: Jennifer Overington, Susan Holtz, and Erik Koniger

Interior BC MM

Diane McKelvey, April 2022
Deb Edwards, June 2022

New Brunswick MM:

Brenda Bratton Blom, January 2022, transfer from Stony Run MM (Baltimore YM);

Melanie Burns, April 2022
Stuart Kearney, September 2021;

Montreal MM:

Jean-Louis Demers (May 2022)

Pelham Executive Meeting

Margaret Nunn, transfer from Coldstream Monthly Meeting, March 2022

Toronto MM:

Erika Whitney (June 2022)

Vancouver Island MM

Martha Comfort, transfer from Middletown Friends Meeting, May 2022
Jim Matej, new member, June 2022

Deaths

New Brunswick MM

Harrison ("Harry") Crouse Roper, 28 April 2022
George Strunz, 4 March 2022

Ottawa MM:

Caroline Balderston Parry, 11 February 2022

Toronto MM:

Ashford Clinton Sherbourne Browne, 11 June 2022;
Frank Lloyd Showler, 10 February 2022

Yonge Street MM:

John Horvath, 1 June 2022

Re CYM Agenda for 9 August 2022, Item 2
List of Delegates from Monthly Meetings and Half-Yearly Meetings
to Canadian Yearly Meeting 2022

Annapolis Valley MM:

Barbara Aikman
Carol Bradley

Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting

Ruth Mills
Lana Robinson
Donna Sassaman

Edmonton Monthly Meeting

Katharine Carmichael

Hamilton Monthly Meeting

Beverly Shepard
Carol Leigh Wehking
Mona Aziz-Zamisa (alternate)
Dick Preston (alternate)

Interior BC MM:

Sarah Chandler

New Brunswick Monthly Meeting

Ellen Helmuth

Ottawa Monthly Meeting

Carol Dixon (tbc)
Robert Lowe Barnett (tbc)

Pelham Executive Meeting

Bev Jackson
Lisa Smith

Saskatoon Monthly Meeting

Darlene Kennedy
Mark Stanley

Thousand Islands Monthly Meeting

Janni Belgum
Barbara Laing

Vancouver Monthly Meeting

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta
Rachel Yordy

Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting

Adrian Dolling
Catherine Harding

Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting

Ellen Helmuth

Yonge St. MM:

Barbara Horvath
Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg

If the delegates for your monthly meeting are not included in this list, please send the names to the CYM Clerks [cym-clerk@quaker.ca].

Please note that all delegates should attend the **Meeting for Monthly Meeting Delegates** scheduled for **12:30 pm Eastern on Sunday 7 August**.

CYM Minute 2021.8.18

Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting Request to Revise the CYM 2003 Minute on Marriage

As the 2003 minute on marriage was discerned and proposed by Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel (CMM&C) and subsequently by Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, we ask CMM&C to:

- 1 Consult broadly with LGBTQ2S+ Friends, as well as any other wise and relevant Friends;
- 2 Prepare a draft minute; and
- 3 Bring the draft minute to Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Counsel at Yearly Meeting in 2022 and then forward the minute to the Canadian Yearly Meeting for Worship for Business, where it could be designated as a minute of record.

See also Appendix D for background information.

Appendix D Background to Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting's Request to Revise the CYM 2003 Minute on Marriage

Excerpts from letter to CYM re Marriage from Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting

For the right joining in marriage is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests' or magistrates'; for it is God's ordinance and not man's; and therefore Friends cannot consent that they should join them together: for we marry none; it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses.

George Fox, 1669

The opening preamble to *Faith and Practice* includes the following statement:

The time will come for renewal and revision to reflect changed circumstances, emerging concerns and new glimpses of truth. We treasure the spiritual insights passed on to us by earlier Friends but we must also speak to the conditions of our own time.

Cowichan Valley Quakers feel that time has come regarding the 2003 minute on same-gender marriage. Cowichan Valley Meeting queried Friends' Meetings across Canada regarding their experience with queer marriage. Without exception, the monthly meetings that responded to CVMM's initiative were thoughtful, supportive, and generous in their feedback. All are in favour of revisiting the 2003 minute; four meetings have same-gender marriages under their care; and eight have minutes supporting same-gender marriage. Two monthly meetings expressed concern that nonbinary Friends should see themselves reflected in a minute on marriage.

It is our hope that through deep reflection and discernment that Canadian Friends will find unity in our acceptance that it is indeed Spirit that marries one to another, and ours is to witness and nurture the lives that God has brought together in Love.

Canadian Yearly Meeting 2003 Minute of Record on Marriage

In a Quaker Meeting, couples whose marriages have been approved by a local Meeting marry each other in the presence of the community without officiating clergy. Our usual practice is only to approve the marriage of those couples where at least one of the partners has membership in our Religious Society.

Whether or not to support same-sex marriages is decided at the local Meeting level. Some Meetings have chosen to recognize marriage as open to both opposite and same-sex couples, and several have taken same-sex marriages under their care, even when these relationships were not recognized in law as marriages.

Our experiences and discernment on this issue have been partly shaped by the presence in our community of wonderful, loving, committed same-sex relationships. We have experience of couples in same-sex relationships that are bringing up children in the same loving way we would expect any family we know to do. "Love makes a family." We strongly object to statements by some religious groups that it is harmful to children to be brought up in same-sex families.

Whether a family is a loving and supportive place, or is a harmful place to bring up children, does not depend upon the gender of the parents.

We support the right of religious groups (including individual Quaker Meetings) and clergy, to consent to or to refuse to perform same-sex marriages. We also support the right of same sex couples to a civil marriage and the extension of the legal definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

Canadian Yearly Meeting, 2003

Report to Canadian Yearly Meeting from Epistle Summarizing Committee

During the past year 34 Yearly Meetings from around the world sent their Epistles to Friends World Committee for Consultation. They are available to download for anyone wishing to read them. In reading the letters, we saw great commonality among diverse Meetings around the world, as well as commonality with our own Meetings.-We found the epistles of great interest but wondered why Yearly Meeting was asking a committee to make summaries when access to the complete documents is so easy for all.

As we attempted to summarize the epistles, we began to feel that our work was relatively pointless, as well as disrespectful in a way, to the Meetings and Friends who had composed the letters.-The various epistles were conscientiously written, and are generally economical and sparse. Any summarization detracts significantly from the experiences being described. For this reason, perhaps more than any other, we don't feel that our work in this committee is valuable.

One of us continued to attempt to craft acceptable summaries while the other investigated the administrative aspects of the committee, its origin and supports. We failed to find a satisfying method of summary and discovered that the committee is something of an administrative orphan. It is not recognized as a Standing Committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting and it has not had any "reporting and clearness" since the last Committee restructuring. The immediate previous members of the committee did not have helpful information. No one seemed to know or notice that the Committee was adrift, and only the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee recognized Epistle Summarizing for attention.

Together, we have become convinced that this should be the terminal report of the Epistle Summarizing Committee. We have come to this conclusion based upon:

- the easy access to the epistles for all Friends around the world,
- the unnecessary nature of the work produced by the committee, and
- the apparent neglect of the committee (which further highlights the redundancy of the committee).

Accordingly, we recommend that the Epistle Summarizing Committee be laid down.

Respectfully submitted
Bert Horwood and Logan Mullin
4 April 2022

Report on Priorities for Canadian Yearly Meeting with Recommendations from the Change and Sustainable Transformation Working Group (CAST) — July 2022

In the spring and summer of 2020 CAST did a lot of work on drafting a statement of priorities for Canadian Yearly Meeting, including extensive consultations with Monthly Meetings and individual Friends. The following letter was sent to Monthly Meetings on 21 July, 2020:

Dear Friends,

Based on the feedback from Meetings and individual Friends, the Change and Sustainable Transformation working group has narrowed our list of priorities to be those things that we feel need our focus now. We ask that you consider whether we have captured what you see as the top priorities for Canadian Yearly Meeting at this time.

Priorities - What we need to lift up currently — all equally important

Community: To support Friends in Canada with resources and connections that nurture the spiritual communities nationally, regionally, and locally.

Learning: To provide opportunities to learn about Friends' ways and affirm our Quaker identity.

Sustainability: To ensure our use of finite resources is sustainable - volunteer energy, finances, and environmental impacts.

Youth: To support youth involvement within the Quaker community including provision of finances, staff resources, and assistance to pursue leadings and hold gatherings.

There was no CYM-in-session held in August 2020 and the work on a statement of priorities for CYM was put on hold as CAST became involved in other work. In the winter of 2022 it was decided to resume the work on priorities. CAST made a survey available to Canadian Friends. 185 Friends responded to the survey.

Friends expressed a desire that Yearly Meeting support Canadian Friends by providing or organizing

- Materials and Opportunities for Outreach, Inreach, and Quaker Education
- In-person gatherings and activities with online access
- Opportunities for discussion
- Opportunities for online engagement and resources
- Support for Monthly Meetings
- Traveling and visitation among Friends

Concerns most often noted were:

- Lack of focus on being a faith community
- Too much bureaucracy
- Lack of spiritual nourishment
- Lack of knowledge of programs offered
- Lack of quality programming for families and children

Priorities for CYM identified from the survey:

- Focus on spiritual nourishment
- Educational resources
- Outreach and Inreach
- Effective publicity of and access to CYM resources

The survey told us that most respondents get information about Yearly Meeting from their Monthly Meeting (76%). 71% get information from the Publications and Communications Committee's *e-Newsletter* and 69% get information from *The Canadian Friend*. By far the most useful programs and services for understanding Quaker process and receiving spiritual nourishment were CYM-in-session and text publications.

The survey responses aligned with the priorities that CAST proposed in July 2020. As well, they highlighted the need for better communication within the Yearly Meeting.

Recommendation

We ask that these priorities be approved as the basis for the continuing work of CAST. With that approval, our next steps would be to:

- Compare the priorities with the programs that CYM currently offers to identify how programs support these priorities, where there are gaps, what new resources are needed, and what might be laid down.
- Determine if programs can be more effectively organized to function with less financial and volunteer resources.
- Report on progress and recommendations to the Yearly Meeting.

Change and Sustainable Transformation (CAST) Working Group:

Celia Cheatley, Peter Cross, Virginia Dawson, Marilyn Manzer, Ruth Pincoe, Zaley Warkentin, and CYM Secretary, Tasmin Rajotte



Reporting and Clearness Report

Canadian Friends Service Committee

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) is the service arm of Quakers in Canada, and in this report, we will touch on the work of its three program committees and of the Committee as a whole. We will also share how we understand our challenges and we ask Canadian Friends to reflect on these and, where necessary, to bring us to new understandings of our way ahead.

Our work: Advancing peace, justice, and Indigenous rights

In 2021, the Quaker Indigenous Rights Committee (QIRC) succeeded in supporting many Indigenous partners in shepherding through parliament *An Act to Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (formally, bill C-15). This is a milestone on the road to Indigenous Human Rights and reconciliation in Canada! We in CFSC shared a sense of excitement that this long delayed piece of legislation has been approved in Parliament, and we know many Canadian Friends shared it too. However, in a sense, this is just the beginning, and a long road winds ahead (and we are following it).

QIRC recently co-hosted a symposium around the emerging body of work on Indigenous rights in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global response to the climate crisis.

In 2021 we bid farewell to our former events coordinator Keira Mann, who decided to go back to school, and in March 2022 we welcomed Jeremy Vander Hoek to the staff as the new Events Coordinator/Indigenous Rights Assistant. Now that bill C-15 is law, we anticipate that the work will broaden and intensify as Canadians struggle to meet the new commitments toward reconciliation mandated by the new law.

The Quakers Fostering Justice Committee (QFJ) is integral to the National Youth Justice Network and the development of *The Guidelines for the Implementation of Mother-Child Units in Canadian Correctional Facilities*. The *Canadian Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents* launched a website this year that serves as its public presence and information resource. QFJ has been instrumental in helping establish and expand the coalition. QFJ also held a workshop series on the topic of Shifting Punitive Perspectives titled *The Only Way Forward*; the webinar series examined the impacts of the existing criminal justice system, possible alternatives, and next steps.

At the beginning of the reporting period, QFJ was staffed by Verena Tan, who eventually returned to her home. We welcomed Nancy Russell to the role in 2020.

The Quaker Peace Committee (QPC), published a book titled *Are We Done Fighting? Building Understanding in a World of Hate and Division*, written by CFSC's Matt Legge. The committee has hosted 15 interactive online workshops that involved a total of 240 participants building peace skills by employing activities from the book. QPC's ongoing blog with *Psychology Today*, also written by Matt, has helped further evidence-based peace skills to spread to a wider audience. Along with providing peace education, QPC continues to partner with and support international groups—Friends Women's Association, doing work to reduce gender-based violence in Burundi, Mesarvot, supporting young Israeli objectors to military conscription, and Kinshasa Quakers to support young women in setting up small businesses. QPC has also created the Israel/Palestine Working Group, a sub-committee of CFSC that works for a just peace in Israel/Palestine. Since our last report, QPC has laid down involvement in Project Muinda in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, which after many years of support has matured and become self sustaining. Matt Legge stepped down from his role as QPC program coordinator in early 2022, and Kerry Grier now staffs the role.

Supporting Our Work: Staffing and Personnel Matters

By paying close attention to development of a strategic plan and following it up annually, CFSC has enhanced its ability to set clear goals for our work, and to monitor progress in meeting them. Matt Legge now takes a leading role in helping committees to develop plans and monitor progress.

Because of concern that salaries were falling behind what others in Canada receive for similar work, we researched and discussed at length our salary structure and job classifications. On the basis of that work, we are revising our salary structure, mainly upwards, to a more just level.

In 2020 we bid farewell to our former long-time CFSC administrator Tasmin Rajotte, and soon after welcomed Dalya Eidda into the role.

Finances

Peace building requires the faith and commitment of Friends, but also, it requires resources. Relative to the beginning of our reporting period, CFSC finds itself in a strong financial position. Our financial strength derives from both new funding for our work from large charitable foundations, and from the growth of our investments. Bequests to CFSC have risen as have donations from individual donors. We are humbled by and grateful for the support of Meetings and individual Friends. We tried something new in fundraising: we hired specialists to help us craft a direct mailing fundraising campaign. This netted 120 new donors for CFSC. We are blessed to have a significant donor base of individuals who are not Quakers; in fact, they outnumber the Friends who donate. Members of the Executive Committee are in the process of contacting donors by phone to thank them. In these calls we have heard from non-Quaker donors how much they appreciate “the Quaker approach”.

Of course, the purpose of our work is not to accumulate money, but rather, to build peace, foster justice, and stand up for Indigenous Rights. Therefore, Finance committee recommended in 2021 that we increase our operating budget and take on new work. We are in the early stages of a carefully discerned exploration of the possibility of adding a position in Ottawa that would help us to give added voice to Friends perspectives on Parliament Hill and in government, and also to add weight to our efforts at legislative and policy change. We welcome Friends prayers, support, suggestions and recommendations concerning how CFSC can best use its valuable resources to advance justice, peace, and Indigenous rights.

In 2021 we welcomed Priscila Recinos to the staff as our new Finance Assistant. She was hired after Megan Shaw left the role in 2019.

Engagement with CYM and other Canadian Meetings

Since 2013, when CFSC legally became a “corporate” entity separate from Canadian Yearly Meeting, we have continued to try and sustain close links with Monthly Meetings by engaging them in our work and helping them to advance their own grassroots projects as well. Each Monthly Meeting has a liaison person appointed to communicate CFSC news to their meeting. In 2020 we began a regular weekly Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays which has been faithfully attended by a weekly average of around 20 Friends. One highlight was Caroline Balderston Parry’s weekly updates on her healing journey from the time of her diagnosis with cancer until she died in January 2022. Ever a Quaker minister, Caroline modeled for us the faith, joy, and hopefulness we all aspire to as we approach the end of our lives. Our Meeting for Worship remains a steady connection with Friends at large in Canada and a tangible weekly sign of the support we feel from Canadian Friends. All are welcome to attend.

All CFSC communications are directed toward supporting and advancing the issues that the program committees work on separately and together with our partners. *Quaker Concern* is produced three times per year, via both print and a dedicated website. *E-News* is sent monthly, and additional information notes are sent periodically to Monthly Meeting/Worship Group Liaisons. The CFSC website is our largest online presence, and we also maintain a presence on several social media platforms. In 2021 we celebrated CFSC’s 90th anniversary with a monthly “Get to Know Thee Friend” Zoom presentation and created a website with stories and pictures. We produced a resource pamphlet jointly with Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel on *Addressing Conflict amongst Friends*. We also developed new guidelines for *What Makes CFSC's Voice Different* and updated our guidelines on writing for *Quaker Concern*. Tasmin Rajotte and Matt Legge produced a pamphlet titled *Advice and Queries: Discerning Peace and Social Concerns* it explores what discernment is, what a leading is, and how to use Quaker decision-making processes to select what peace and justice work to take on. The pamphlet was recently published in *Canadian Quaker Learning Series* number 13. We are always looking for ways to nurture our relationship with CYM and Canadian Friends. In 2021, we met with CYM’s Change And Sustainable Transformation (CAST) Committee to discuss how CFSC might support CYM’s efforts with Canadian Friend’s via videoconference, and use discernment in

peace and social justice work. We constantly sought and evaluated new ways to engage with Canadian Friends.

We are constantly asking ourselves how do we bring the testimony of simplicity to life amid the daily striving of CFSC? How can we honour the peace testimony and not outrun our guide by over-working or expecting too much from our Friends? How can we be reminded to sustain our spirits, to worship, and to love on another, so that through our work *thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?*

What we ask from Friends

From Canadian Friends and our Monthly, Half-yearly, and Yearly meetings we ask to be kept informed about the statements they intend to make about our shared concerns, preferably before the statements are released, and also to tell the Service Committee about the projects they plan to pursue, preferably in the planning stages. The reason for this request is so that we can properly celebrate with Friends and Meetings their commitments to service, share their news with Friends more widely, offer suggestions and advice, if any, and prepare CFSC's project partners who work in the same spaces by sharing the news with them. In this way we will avoid misunderstandings with allies and partners and be sure that communication from Canadian Quakers to our allies and partners is as clear and consistent as possible.

Queries

How can the nurturing connections between CFSC and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups be strengthened? Monthly, Regional, and Yearly Meetings that are the nurseries of the living traditions, practices, and testimonies of our faith, and, as such they are the spring, or source, from which “the Quaker Approach” flows. How can CFSC help to sustain these sources, so that they, in turn, will continue to sustain us?

How do Canadian Friends come to discern a leading to advance justice, peace, and Indigenous rights through CFSC? Recruiting Friends for program and administrative roles, and for clerking seems like a growing challenge. How do we prepare the ground in our meetings so that long-time Friends, as well as seekers in our meetings, consider taking on service and ministry among Friends and others?



Annual Accountability Report 2021

“As we let our barriers down or remove them, we move closer to the center of our being. When we tap into that central core, we experience a self-acceptance and a sense of peace that allows us to connect with others without fear or apprehension. It is this connection that transforms us and others.”—John Shuford

Transformational work

There are a great many charitable organizations out there. But how many of them make it to their 90th birthdays? 2021 marked the 90th anniversary of Canadian Friends Service Committee!

That’s 90 years of Quakers quietly working away behind the scenes to open space for dialogue among parties in conflicts, to build trust, and to help people find common ground.

It’s 90 years of advocating for justice and systemic changes, so that you and everyone else is free to reach their fullest potential.

It’s 90 years of simplicity and frugal spending where it’s needed most.

In this 90th year, our work continues to grow and change in many exciting ways despite the all too real challenges of a global pandemic. We’ve adjusted well to our physically distanced reality and maintained deep connections through online spaces.

We’ve held workshops and monthly events like our *Get to Know Thee, Friend* series, which celebrated our 90th anniversary by sharing stories from some of the amazing people who quietly make CFSC’s work so impactful. Holding events in this manner has helped us connect with a wider community of attendees from across Canada and beyond.

We have been so pleased to welcome two new staff members, Dalya Eidda and Priscila Recinos, to our small team during the pandemic. Once it is safe again to do so CFSC members look forward to meeting them face-to-face. Their having joined during the pandemic and working remotely makes their training and orientation a

greater challenge, but we're pleased at how much CFSC has been able to accomplish in spite of these difficulties.

Approximately half of our revenue continues to come from donations by individuals. A reserve fund in the form of investments and bequests contributes to the remainder of our budget. While our funding is sustainable for now, we cannot take future donations and bequests for granted and we continue to rely on a small number of individual donors. We now have a 10-year vision and budget and hope to expand both our program work and our fundraising in the coming year.

This report is a brief snapshot and only covers highlights. There are many channels to find out more about all that we do: QuakerService.ca; QuakerConcern.ca (also available in print—contact us to subscribe); our email newsletter; social media (@CFSCQuakers on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram); and workshops and visits (whether virtual or, hopefully, soon again in-person) with CFSC staff and committee members.

To all of our supporters: you make this possible. This is your work. So thank you!
In Friendship,

In Friendship,
Lana, Robinson,
Clerk,
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights

The main goals of CFSC's Indigenous rights work are the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and greater engagement by Canadians in the activities recommended in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

For many years CFSC has called on Canada to fully implement the *UN Declaration*. We are absolutely thrilled that an important piece of legislation toward this end, *An Act to Implement the United Nation Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples* (formerly C-15), received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021 –National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is such a tremendous victory!

Throughout the year we continued to work with many Indigenous, human rights, and faith partners to publish op-eds and open letters, host educational events, and hold private meetings with federal government representatives to advance this long awaited legislation.

After so much hard work by so many people, for the first time a clear and ongoing legal commitment has been set out for the federal government of Canada. It must now ensure that its laws, policies, and programs are consistent with the global

human rights standards affirmed by Indigenous peoples internationally and by the United Nations.

The implementation Act requires the federal government to “take all measures necessary” _to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the provisions of the *UN Declaration*. The Act also requires that a *National Action Plan* to implement the *Declaration* through law, policy and programs be developed and adopted within two years.

This means that there is plenty more work ahead for us to support Indigenous partners in seeing that the *National Action Plan* does everything it has to.

We were pleased this year to receive major funding from the federal government to support work around sustainable development and the *UN Declaration*. We continued our support of grassroots Indigenous cultural projects through the Reconciliation Fund. We hosted a film screening of *Cottagers and Indians* with the film’s producer Drew Hayden Tayler. We delivered multiple workshops, presentations, and key notes.

Criminal Justice

The main goal of CFSC’s criminal justice work is to eliminate the punitive mindset that pervades society and justice systems by transforming harmful approaches to ones that are healing.

When parents come into contact with the criminal justice system the needs and rights of children are not adequately considered. This realization, established through a sample case law review that CFSC put out in 2018, continues to drive much of our criminal justice work.

This year we worked hard with partners to help launch the website and public-facing resources for the Canadian Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents. CFSC hosts the website and has been instrumental in helping to establish and expand the Coalition.

We engaged in many meetings and consultations and contributed to policy submissions together with partners on issues such as the use of solitary confinement. For Prisons’ Justice Day we put out a new infographic on why Canada needs to abolish prisons and invest in alternatives that will cost less and keep communities safer. All of this work was to advance our vision of a justice system that is healing rather than causing further harms.

We continued to share resources related to *The Only Way Forward* series begun last year. The series unpacked the effects of the current criminal justice system, its disproportionate impact on Indigenous people and people of colour, alternatives, and ways forward. We enjoyed the opportunity to present at Monthly Meetings and

engaged in rich conversations about the criminal justice system and ideas for positive change.

CFSC is grateful for the support and work of an advisory panel of external experts with lived experience in the criminal justice system. The panel included persons from diverse racialized backgrounds, and with professional expertise in working for effective alternatives to the current criminal justice system.

Peace

The main goal of CFSC's peace work is to contribute to creating a culture of peacebuilding in order to identify, engage constructively with, and transform conflict.

CFSC continues our longstanding support for grassroots peacebuilders. This work is based on our recognition that communities yearn for justice and peace and, with the right assistance, have important roles to play in sustainable peacebuilding.

The pandemic created many challenges for our partners and for our own peace education efforts in Canada, but we still achieved a great deal.

We helped provide free high quality services to refugees and other newcomers to Toronto. We supported grassroots community peacebuilders in DR Congo and Burundi. We helped young Israelis access information and support when they chose to refuse to serve in the military. And we acted as a voice for Friends nationally on peace issues like military carbon emissions, Canada's involvement in the arms trade, and plans to spend billions on new hardware such as fighter jets and drones.

Much of our energy went into giving radio interviews, presentations, and facilitating interactive workshops. Through these various forums we brought people together to discuss common challenges and build each other up.

We heard glowing reviews of our workshops via anonymous surveys. Participants greatly appreciated the opportunities to learn together and to connect. They also valued the carefully researched answers to pressing questions about how to address destructive conflicts and overcome hate, angry conspiracy theories, and false information.

Our ongoing blog for *Psychology Today* further helped evidence-based peace skills to spread to a wider audience. We received positive feedback and interest from as far away as China, and were contacted for help by various individuals and groups seeking support in addressing serious conflicts that they're in the midst of.

In Closing

Much of CFSC's work is not done in the public eye. It's not something we can readily convey in a few words or images. It involves cultivating relationships of trust and respect with different actors, and creating opportunities for dialogue among parties who may not talk to each other otherwise.

We hope this *Annual Accountability Report* has given you a taste of just a few of the many accomplishments that donors like you have realized in the past year.